

Understanding current practice around managing teacher workload

Information sheet

What is the research and why is it taking place?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is undertaking research to investigate the strategies used by schools to manage teacher workload and their impact on the recruitment and retention of teachers. This research is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation.

The research will take place between May and October 2023 and will consist of a review of workload practice in schools. The review will include the following activities:

- A desk review of literature to understand current practice and policy on managing teacher workload.
- A practitioner survey focusing on the strategies used by schools to manage teacher workload, assessing the prevalence of different strategies.
- Interviews with practitioners to obtain a detailed understanding of current and potential approaches to managing workload, how they are implemented and their perceived impact.

We would very much like you to take part in the research by either completing the practitioner survey and/or participating in an interview. Your views will be invaluable to help develop an understanding of this important area of education practice.

What activities will the research involve?

You will be invited to take part in the practitioner survey and/or an interview:

- **Practitioner survey**
The survey will be administered using NFER's Teacher Voice panel and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Survey questions will focus on the prevalence of various workload management strategies, the purpose and perceived efficacy of current strategies, preferred/ideal strategies, and implementation barriers and facilitators.

Panel members completing the questions will be offered a small incentive (£5 voucher or contribution to charity) for their participation.

- **Practitioner interview**

We will conduct semi-structured online interviews with a small number of individual teachers and leaders (12 in total) which will take up to 30 minutes.

The interview will ask interviewees about their experience of workload reduction strategies, why and how these have been implemented in their own schools, perceptions of effectiveness for workload reduction and suitability for wider adoption among schools serving large proportions of disadvantaged pupils.

Interviewees will be offered a £30 voucher for their participation.

Data protection

NFER is the data controller for the research. Participation in all research activities is entirely voluntary. Research participants will be fully briefed on the purposes of the study and how the information they provide will be used before consenting to take part. We operate fully in-line with data protection legislation (including GDPR) and we will not use the information we receive for anything other than this research. If participants consent to be contacted again for follow up research, contact details will be retained and would only be used for this purpose.

At the end of the study, NFER will produce a publishable report. No individual or organisation will be identifiable from the report, unless permission has explicitly been given by the data subject.

Who is NFER?

NFER is an independent research organisation with many years' experience of undertaking research and evaluation with schools, colleges, businesses and the public sector. For more information please visit www.nfer.ac.uk

Where can I go for more information?

More details about the research including a link to this information sheet and an associated privacy notice can be found [here](#).

In addition, Kerry Martin, the project leader, and Caroline Sharp, the project director are very happy to answer any questions. Please contact Kerry on k.martin@nfer.ac.uk or Caroline on c.sharp@nfer.ac.uk.

Thank you very much for your support with this research.