

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you know, Queen's University are currently conducting a study in your child's school. We are looking at the relationship between reading, confidence, hopes for the future and enjoyment of school. You will remember that recently 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. The companies kindly provide the resources and release their employees to support two Primary Five children, each for half an hour every week during the school year.

There are up to 8 places available in the *Time to Read* scheme in your child's school and your child has been chosen (at random from a larger group) to take part in the *Time to Read* programme. This means that your child will spend half an hour each week with a volunteer who you will have the opportunity to meet.

In order to study the impact of the *Time to Read* programme, all children taking part will be asked to complete the same reading exercise and answer the same questions as they did for the initial phase of the study. They will be asked to do this every 4 months during P5 and P6 while they are part of *Time to Read*. This will allow the research team to track children's progress while taking part in *Time to Read*.

The information that you or 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 articles; 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 the *Time to Read* scheme and the study, your participation and that of your child is purely voluntary. You are free to withdraw your child from the scheme or 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 scheme and/or study if you so wish.

Parents of children participating in *Time to Read*, which is due to start soon, will have the opportunity to meet with the business volunteers. Please use the consent form below to confirm your child's participation and return it to the class teacher as soon as possible. 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](mailto:s.j.allen@qub.ac.uk). Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sarah Allen  
Principal Investigator

## 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 taking part in this study by Queen's University means that my child will receive the <i>Time to Read</i> programme which involves spending half an hour doing paired reading with a mentor every week.	
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 intervention and/or 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 *Time to Read* programme and also being followed up by the Queen's research team.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ref TTR/GRP2/INT