



Resource


The following scenarios are taken from the book: ***Ethics and Education Research*** by Rachel Brooks, Kitty te Riele, Meg Maguire (2014) published by BERA/SAGE.




Sevati was doing some research for her master's degree in Education Management based on a small number of interviews with head teachers about their views on leadership. She was talking about her data and her conclusions with her tutor Alex. 'I only did six interviews with head teachers,' she said, 'and one was no good, so I decided to drop it from my data set.' 'What do you mean, no good?' asked Alex. 'Well, what one of them said didn't really match with my literature review, and they didn't think there was such a thing as leadership anyway, so I have decided not to include it in my findings section.' Is it justifiable for Sevati to exclude this interview? What ethical issues are involved in decisions to include or exclude data?



Andrew is doing a PhD on young primary school children's view about their friendships. Nearly all the parents have consented to their children being interviewed in focus groups. Sean's mother has not given her consent although Ms Briggs, the class teacher, thinks this is because she lost the form or forgot to return it. Andrew takes a small group off to the library and then sees that Sean is in the group. He is with Mohammed, his best friend. Ms Briggs comes hurrying into the library. 'Oh there you are Sean', she says. 'Stay with Andrew now you are here'. What should Andrew do?



Sara is a student on a pre-service teacher education course. She has to do a small-scale study in the school where she is teaching as part of the course requirements. She wants to use visual methods to explore students' views about sexuality. However, her mentor, Mrs Armstrong, an experienced teacher in the school, tells her that she would be 'sensible' to do research into a less ethically sensitive area. Mrs Armstrong then suggests a completely different area – one more directly related to the school curriculum. What, if anything, can Sara do?



Jane, a white, mid-aged academic researcher, was conducting research in a diverse metropolitan secondary school. She saw Tunde, a young Black African male student, coming along the corridor. He was a student with whom she found it hard to establish a relationship, although she wanted to recruit him for her work. She greeted him and said how she liked his new hairstyle – cornrows. He replied, 'You are just saying that 'cos you want me to be in your project' as he walked past. How should Jane respond?