

Dear Parent,

As you know, Queen's University are currently conducting a study in your child's school and we are looking at the relationship between reading, confidence, hopes for the future and enjoyment of school. You will remember that we were asking P5 pupils in a number of schools to complete a reading exercise and answer some questions relating to their hopes for the future and enjoyment of school.

The study is now entering the next phase, which is to look at the effectiveness of a scheme that is specifically aimed at encouraging children in their reading. This scheme is called *Time to Read* and brings volunteers from local companies into schools each week to do paired reading with P5 children.

In order to determine how effective this scheme is we need to look at two groups of pupils. One group of children will take part in *Time to Read* during P5 and P6 and a second group of children will be followed up by the research team over this time but will not take part in *Time to Read*.

Your child has been chosen (at random from a larger group) to be part of the second group who will be followed up by the research team. This means that, with your consent, your child will complete the same reading exercise and answer the same questions they did a couple of months ago for the initial phase of the study. They will be asked to do this every 4 months during P5 and P6.

Although your child will *not* be taking part in the *Time to Read* programme it is really important that we have the opportunity to track their progress over the next two years as it will allow us to see how effective *Time to Read* really is. The information your child provides will remain strictly confidential and will be stored securely in Queen's University for up to 20 years. The information gathered for the purposes of this study will be used in reports and papers, however, it will not be used in a way that a child or family could be identified.

If you agree for your child to take part in this study your participation, and that of your child, is purely voluntary. You are free to withdraw your child from the study at any time without explanation and without penalty or disadvantage to you or your child. You are free to take part in all, some or none of the study if you so wish.

I would be grateful if you could complete and return the form below and return it to the class teacher as soon as possible to indicate whether or not you are happy for your child taking part in the above study.

If you have any queries regarding this study please do not hesitate to contact me on 90975944 or by email: s.j.allen@qub.ac.uk. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Dr Sarah Allen
Principal Investigator

Ref TTR/GRP2/CON

CONSENT FORM

Please complete and return this page to your child's teacher.

I _____ (*parent/guardian) of
(Please print)

_____ (child's name) have read the above information.

Please initial the box beside each statement below to indicate that you have read and accept the information given. Thank you.

Please initial below

I understand that my child will complete a reading exercise and will answer questions about themselves, their hopes for the future and their enjoyment of school every 4 months during P5 and P6.	
I understand that any information my child provides will remain confidential and will be stored securely at Queen's University.	
I understand that my child's participation is purely voluntary.	
I understand that I can withdraw my child from the study at any time without any disadvantage or penalty.	
I understand that the results of the study may be presented in reports, articles, and at conferences. However, no individual child or school will be named in any of these documents.	

I **consent / do not consent** (please delete as appropriate) to my child taking part in the above study and being followed up by the Queen's research team during P5 and P6.

Signed _____

Date _____