

Walkley Primary School  
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Headteacher: Val Sian

Deputy Headteacher: Chris Wallis

Chair of the Governing Body: Andy Wilcock



*'Enjoyment, Achievement, and Learning for life...'*

4<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### Sheffield University Research Project in F1 and Y1

Dear parents/carers

We have been approached by Emma Whitney, an undergraduate at Sheffield University, to conduct some research at Walkley Primary School in February 2019. The purpose of this dissertation research is to observe and compare the differences in male play behaviours in a nursery setting and a Year 1 classroom. As you may be aware, Walkley supports many undergraduates and postgraduates with their studies and are happy to facilitate this opportunity for Emma with her research.

The details in full are attached on the reverse of this letter.

Yours faithfully

Mr Wallis

Deputy Headteacher



Emma Whitney, BA Student,  
The Department of Education,  
Edgar Allen House,  
241 Glossop Road,  
Sheffield,  
S10 2GW.

E-mail: [eowhitney1@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:eowhitney1@sheffield.ac.uk)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am an Undergraduate student at the University of Sheffield and I am going to be conducting some research in your child's class on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February. The purpose of this dissertation research is to observe and compare the differences in male play behaviours in a Nursery setting and a Year 1 classroom, looking for common themes in play behaviours as well as noting any changes in behaviour when a female/females are included in the play activity. Your child's class has been chosen as it is a mixed-gender Year 1 class, situated in a school local to the University of Sheffield.

This research project consists of the researcher, Emma Whitney, spending up to 20 hours over a two week period observing structured and non-structured play activities in the classroom and during outdoor play. Children may be asked questions about their play activities. Any conversations had with the children will be unstructured conversations and their responses may be noted down for the purpose of the research. The researcher will fit in with the teacher's set timetable for work and play, and will not interfere with the children's activities, unless asked to assist the teacher in conducting an activity.

All the information that we collect about your child during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential except in cases where a disclosure is made about criminal activity or risks to public safety, in which case the researcher is legally obliged to report such information to the relevant authorities. There will be no audio/video recordings made of the children and they will not be able to be identified in any reports or publications.

In sending this letter, it is assumed that consent is given for me to include your child in my research. However, participation is entirely voluntary so if you do not want your child to be involved in the research, or indeed if you have any questions, please contact me at [eowhitney1@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:eowhitney1@sheffield.ac.uk) or speak to the class teacher. Although there are no direct personal benefits for taking part, it is hoped that I will be able to act as a useful teaching assistant during my time in the classroom and this study could influence further academic research in the future. You may withdraw consent for your child's data to be used up to a week after the research period has finished. Should there be any issues or complaints arising from the research project they can be discussed with Walkley Primary School staff or may be sent to myself, or my dissertation supervisor Darren Webb [d.webb@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.webb@sheffield.ac.uk).  
[d.webb@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.webb@sheffield.ac.uk).

Yours Sincerely,



Emma Whitney