



Project Summary

Complementary and alternative medicines use in Axial Spondyloarthritis

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Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) affects a large number of children in the UK and can negatively affect children's lives. Children with JIA report pain, fatigue, harmful effects on their physical, social and emotional wellbeing as well as disruption to their school experience. School is important as it helps children to develop social, emotional and cognitive skills. While we know that frequent school absence results in poor grades and reduced chances for young people to enter into higher education and later success in the labour market, we don't know how to support children with JIA to have a positive school experience.

This study will provide a detailed account of the challenges that children with JIA face engaging with primary school and what support they need. To accomplish this, we will use child-friendly interviews and drawings to explore the barriers to school engagement for ten children (8-12years) with JIA. We will also consult fifty teaching staff who have supported a child with JIA in schools about their experiences, to identify the types of support that teachers need. Study findings will be used to develop support programmes for a primary school setting to enable children with JIA to have a positive school experience.