

## Appendix B

Department of Children's Services  
Educational Psychology Team  
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Dear parents,

I am pleased to tell you that our school is taking part in an exciting research project called the '*Neurodiversity Future Pathways Project*'. This project will help us identify and meet children's learning needs. With the right support we believe all children can thrive in school.

The first step towards this will be asking all staff at your child's school to take part in training around neurodiversity, neurodivergence, and spotting early signs that a child might need more support in the classroom. Then, teachers will identify children who might benefit from changes to the way they are supported in school. They might invite you into school to discuss your child's needs. However, **we need your permission** for your child to be included in this project.

If you **do not want your child to be a part of this project, complete the attached "consent refusal" form** and return it to the school. If we **do not receive this form, your child will be included in this project.**

For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions on the separate sheet. If you have any questions, please get in touch with us.



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# Frequently Asked Questions

## As a parent/career, what will I have to do?

If you do not want your child included in this project, complete the attached “consent refusal” form and return it to the school. If the school does not receive this form back, we will assume your child is allowed to take part in the research.

If your child’s teacher thinks that your child would benefit from any adjustments to provision, we will invite you into school for a conversation. It will be your responsibility to communicate with the school to organise a time that is most convenient for you both to fill this out. If you would rather, your child’s teacher can complete the profile independently.

## Will my data/my child’s information be kept confidential?

Yes. None of your identifiable information, or your child’s identifiable information, will appear in any public report or research paper. All information will be kept within a secure computer network. Any hard copies of information will be kept within lockable cabinets, in lockable office areas.

## What happens if I allow my child to take part now but later wish to withdraw them?

You can withdraw at any point throughout the project, up until two weeks after the discussion surrounding your child’s learning and support needs. You may withdraw without giving any reason and without there being any negative consequences. To withdraw, simply contact the team using the details on the attached letter.

## How will my child’s information be used?

Schools will feedback this information to you and use it to determine whether your child would benefit from any adjustments to provision. At a later stage of the project, we will share the anonymised responses with our colleagues at the Centre for Applied Education Research (<https://caer.org.uk/>) who will use the data to explore if we can improve the process, and evaluate how we can better support the children across the district