



Dear Parent/Caregiver

As part of my Masters (MEd) in Autism at the University of Strathclyde, I plan to conduct a study to explore peer relationships of teenage girls with and without an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in mainstream schools in Northern Ireland. A secondary focus of the study will be to address how girls with and without autism identify, in terms of who they are and what type of person they view themselves and how their personal perspective of identity and/or attending same or mixed gender schools influences their peer relationships.

A full explanation about the study is included within the attached Information Sheet for you and your daughter to read together and decide whether your daughter would be interested in taking part.

If you both decide that you would like to participate in this study you should both complete and return the enclosed consent forms. You should also complete and return the screening questionnaire which will help with the participation selection process. **All completed forms should be returned to: Freepost RSHA-JSAY-HTGE, Middletown Centre for Autism, 35 Church Street, Middletown, Armagh, BT60 4HZ or by email to either: sheila.cross.2014@uni.strath.ac.uk or Sheila.cross@middletownautism.com by 15th December 2017.**

I would greatly appreciate it if you could assist me in this worthwhile research. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information/clarification on this research study. My work telephone number is Middletown Centre for Autism: 028 3751 5750 (from 9.30am to 2pm Monday to Thursday).

Yours sincerely

Sheila Cross