**Children and adults’ friendships: a research project**

**Who are we?**

We are researchers at the University of Surrey and the Institute of Education, University of London. Our research project runs for two years and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

**What is our research about?**

Our research project looks at how children and adults living in diverse communities, such as the area around X School, get to know other people and make friends. In particular we are interested in:

• Children’s friendships: Friendships are very important to children but we know little about how children choose and make friends.

• Adults’ friendships: Where and how did you meet your friends? Have you developed new friendships through your children’s friends and/or other parents in the school? Do your friendships contribute to a sense of belonging to the school and the local community?

**What will it involve?**

Starting in [month] we would like to talk to the children in Y class in small groups of 2s and 3s about making friends, both in and outside of school, who they play with and what games they play. We will also ask the children to draw or write about their friends. *The children can choose whether or not to join in.* We are experienced researchers and we will do our best to make sure that the experience is enjoyable and fun for the children.

Of course, we won’t include your child if you would rather we didn’t*. If you do NOT want your child to take part, please fill in the attached slip and return it to [teacher] or the school office.* If you have any questions about the research we would love to hear from you. Our contact details are at the end of this sheet.

If you are happy for your child to participate, we will also ask her/him on the day if s/he is happy to join in – in case they have changed their minds!

In addition to talking to children we would like to talk to some parents about their experiences of their children’s friendships, and their own friends.

All the conversations will be confidential (subject to child safeguarding), and we will NOT use the real names of the schools, the children or the adults involved in anything we write about the research. All the information we collect will be stored securely on our University password protected sites.

**How long will it take?**

Each conversation with the children will take about 30 minutes – so your child will not miss valuable learning time!

The conversations with you will be arranged at a time and place to suit you, and will take 45-60 minutes. We can bring an interpreter with us if you prefer to talk in a language other than English.

**What are the benefits?**

Understanding more about how friendships work is important, as friendships are central to the well-being of children and adults. We are also trying to find out more about how people live together in very diverse areas such as Hackney. Our research findings will mean we will know much more about such issues as: friendship patterns; local communities; social mixing; home-school relations.

If you would like to know more, we will be in the playground at pick-up time on **[day]** for the next few weeks. You can also contact us by email or by phone.

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With thanks for your time and attention,

Sarah, Carol and Humera.

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If you are happy for your child to take part in our research, you do not have to complete this slip. We will check with your child on the day that s/he is still happy to take part.

If you do NOT want your child to take part, please write your child’s name below and sign.

*I do NOT want my child, to take part in the research project on friendships.*

*Child’s name*……………………………………………………………………

*Parent’s signature***………………………………………………………….....**