



Dr Philip Durrant
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Dear Parent or Guardian,

My name is Dr Philip Durrant. I am heading a project designed to help all children become better writers. For this project to be successful, I need to collect in good examples of student writing. I believe your own child's writing would make a fantastic contribution here, and so I would like to collect in some of this writing.


How would this work? Firstly, I will take a photocopy of your child's writing, being careful to remove their name from this copy. These photocopies will be securely stored at the University of Exeter, for direct access only by members of my project team. They will also be securely destroyed when the project is finished.

Secondly, my team will convert these photocopies into special electronic files, removing any names, dates, or places that might identify your child or anyone connected with them. These files will be securely stored with all the other writing that we are collecting from across the country. We can then analyse all of these files to get a comprehensive understanding of how good writing develops. In order to ensure the quality of this analysis, we will also include a few general details that the school has given permission to use, such as the gender and ethnicity of your child. This will be very general information commonly used in educational research, and will not enable anyone to directly identify your child.

Finally, I will add these nameless electronic files to a special database of student writing. This database will be made publically available to researchers wishing to study student language and to educators working to improve student writing. However, access to this database will only be granted on a case-by-case basis, subject to strict conditions of use.

The most important things for you to know are that all of the material I collect will always be treated in accordance with the Data Protection Act of 1998. It will also be handled so as to protect the identity of your child. Furthermore, whilst the school has given me general permission to use their students' work, it is your choice whether I actually make use of your own child's writing. If you do NOT wish me to do so, you need only return the slip below and do so before the scheduled completion of the project in 2018.

Yours sincerely, and with thanks,

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Dear Dr Durrant,

Thank you, but I do not want you to use any examples of my child's writing.

Signature:

Name of Child:

Date: