



PATHS TO SUCCESS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS

Your child's school is involved in an exciting project about the Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) curriculum, called 'PATHS To Success'. PATHS is a programme for all children that helps them to manage their behaviour, understand their emotions and work well with others. Our research project will help us to understand if PATHS works for children in Years 3-6. The project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research.

We are writing to you because your child's school is involved in the project and we would like to know what you think about it. We will collect your views, those of your child, and his/her teacher once a year starting June/July 2012 (see below).

Please take time to read the following information carefully and decide whether or not you would like to take part.

If you would like any more information or have any questions about the research project, please telephone Dr. Alexandra Barlow on 0161 275 3504 or email her at alexandra.barlow@manchester.ac.uk.

Who will conduct the research?

The research will be conducted by Professor Neil Humphrey and his research team at the School of Education, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL.

Title of the research

"PATHS To Success"

What is the aim of the research?

Our main aim is to examine the impact of the PATHS curriculum on the social and emotional wellbeing of children in primary schools in England.

Where will the research be conducted?

Primary schools in Greater Manchester.

What is the duration of the research?

The project itself runs from January 2012 until August 2017. The schools that implement PATHS (see below) will do so from September 2012 to July 2014.

Why have I been chosen?

We are writing to you because your child's school is taking part in the PATHS to Success Project. Schools will be randomly chosen to (a) implement PATHS over a two year period (PATHS schools), or (b) continue as normal (comparison schools). We will be collecting data in both PATHS and comparison schools. After two years, all schools will be free to decide whether they wish to start/continue using PATHS.

What would I be asked to if I took part?

You will be asked to complete a brief online survey about your child's strengths and difficulties. Your child's class teacher will complete a similar survey.

Your child will be asked to complete a short survey about how well they work with others and how they feel about themselves and their school. If your child needs help to do this, they will be able to get support from a member of school staff or one of our researchers.

These surveys will be completed three times – in June/July 2012, 2013 and 2014. They will take approximately 10 minutes to complete each time.

In consenting to take part you are also giving permission for your child and his/her teacher to complete these surveys.

If you do not have access to the internet we will be happy to either provide a paper copy or complete it over the telephone with you at an agreed time. If you would like to do this please contact Dr. Alexandra Barlow (details below) and she will arrange this for you.

What happens to the data collected?

The data will be analysed by our research team at the University of Manchester. We will write a report based on our analyses for the National Institute for Health Research. It is also likely that we will write articles for academic journals based on what we find out in the project. Finally, it is possible that we will write a book about the research. Your child's name will not be used in any of the reports that we write.

How is confidentiality maintained?

All data provided will be treated as confidential and will be completely anonymous. Identifying information (e.g. your child's name) will only be used in order to match responses about the same individual from different respondents (e.g. parents and teachers) and across different times (e.g. June/July 2012, 2013, and 2014). After this matching process is complete, all identifying information will be destroyed.

The website that houses the survey will be completely secure and password protected. All survey data will be stored on a secure, password protected computer to which only senior members of the research team have access.

What happens if I do not want to take part or I change my mind?

It is up to you if you want to take part.

If you decide to take part you do not need to do anything – you will be sent further details about when and how to complete the survey in the near future.

If you decide not to take part then you need to either complete the opt-out consent form enclosed and return it to our research team at the address above or contact Dr. Alexandra Barlow by telephone or email (details above) by Friday 1st June 2012.

If you decide to take part and then change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any time without needing to give a reason. If you do this please rest assured that we will destroy any data collected about your child as part of the study.

Will I be paid for participating in the research?

We are not able to offer any payment or incentive for participating in this study.

Criminal Records Check

Every member of our research team has undergone a Criminal Records Bureau check at the Enhanced Disclosure level.

Contact for further information

Dr. Alexandra Barlow
Educational Support and Inclusion
School of Education
University of Manchester
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL
Tel: 0161 275 3504
Email: alexandra.barlow@manchester.ac.uk

Also, please see our website for further details about the PATHS curriculum and background, the project design and project team.

The website can be found at: www.pathstosuccess.info

What if something goes wrong?

If completing the survey makes you worry about your child's wellbeing then you should contact the school in the first instance and ask to speak to his/her teacher. You can also get independent support and advice from a charity called Young Minds. Their parent helpline number is 0808 802 5544.

If you ever wish to make a formal complaint about the conduct of the research you should contact the Head of the Research Office, Christie Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL.



PATHS TO SUCCESS

PARENT CONSENT FORM

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

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

If you decide not to take part, then you need to complete the opt-out consent form below and use the freepost code below and return it to:

FREEPOST RLYU-KAAB-AXRC
Dr. Alexandra Barlow,
Educational Support and Inclusion,
School of Education,
University of Manchester,
Oxford Road,
Manchester,
M13 9PL.

Alternatively, Dr. Barlow can be contacted by telephone on 0161 275 3504 or email at alexandra.barlow@manchester.ac.uk. If you do not wish to participate please let us know by Friday 1st June 2012.

Finally, please also remember that if you do decide to take part, you are free to change your mind at any point in the study.

I **do not** wish to participate in the PATHS to Success project. My details are as follows:

My name	
My child's name	
Name of my child's school	

Signed: _____

Date: _____