Parent Interview

ID NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

INTERVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF INTERVIEW: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

INTRODUCTION

Explain we are interested in children and adult friendships and in how easy or difficult it is to make and maintain friendships with people who have different backgrounds to our own when living in a diverse city like London.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Could you tell me a little about yourself and your family and where you live?

* No. of children, names & ages, other adults at home, where in borough, how long lived there
* **How would you describe your ethnic or cultural background and your class background? (may save for end of interview)**

**SCHOOL**

**Tell me a bit about X school?**

(*PROBE for general perceptions of school as a ‘good’ school or not*, *demographics of school population)*

* Did you choose X for any particular reason?
* Do you go to school social and/or formal events and take part in them? (probe- feelings about PTAs, inclusiveness of school)
* Do you meet other parents at school in the playground or school events?
* How would you describe X School?

**CHILD & FRIENDSHIPS (at school)**

**Could you tell me a little about the child?**

How would you describe him/her? What do they enjoy doing? Do they enjoy school? How long have they been there?

**Who they are friendly with at school?** *(to get sense of friendship group)*

* What makes them friends?
* Do they have similar interests?
* Is son/daughter particularly close to any one other child?
* Do you know friend(s)’ parents?
* Do children see each other out of school?
* Do they visit each other’s houses?
* Are parents’ rules similar to yours? (*probe especially rules about behaviour*)
* Would you say friend’s/friends’ parents have similar values/ideals to you?
* Has child ever commented on any differences between friend’s family and yours?
  + *If so, how have you responded to comments?*
* Have differences ever caused you any difficulty/hesitation?
* How do you feel about child’s friendship group at school?
* Have you ever had to speak to the school about your child’s friendships?
* Do you feel that the school does enough to promote friendship amongst the class?

**CHILD & FRIENDSHIPS (outside of school)**

**Does child have friends outside school?**

* How have these friendships been formed (e.g. neighbours, family, activities etc.)?
* Tell me a little bit about these children? (same ethnic/social groups?)

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| Probe for positives and negatives of child having friends who were similar/different to them socially and / or in ethnic origin, and keep asking for specific examples |

**ADULT FRIENDSHIPS**

**Tell me a bit about your own friends?**

* Who are they and how would you describe them?
* Do your own friends include parents of your children’s friends?
* How did you become friends? Have you made friends through School?
* What sorts of things do you do as friends?
* How do you maintain the friendship?

**Do your friends tend to be the same as you or to be different?**

* examples/stories
* What do you value/what's important about each of your friends? (probe- what your friends contribute)

**Would you say you have a social and ethnic mix of friends?**

* Why/why not?
* How do you feel about the mix or lack of mix?
* Does it present challenges in friendships?

**LOCALITY, COMMUNITY & BELONGING**

**How would you describe where you live and the area where School is?**

(probe: sense of community, child friendly, diversity, class differences)

Are you friends with your neighbours?

**Is School part of the local area and does being connected to the School make you feel connected to the local area - examples**

**FINAL REMARKS**

**Is there anything that we haven’t asked about that you would like to tell us? (** any particular aspect that you wish to speak about)

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| **Give parents personal details form to fill in** |