



Parent/Guardian Information Sheet: Primary Cohort Study

If your child was in this school last year, you may remember us inviting them to take part in research into how children learn maths at school. As this research is taking place over seven years, we are now inviting all children currently in Year 1 at your child's school to take part. The study will support our understanding of children's feelings about maths including how much they enjoy maths, how they experience learning maths at school, and how these things change over time. This sheet tells you about the study. Please read it carefully and discuss it with your child. Your child's teacher will also talk to the class about it.

Who is conducting the study?

The Observatory for Mathematical Education at the University of Nottingham is undertaking this research. The study will identify trends in maths learning, explore learner experiences and changing attitudes in children from reception through to university level. The primary cohort study will follow one year group of children from Reception to Year 6 in schools across England.

Why are we doing the study?

Learning maths is important for each young person's future, for success in education and in life generally. Understanding changes in learners' confidence and enjoyment of maths helps us to advise schools, colleges, and universities as well as policy makers about what to do to better support all pupils to learn maths effectively.

How does the study work?

- 175 primary schools are taking part in this research. Last year Reception children in these schools completed a survey. This year these children - now in Year 1 - are being asked to complete a survey. We will ask this group of children to do one survey each year that they are in primary school.
- As was the case last year, in Year 1 and Year 2, a member of school staff will support your child with the survey. For Years 3 to 6, your child's teacher will give all the children in the class the survey for them to complete themselves, with the teacher supporting if needed.
- In Year 1, a teaching assistant or other adult working in school will ask your child questions about what they do at school in maths and how much they enjoy maths. The questions have three answers to choose from, and your child will be asked to move a toy to show their answer. These questions will take less than 10 minutes.
- Each year we are also surveying teachers to ask about their teaching. We do not ask them about individual children and do not share children's question responses with them.

What information is being collected about my child?

We will ask your child's school to share a list of the children in Year 1 with us. Your child's name, date of birth and unique pupil number will be on this list so that we can send the school individual surveys with a barcode on for each child and so that we can make links to the existing records about pupils in England. The barcode on each child's survey helps us track the surveys, so we can avoid surveys getting mixed up. The school puts all their surveys into an envelope and these are sent to a secure data processing company where automatic scanners record the answers. The survey sheets



are then shredded. This means that the survey answers can be sent to us digitally and securely, without names.

You can choose for your child not to participate in the research. To do this, you need to complete the form in the letter that your child's school sent to you. If you are unable to find this, email mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk and we will reply with a link to the form. If you complete the withdrawal form, we will not send a survey sheet to the school for your child to complete and we will not retain their pupil number or date of birth. We will keep a secure record of their name to process and quality assure the withdrawal throughout the study. So, if you withdrew your child last year, you don't need to tell us again.

You can withdraw your child from the study at any time, even after the research has started. When you withdraw your child, no further information will be collected about them. If you request it, we will also delete any information that we have about them. However, their anonymous data may still be included in any publications, reports or presentations that are already in progress and where we are not able to practically remove it.

What happens to the information collected for the study?

We store the data securely in a SharePoint site and a Database that are only accessible to the research team. The class list data will be deleted as soon as possible after the survey data has been processed and anonymised. The anonymised survey data will be stored for a minimum of 14 years and then deleted if no longer in use.

How are we ensuring GDPR compliance?

We are processing personal data based on Article 6(1)(e) of UK GDPR in which processing is legal as it has a basis in public interest. Further details of how we ensure compliance with GDPR are provided in the [Privacy Notice](#).

Where will the research be published?

We will publish the research in reports, articles and presentations. No child, teacher or school names will be included in these publications.

Why are you organising the research in this way?

The research is being conducted in this way because:

- research is being undertaken to benefit learners in England
- we are only asking for a small amount of data about each child
- the data and topic of research is attitudes to and experiences of maths, which is unlikely to cause concern
- parents are given a clear way to withdraw their child
- pupils are told that they do not have to answer the questions and can stop at any time
- all data collected is strictly controlled and protected.

To make it easy for parents, they only need to respond if they do not want their child to take part in the research. However, parents will be sent a letter each year to remind them that they may withdraw their child. This will be sent before the annual pupil surveys are printed and distributed.



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Nottingham**
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**Observatory for
Mathematical
Education**

Where can I find out more information?

If you have questions about the research, contact mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk

If you have concerns or a complaint, contact educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk