

## PARENTAL INFORMATION STATEMENT - OBSERVATION

### (1) What is this study about?

This research study is about **observing** in order to help investigate the effects that different learning environments have on children's behaviour and motivation within a school setting. Everyone learns in their own way, and the environments in which we learn plays a big part. Your child's classroom is the site of this research because this space is the target of the project. I would like to experience and observe traditional classroom lessons, as well as lessons in environments that differ to this in order to investigate the effects that these opposing environments have on children. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to let your child take part in the research or not. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Consent is assumed for participation in this research study **UNLESS** you tell us otherwise by opting out of the process. If we do not receive an indication from you that you **do not want** your child to be part of this research, we take that you are giving your consent and you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree for your child to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your child's personal information as described.
- ✓ You have received a copy of this Parental Information Statement to keep.

### (2) Who is running the study?

This study is being carried out by Emily Smith as the basis for the degree of BA Education at The University of East Anglia. This will take place under the supervision of Martin Smith, Education Lecturer,  
[Martin.D.Smith@uea.ac.uk](mailto:Martin.D.Smith@uea.ac.uk).

### **(3) What will the study involve?**

This study will involve your child participating in their timetabled lessons at school as they usually would. This is because the data collected in this study requires the participants to act as authentically as possible. I hope to observe their behaviours and interactions within each environment in order to draw similarities and differences between them. I will be in their lessons on various Thursdays throughout the Spring Term (January-March 2020). **Information about your child that may be collected and used in this study include** things they may say or do in their timetabled lessons, interactions with their peers and interactions with their teacher. These observations will not be voice or video recorded. Instead, I will be noting down anything I find interesting on with pen and paper whilst in the lesson. **Your child is automatically eligible to participate in this study but is under no obligation to without your consent.** If you choose not to give consent, I will ensure to make note of this and will not make record of anything your child says or does within their lesson(s).

### **(4) How much of my child's time will the study take?**

I will be with your child's class for a few of their lessons one day a week during most of the second term (January to March 2020), so none of their time will be taken up here.

### **(5) Does my child have to be in the study? Can they withdraw from the study once they've started?**

**Consent to being in this study is assumed unless you tell us otherwise,** but your child does not have to take part. Your decision whether to let them participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of East Anglia.

If you do decide to let your child take part in the study and then change your mind later (or they no longer wish to take part), they are free to withdraw up **until 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020**. You can do this by contacting me or your child's teacher either in person or via email. Withdrawing from this study means that any information collected about your child will be immediately erased and not used in the report of my research. If your child takes part in an observation session, they are free to stop participating at any stage. I will not be able to exclude their data if they (or you) decide at a later time to withdraw from the study.

### **(6) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

Aside from giving up *some of their* time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study for your child.

### **(7) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

We hope that this study will reflect a broader discussion of the effects our learning environment has on us and encourage greater self-reflection. Being able to talk openly about what they enjoy (or perhaps don't enjoy so much) about different classroom settings should hopefully be a benefit to all. In addition to this, the results of this study should ideally help to identify the importance of learning environments.

### **(8) What will happen to information that is collected during the study?**

As stated above, information about your child that may be collected and used in this observation include:

- Things they may say or do in their timetabled lessons
- Their interactions with their peers
- Their interactions with their teacher

This information will be recorded using pen and paper and later transcribed onto a document within a password-protected device (of which only I have access to). This information may be publicised within the research report, but your child will remain anonymous. This information will only be made available to myself, my UEA assessor and any external examiners.

The data collected for this study will be used only to form part of my BA Education Year 2 small scale educational research project.

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about your child for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise. Data management will follow the 2018 General Data Protection Regulation Act and the University of East Anglia Research Data Management Policy (2015).

Your child's information will be stored securely, and their identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but your child will not be individually identifiable in these publications. In this instance, data will be stored for a period of no more than 2 years and then destroyed.

### **(9) What if we would like further information about the study?**

When you have read this information, Emily Smith will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Martin Smith (Education Lecturer) via email: [Martin.D.Smith@uea.ac.uk](mailto:Martin.D.Smith@uea.ac.uk).

### **(10) Will I be told the results of the study?**

You and your child have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You will need to contact myself or your child's school and let them know.

### **(11) What if we have a complaint or any concerns about the study?**

The ethical aspects of this study have been approved under the regulations of the University of East Anglia's School of Education and Lifelong Learning Research Ethics Committee.

If there is a problem, please let me know. You can contact me via the University at the following address:

Emily Smith  
School of Education and Lifelong Learning  
University of East Anglia  
NORWICH NR4 7TJ  
E.Smith17@uea.ac.uk

If you would like to speak to someone else, you can contact my supervisor:

Martin Smith  
Martin.D.Smith@uea.ac.uk

If you (or your child) are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the interim Head of the School of Education and Lifelong Learning, Professor Nalini Boodhoo at [N.Boodhoo@uea.ac.uk](mailto:N.Boodhoo@uea.ac.uk).

**(12) OK, I'm happy for my child to take part – what do I do next?**

You don't need to do anything if you are happy for your child to participate. Please keep the information sheet for your details regarding the project and how to get in touch with the researcher if you need to.

**(13) OK, I don't want my child to take part – what do I do next?**

You need to fill in one copy of the consent form and ensure it is returned to your child's class teacher by the end of January 2020 Please keep the letter, information sheet and the 2<sup>nd</sup> copy of the consent form for your information.

**This information sheet is for you to keep**

**PARENT/CARER CONSENT FORM (1<sup>st</sup> Copy to Researcher)**

I, ..... [PRINT PARENT'S/CARER'S  
NAME], **am not willing** for my child  
.....[PRINT CHILD'S  
NAME] to take part in this research study.

.....  
**Signature**

.....  
**PRINT name**

.....  
**Date**

**PARENT/CARER CONSENT FORM (2<sup>nd</sup> Copy to Parent/Carer)**

I, ..... [PRINT PARENT'S/CARER'S  
NAME], **am not willing** for my child  
.....[PRINT CHILD'S  
NAME] to take part in this research study.

.....  
**Signature**

.....  
**PRINT name**

.....  
**Date**