

Innovation Network for STEAM Mature, AI Ready Talents (IN-SMART)
Informed Consent Letter: Parent/ Guardian (Secondary)

September 17, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Centre for Information Technology in Education, the University of Hong Kong (CITE) has been funded by the Quality Education Fund to conduct the project “Innovation Network for STEAM Mature, AI Ready Talents (IN-SMART)”. We would like to invite your child to participate in the project and associated data collection activities. The project is a one-year project from 1/9/2025 to 31/8/2026. The project involves integrating AI learning elements and Self-Directed Learning (SDL) in STEAM-related subjects in the upper primary (P4-P6) and lower secondary (S1-S3) levels.

This project aims to support schools in adopting an integrated SDL approach to STEAM education by establishing a scalable school network to facilitate project teachers to integrate AI learning elements into STEAM teaching and learning. It will provide support to teachers for developing their capacity in self-directed STEAM learning design, particularly in integrating AI learning elements into STEAM curriculum innovations to facilitate students to integrate and apply knowledge and skills across the disciplines relating to STEAM education, to exercise their self-direction in investigation or innovation, promote their digital and AI literacy, as well as nurture their entrepreneurial spirit. The project will foster networks for integrating AI learning elements and SDL in STEAM education to support sustainable school development.

Hence, participation in the project will benefit students, teachers, and the school leadership. To achieve these benefits, we would invite your child to participate in the project and data collection activities, which may include one or all of the following activities:

- (1) Complete a pre-project and post-project online student questionnaire about SDL-STEAM (~20 minutes each) and assessment of digital and AI literacy (~60 minutes each) within the project implementation period;
- (2) To be photographed and videotaped when the participating teacher arranges for the lesson to be observed by other teachers and project team members, and for the photos and videos taken to be used for research or for teacher professional development purposes;
- (3) When invited, participate in a focus group student interview (~20 minutes, with audio recording) after a lesson observation to give their opinions on the learning activities and experience;

- (4) When requested, provide research team members with samples of work done and related products during the learning activities designed by your child's STEAM teacher; and allow us to display on the project website for the dissemination of good practices from this project and for teacher professional development. The project team will consult teachers from the respective schools before publishing the materials; and
- (5) When invited, to give presentations to showcase their learning related to the project during experience sharing activities involving students from different project schools in public events (award presentations and yearly disseminations to schools outside of the project), which may be photographed and video recorded. Also, allow us to display on the project website for the dissemination of good practices from this project and for teacher professional development. The project team will consult teachers from the respective schools before publishing the materials.

The data collected will be used solely for the purpose of academic research and teacher professional development and to achieve the above project goals. Your child's confidentiality is essential to our research process, and all student information will be kept private. Data collected will be archived after all personal identifiers are removed. All electronic data collected will be stored in a secure, password protected server. The identifier matching file will be encrypted and kept separately for five years after the project end-date. Only authorized personnel would have the password to access the file. All the anonymized data will be kept forever. Participants have the rights to review the records of data your child contributed and to request erasure of parts or the whole of those records if desired. If you do not agree to your child being video-recorded, we will arrange for your child to be outside the camera view or his/her image to be blurred.

Participation in this project is voluntary and your child can withdraw from the project at any time. No action on your part is required if you give consent for your child to participate in the study; however, if you do NOT wish to give consent, you are requested to make this known to the school. If you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact Dr Cong Liu at 3917-5807. If you have questions about your child's rights as a research participant, please contact the Human Research Ethics Committee, HKU at 3917-5267 (HREC ref. No: EA250499).

We would like to express our gratitude to your child for participating in this project.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Nancy Law
Chair of Learning Sciences and Technology, Faculty of Education
Deputy Director, Centre for Information Technology in Education
University of Hong Kong