



# Victoria Hurst University of Manchester

# **Overview of PhD Research**

Tackling educational disadvantage through an innovative cradle-to-career school design: the case of Reach Academy Feltham and the Reach Children's Hub

## Research Questions

1. How do the professionals leading RAF's cradle-to-career design identify and understand disadvantage as experienced across its pupil population?
2. What is their design intended to achieve in response, and how does it anticipate doing so?
3. How do a sample of children and their families engage with and experience the school's cradle-to-career design?

# Research Design Overview

Investigate what the Hub does and explore its understanding of educational disadvantage in Feltham

Talk to families to understand their perception of Feltham, Reach Academy and the Reach Children's Hub

Carry out panel studies with certain families to understand why some families do not engage with provision

Use participatory and creative methods to bring in pupil and parent voice, alongside more traditional qualitative approaches

## Potential challenges and opportunities

### Challenges:

- Responding to ongoing findings throughout the data collection process and considering how this affects the current work of the cradle-to-career design
- How to evaluate the various programmes (not all of the children or parents involved in the programmes/services attend the school)?
- Managing the different pupil entry points into the cradle-to-career design
- Responding to the changing dynamics of the local place.

### Opportunities:

- Very reflective practitioners working in the school
- Strong partnerships with local services and programmes being formed
- Strong relationships between the school, parents and pupils - lends itself to co-participation in the evaluation of the design
- The Hub is looking for more ways to involve parents and other figures from the local community in the running of its services