



Examining the relationships between documented curriculum, classroom tasks, and the learning of mathematics

PARENT INFORMATION LETTER

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to seek your approval for your child to participate in a research project to be conducted in your school.

The title of the project is *Examining the relationship between the documented curriculum, classroom tasks, and the learning of mathematics*.

I am the principal researcher. My contact details are:

Peter Sullivan
Professor of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education
Monash University, Clayton 3800, Victoria, Australia
Tel: (03) 9905 5924
Email: peter.sullivan@education.monash.edu.au

The research is part of a collaborative agreement between Monash University, the Department of Education, and the Melbourne Catholic Education Office. The research will investigate the ways to best engage students in learning mathematics. We believe that all children can learn mathematics successfully, and we are trying to find out the best ways for teachers to support children in their learning. Our focus will be on the type of mathematics tasks that teachers ask in the classroom.

The project will involve all students completing up to two surveys. The questions are related to aspects of their experience when learning mathematics. Some students will be interviewed, and some classes will be observed. The students will only be doing activities that are part of their usual program and will therefore not be at any risk.

I attach a more detailed description of the project.

The confidentiality of the children will be maintained at all times. Reports of the project may be published in professional journals and in other publications. No publication will identify the school, you or any students. Data will be stored at Monash University, Clayton in locked cabinets. Mr Richard O'Donovan will be undertaking a PhD within the project.

Participation by the students is voluntary. You and/or they may withdraw consent at any time without adverse consequences.

All contacts with students will be made through the principal. If you have any questions regarding this project please feel free to contact me on 99055924. I will provide the school

Faculty of Education

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with a copy of any reports written arising from the project. Please feel free to contact me on the address above if you would like to discuss any aspect of this study.

If you have a complaint concerning the manner in which this research (SCERH No. CF07/606-2007/0173) is being conducted, please contact:

Human Ethics Officer Research Office
Building 3D
MONASH UNIVERSITY VIC 3800
Tel: +61 3 9905 2052

If you agree to participate in the project, could you please discuss the project with your child.

If you both agree, please complete the attached parent and student form, keep one copy and return the other to the class teacher.

Yours sincerely



Peter Sullivan

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