



## Participant Information Sheet for Girls Aged 13-15

**Name of department:** HaSS, School of Education

**Title of the study:** Exploring peer relationships at school

### Introduction

My name is Sheila Cross and I am a student at the University of Strathclyde, studying a course in Autism.

**I would like to invite you to take part in a research study** which will explore the peer relationships of girls aged 13 to 15 years old with and without autism at school.

### What is a peer?



Your peers are other girls or boys that may be in your class or year group.

### What if I have questions to ask about the research study?

If you or your mum or dad or the person who looks after you have any questions, you have the following two options for contacting me to choose from:



Sheila.cross.2014@uni.strath.ac.uk



028 3751 5750 (from 9.30am to 2pm Monday to Thursday)

### What is the study about?



By taking part in this study and providing me with your experiences on how you feel about your peers at school, I will be able to gain information on the differences and similarities for girls with and without autism. This will then help teachers and parents to better understand how to support girls like you at school.



Do I have to take part?

- ◆ You should only take part in this study if you want to.
- ◆ Participation is voluntary. You should not feel that there is any pressure to take part in the study. You are free to participate in this research or withdraw at any time up until Sheila begins to analyse the information from the study.
- ◆ If you change your mind and do not want to be part of the research study anymore, it will be ok. If you have any questions ask your mum or dad or the person who looks after you to contact me.



## What will I do in the project?

Taking part in the research project does not involve a test and you do not have to learn anything for it.



1. You will be asked to complete and return by email a questionnaire about your peer group. This questionnaire is called the adopted version of Index of Peer Relationships.



2. You will also be asked to set up a Facebook account.



3. Once you set up the Facebook account Sheila will invite you to the online discussion group.

4. You will then take part in the online discussion groups for 4 weeks. Sheila will post questions to the discussion group each week.



5. At the end of each week, you will also be asked to complete a short survey. The survey will only have 3 to 4 questions about the topic that was discussed in the online group that week. Sheila will email this to you and when you complete the survey you can email your responses back to Sheila.

**Please read the information sheet called ‘Participant Information Sheet – Online Discussion Group’ which Sheila has provided you with, this will tell you know more about this online discussion group.**

**If you are selected** to take part in the study, Sheila will email you or your mum or dad or the person who looks after you to let you know when the study will start.

## What happens to the information in the project?

All information relating to you will be anonymised. This means that no one will know your name and whatever you have said will not be identifiable. All data and information will be held on a personal computer on a secure network.



**Thank you for reading this information – If you have any questions please speak to your mum or dad or the person who looks after you so they or you can contact Sheila**

## What Happens Next?

If you have read this information leaflet and would like to register your interest in this research study, please **discuss with your mum or dad or the person who looks after you.**



Please sign and return the consent form to Sheila Cross by 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Please Remember:** If you complete a consent form but later decide you no longer wish to be part of the research study anymore, that is ok, just let Sheila know.

---

**Researcher contact details:**

Sheila Cross,

Middletown Centre for Autism, 35 Church Street, Co. Armagh, BT60 4HZ

Tel: +44 (0)28 3751 5750

Email: [sheila.cross.2014@uni.strath.ac.uk](mailto:sheila.cross.2014@uni.strath.ac.uk) or [sheila.cross@middletownautism.com](mailto:sheila.cross@middletownautism.com)

**Chief Investigator details:**

Dr Anna Robinson,

School of Education, University of Strathclyde, Room 636b, Floor 6, Curran Building, 41 St. James Road, GLASGOW, G4 0LT

Tel: +44(0) 141 444 8142

Email: [anna.robinson@strath.ac.uk](mailto:anna.robinson@strath.ac.uk)

This investigation was granted ethical approval by the School of Education Ethics Committee at the University of Strathclyde.

If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the investigation, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:

Dr Virginie Theriault,

Convener of the School of Education Ethics Committee University of Strathclyde, Lord Hope Building, 141 St James Road, Glasgow, G1 1QE

Tel: 0141 444 8371

Email: [v.theriault@strath.ac.uk](mailto:v.theriault@strath.ac.uk)