January 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Last year, you and your child were invited to participate in a research project examining the relationship between young people’s friendships, social attitudes and their educational experiences. We are contacting you again to remind you of the project and to provide you with an opportunity to review the information provided. The goal of this project is to figure out how youth relationships differ for young people of different backgrounds and with different friendship patterns. This will include asking children about their race and ethnicity as one of the factors that might influence how young people interact. Understanding this will help us create ways to promote positive social networks and attitudes in the future.

**PROCEDURE:** The project will involve your child completing four questionnaires (15-20 minutes each). The first questionnaire took place in Autumn 2017 and the next questionnaires will take place in January 2018, May 2018 and July 2018 (exact dates and times may vary). The questionnaire will ask your child to report on a number of social and educational issues including their friendship networks and educational experiences. Your child will not be asked to report their name or address. Some children will also be asked to take part in 4x 20-minute class-based sessions (in tutor time, led by the class tutor) during April 2018, focusing on understanding difference and promoting positive relations between children of different backgrounds.

**RISKS AND BENEFITS:** There are no risks to you or your child as a result of participation in the project. Your child may raise questions around race which the researchers or class teacher will be there to answer during class time. Whilst there are no direct benefits for participating in the project, what we learn will provide benefits to children in general, including a better understanding of how we can promote better social and educational outcomes for all young people.

**PARTICIPANT'S RIGHTS:** Based on past related studies we have run, young people seem to enjoy participating in our activities, but if they do not want to participate we will respect their wishes. All children are given an information sheet and requested to provide consent (by ticking a box) if they wish to take part. Survey responses will be kept confidential and any data will be coded with a number (not your child’s name). Children can choose to withdraw up until 31st July 2018 by contacting the researcher. Anonymised data will be used for publication purposes and archived for future research use. Individual privacy will be kept in all published and written data resulting from the project. If you choose **NOT** to have your child participate, please complete and return the following form. Your child will therefore not be included in the data analyses and alternative classroom activities will be provided by the teacher.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about this research project, please contact Dr. Shelley McKeown Jones (s.mckeownjones@bristol.ac.uk).

Sincerely,



Shelley McKeown Jones, Ph.D.

University of Bristol

This project has been approved by the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law Research Ethics Committee at the University of Bristol.

**Parent Consent Form**

**Young people’s friendships, social attitudes and educational experiences**

An information sheet is attached to this form. Please read it carefully before making a decision about taking part.

· If you are willing for your child to take part then you do not need to do anything at the moment.

· If you decide you would not like your child to take part, then you need to complete the opt-out consent form below and return it to your child’s classroom teacher.

This section is only to be completed by a parent or guardian who **DOES NOT AGREE** to their child taking part in the proposed research project at their child’s school.

Please tick the following:

1. I confirm that I have read and understood the information sheet dated January \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2018 for the above research project and have had the opportunity to ask questions

1. I **DO NOT** wish for my child to take part in the above research project \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Child’s Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Child’s School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_