

University of Kent,  
Canterbury  
CT2 7ND

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Children's participation in Civil Society: Educating for Public Good**

We are researchers from the University of Kent exploring children's civic behaviours, for example helping others, volunteering, social action, charitable giving, advocacy and activism. We are interested in finding out how these intentions and actions are framed in primary school and how children are encouraged and engaged to become active citizens through this lens. Your child's school has been chosen as one of ten case study schools in England due to their approach and activities around civic learning and we will be visiting in Brabourne CEP School to find out more.

This research project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council exploring how children learn to give and philanthropic citizenship education in primary education? You can read more about the project here:

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/children-as-philanthropic-citizens/>

For this third stage, we will engage in classroom observations of activities and learning relating to civic education including PSHE and RE lessons among others. This will be done with permission from senior leaders and will be introduced to children. We will also observe class assemblies, extra-curricular clubs and activities and outdoor learning, fundraising or community activities. Again, all with the permission of the teachers, wider school community and children. We will engage with children selected by teachers in two semi-structured child-led focus groups which will include creative activities and questions exploring themes of civic learning, giving, community and social action. These focus groups will be recorded, transcribed and the recordings deleted.

We would like as many children to be involved in the research as possible. With the school's permission we will be sharing stories on our website and with other schools across the country, however it is important you understand that your child's participation is **voluntary** and you can ensure they do not participate if you do not wish it. You can just let the school know and your child will not be involved.

If you choose to let your child participate, we will ask them if they are happy to be involved. All information will be anonymised except if the school agrees to have a particular quote included along with the school name. We are happy to talk to you more about the project. The study will be undertaken by Dr Alison Body, Principal Investigator and Dr Emily Lau, Research Associate. Please feel free to ask any questions about the study or the data management. If you wish to contact the researchers involved with this study you can email the principal investigator Dr Alison Body [a.m.body@kent.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.body@kent.ac.uk)

These research interviews has been reviewed and approved by the University of Kent, Division for the Study of Law, Society and Social Justice Ethics Board.

Thank you

Dr Alison Body and Dr Emily Lau

