

20 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Trainee Educational Psychologists

As a school we are very pleased to have two trainee educational psychologists working with us from October. Educational psychologists work with children, parents and schools, to help the children learn and achieve as well as they can. As part of their training, they spend time in schools developing the skills that they will need to do their job. For example, they learn to use some of the common assessment tests.

Of course, we need to ask your permission for this to take place. If you give your permission, your child might be selected to work with the trainee educational psychologist or their supervisor. The aim of this is to help the trainee develop their skills, but of course, we would also aim for it to be an enjoyable experience for your child. Sample activities might include using drawing to help the trainee develop their interviewing skills or using parts of a test to develop the trainee's assessment skills. This may involve your child spending some time out of class with the trainee 1:1 or their supervisor, but they will work with the class teacher to make sure that this does not have a big impact on your child's learning.

Because the main aim is to help the trainee develop their skills, they will not usually be providing any feedback to the school or parent on the child's achievement. However, if they do learn anything that might have significant impact on how your child achieves at school, then they will ask for your permission to share this with school staff. At no point will your child be named in any reports they may write and their information will be treated with the strictest confidence. The trainee will always aim to give the child something to remember from the session that will help the child with their future learning. Please note that with the large number of children in the school only a few children will have the chance to work with the trainees or their supervisor.

I would like to emphasise that the trainees already have a wide range of experience, as well as a psychology qualification. They have passed the usual child protection procedures (DBS), and will be working under the supervision of a fully qualified educational psychologist.

If you would like any more information about their work, please do talk to Mr Howie. If you are willing to give your permission for your child to work with a trainee or their supervisor in this way, then please complete and return the form on the attached page to your child's teacher. If you would prefer for your child not to work with a trainee/supervisor, please just ignore this letter.

Yours sincerely
Principal

I have discussed this with my child and give permission for my son/daughter
(name.....) to work with a trainee educational psychologist or their
supervisor at some stage during the 2019/2020 academic year.

I am aware that neither I nor the school will expect to receive any feedback from this work.

I am also aware that if any significant information is discovered during this work, I will be
contacted separately to ask permission to share this more widely.

Name

Signature

Date