Dear Parent/Carer of Belle Vue Primary School Student,

My name is Shivani Jalli, and I am an MSc student working on my dissertation under Dr Jennifer McGowan's supervision at University College London. I am writing to ask if you are willing for your child to participate in a research study I am conducting in your child's school. The project has been approved by my university and Mr. Marshall has also given their consent for the research to occur.

*What is the aim?*

The aim of the current research project is to gather the gender stereotypes of science, maths and science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) jobs of primary school students and compare these gender stereotypes between different age groups.

*What is the important?*

The Women’s and Work Commission (2006) highlights the need to confront gender stereotypes in education as many girls are still pursuing traditional routes in education and training. If you are willing to participant, you will gain an insight into the gender stereotypes of maths, science and STEM jobs that your child may have. Once aware of this, action can be taken to challenge these stereotypes, to ensure that young people make better and more informed choices about their future early in their educational life.

*Why has my child been asked to participate?*

Research highlights it is vital to study and discuss gender stereotypes with primary school students so they can reach their full potential and do not make future decisions based on traditional gender roles.

*What will happen during this project?*

If you want to participate, I will reply to this email with a link to the questionnaire. This will take no more than 15 minutes of your child's time and can accessed online, with any electronic device. This will only be done once, but with children of different ages.

*What types of questions will be asked?*

We are interested in whether pupils have gender stereotypes towards maths, science and STEM jobs, and how they change with age.To measure gender stereotypes of maths and science, children for example, will be shown a picture of an age-appropriate maths worksheet next to a picture of a boy and girl, on the questionnaire. They will be asked six questions, such as "Who do you think likes maths homework more?", in which they can either respond with ‘the boy’, 'both the same' or ‘the girl’. To measure gender stereotypes of STEM jobs, students will be presented with a title, picture and brief description of 16 STEM jobs. Students will respond with 'more suitable to girls', 'equally suitable for boys and girls' or 'more suitable for boys'.

*What will happen to the information that is collected?*

All data collected will be anonymous - your children will be assigned a random study number to ensure their right to withdraw at any time. Any indefinable information i.e. their name, email address and study number will be kept in one document and questionnaire responses will be kept in another. These will be saved on a secure, password protected server. The analysis will only look at trends across the data and therefore, it will be impossible for an individual to be identified in any reports about the project. Your childs data can be removed at any time.

*What do I need to do?*

If you choose to give your consent, then sign the consent form below. Mr. Marshall has already given his consent for the project to take place in school. Should you wish that your child to participate, please complete the slip at the bottom of this letter. Then, email me at shivani.jalli.20@ucl.ac.uk with the following document attached. If you or your child does not wish to participate, they will not participate in the study. The participation deadline is Monday July 16st, so please email me as soon as possible for a chance to take part in this research.

If this letter is not emailed back to shivani.jalli.20@ucl.ac.uk, then we will assume that you do not consent for your son/daughter to participate in this exciting project.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact Shivani Jalli at **shivani.jalli.20@ucl.ac.uk**. Once we have finished, a second letter will be sent to you explaining how to promote gender equality at home and thanking you and your child for participating.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this letter.

Kind Regards,

Shivani Jalli

**E-mail:** shivani.jalli.20@ucl.ac.uk

Data Protection Privacy Notice: The data controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Office provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk. UCL’s Data Protection Officer can also be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found here:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice>

Please email the following document to shivani.jalli.20@ucl.ac.uk as soon as possible.

I consent to my son/daughter taking part in the research study entitled…

Name of child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature/initials of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_