



September, 2014

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are pleased to let you know that your child's class will be participating in an exciting new programme called 'PATHS® Plus', supported by Barnardo's. This consists of whole-class PATHS® lessons, and small Friendship Group sessions.

The programme will involve lots of fun activities in line with the National Curriculum, whilst teaching your children the following key concepts:

- ❖ Emotional Understanding
- ❖ Self-Control
- ❖ Social Problem-Solving
- ❖ Positive Relationships
- ❖ Self-esteem

As part of Barnardo's commitments to their funders – The Big Lottery – there are several aspects of their support to us which require your consent. We would appreciate it if you could take time to read Barnardo's "**Information for Parents/Carers**" sheet, and please complete the non-consent form on the back of this sheet, and return to your child's teacher, if you would **not like** your child to take part in any aspect of the PATHS® Plus programme.

Thank you for your time and support.

Yours faithfully

Principal

PATHS[®] Plus Information Sheet for Parents/Carers

1. What is PATHS[®] Plus?

Barnardo's, the Children's Charity, is pleased to inform you that they will be delivering the PATHS[®] Plus Programme in your child's school. The PATHS[®] Plus Programme involves lots of fun activities both in class, and in small Friendship Group sessions dealing with important issues such as Feelings, Behaviours, Solving Problems, Making and Keeping Friends, and Self-Esteem. This programme is funded by the Big Lottery.

2. PATHS[®] Curriculum and Friendship Group:

As part of the 'PATHS[®] Plus Programme', **all** children will receive weekly lessons in class using the PATHS[®] Curriculum. The PATHS[®] Curriculum is a US evidence-based programme, and has been adapted for a UK audience by Barnardo's NI.

In addition to the whole-class PATHS[®] programme, Barnardo's will be delivering weekly Friendship Group sessions that give children the opportunity to practice skills learnt during PATHS[®] lessons in a small group-based format. The groups meet once a week for 45 minutes and your child may occasionally be involved in these group activities. Some children will be chosen by their class teacher to be the "Friendship Group Ambassador". These children will attend **every** session.

If you would prefer your child to **NOT** take part in Friendship Group, please tick the relevant box on the Non-Consent Form.

3. Photographs/Videos:

From time-to-time Barnardo's would like to take some photos/videos of a 'PATHS[®] Plus' session in action. The photographs will be stored securely by Barnardo's and may be used to promote the programme (and your child's school) in the following ways:

- I. used as a resource for the 'PATHS[®] Plus' programme and may be used to illustrate programme materials
- II. may be displayed within your child's school / website or featured on the Barnardo's or Big Lottery website
- III. may be used in publications, presentations or reports published by Barnardo's or the Big Lottery
- IV. may be used to promote the programme through the media and may appear in press publications such as newspapers or online articles
- V. may be used by Programme Developers in the US to provide Barnardo's with feedback on the successful implementation of the PATHS[®] Plus Programme
- VI. every effort will be made to ensure that any photograph/video taken will not be used for any purpose other than stated and children's names will **never** be used

If you would prefer your child **NOT** to be photographed/videoed, please tick the relevant box on the Non-Consent Form.

If you have any other questions about this process, you can contact pathsplus@barnardos.org.uk directly.

Non-Consent Form

All children will receive weekly PATHS® lessons however, if you would prefer that your child **does not** take part in any of the following aspects of the “PATHS® Plus” Programme please tick the relevant sections, and return this form to the class teacher by (*Insert Date*).

Name of Child: _____

Class: _____

School: _____

I do not want...	Please tick below if you do not give permission
My child to take part in Friendship Group Sessions	
My child to be photographed/videoed	

Signed: _____ (Parent/Carer)

Date: _____

If you are happy for your child to take part in Friendship Groups and to have photographs/videos taken then you do NOT need to complete this form.