



Support for families offered: find out your child's risk of developing Type 1 Diabetes

ELSA Study – Parent Information

Dear Parents and Carers

St John's Primary School are working with the community research team from Salford Royal Hospital to offer **testing for type 1 diabetes antibodies** prior to any diabetes symptoms, which will allow children to be treated sooner preventing further complications. The testing involves a finger prick blood test, which will be carried out in school hours on **the 19th of January**. Results will be sent directly to parents/guardians via text message/ email within 6-12 weeks. If such antibodies are found the child will be referred to Alder Hey Children's Hospital for further testing, treatment, and support.

Please see attachments for study details and follow this link to consent your child to the study. The consent process will take approximately 10 minutes and you will receive a confirmation email once it is fully complete. Please note the consent portal will close at midnight on **Monday 12th of January**.

Please follow this link [The ELSA Study](#) for the study website including informed consent portal.

If you have any questions or require support completing the informed consent form don't hesitate to contact the community research team on community.research@nca.nhs.uk

My school in Shropshire (where I was headteacher before St John's) took part in this last year as we had 2 children with Type 1 Diabetes and we knew how important early identification was to help children stay healthy. I was with the children as they had their finger pricked and it was very quick and painless. I am happy to chat to parents about what happened.

Tracey Cansdale, Headteacher

What is the ELSA Study?

- UK-wide screening for children aged 3–13 years to identify risk of Type 1 Diabetes.
- Quick finger-prick blood test for diabetes-related antibodies.

Why Screen?

- Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system attacks insulin-producing cells.
- Early detection prevents severe illness and allows earlier treatment.
- Cases of Type 1 Diabetes are increasing in young children (primary age).
- About 3 in 1000 children will test positive for antibodies.

What Happens if You Take Part?

- Consent & Eligibility – Complete online or paper forms.
- Finger-Prick Test – Quick, painless test at school, home, or GP. We are offering this at school.
- Negative: Low risk, no further tests.
- Positive: Further hospital blood tests.
- Follow-Up – If 2+ antibodies found, child is almost certain to develop Type 1 diabetes.
- Education & Support – Families invited to sessions and offered optional psychological support.

Benefits

- Early warning for high-risk children.
- Access to monitoring and research trials aiming to delay diabetes onset.

Risks & Safeguards

- Minor discomfort from blood tests – it is a finger prick.
- Emotional impact if child is high risk – support available.
- Screening is voluntary and does not affect routine care.

Data & Privacy

- Data stored securely under GDPR.
- Results shared with parents and (with consent) child's GP.

Next Steps

- Give consent by clicking on [The ELSA Study](#)
- Visit www.elsadiabetes.nhs.uk for details.
- Contact elsa@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 0121 414 7814 for questions.