
Impact of KS1 school closures on later attainment and social skills: a longitudinal study (pupils currently in Years 4 and 5, 2023/24)

Privacy Notice for Teachers and School staff – 2023/24

1 Why are we collecting this data?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to continue its research into the impact of Covid-19 related school closures on attainment in primary schools. The research looks at how quickly the youngest pupils affected by partial school closures recover from the learning they have missed. This longitudinal study has been extended for a further three academic years (until 2025/26). It will follow pupils who were in Key Stage 1 in 2020/21 and investigate the impact of school closures, looking at pupil attainment, school practices and teachers' perspectives on pupils' social skills as pupils progress through primary school. This year will focus on pupils in Year 4 and Year 5.

This document outlines how school staff's personal data will be collected and processed as part of the project.

The research also collects and analyses pupil data. For information about how it is processed please see the privacy notice covering pupil data [here](#).

NFER is the data controller for the project.

2 What is the legal basis for processing activities?

The legal basis for processing personal data is covered by GDPR Article 6 (1) (f):

Legitimate interests: the processing is necessary for your (or a third party's) legitimate interests unless there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides those legitimate interests.

We have carried out a legitimate interest assessment, which demonstrates that the research fulfils one of our core business purposes (undertaking research, evaluation, and information activities). The research project has broader societal benefits and will contribute to improving the lives of learners by identifying if any pupil level factors are associated with the degree of impact of the Covid-19 school closures on pupils' attainment and their recovery throughout primary school.

The research cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests. To mitigate the risks to the rights and freedoms of the individual data subjects, as far as possible, NFER has put in place the technical and organisational measures set out in this privacy notice.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

Personal data about school staff will be collected directly from participating schools and teachers.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The NFER will collect data (name, job title and contact details) about a nominated named teacher within a participating school so that we can liaise with them about this research. This may be the same contact as in previous years or a newly nominated teacher.

The NFER will ask teachers to complete online surveys on school practices and teachers' perspectives including information on support strategies such as groupwork, tutoring and parental engagement by class, year group and at a school level. Teachers will also be asked to complete a social skills survey for a sample of 12 in each year group.

The NFER will also ask the nominated teacher in each participating school to complete an evaluation survey about their experience of the project and working with NFER.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

No individual will be named in any report for this project.

The surveys will be managed and run using Questback software. Their privacy policy can be found here: https://www.questback.com/assets/uploads/Survey_Privacy_Policy.pdf

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the European Economic Areas (EEA)?

No personal data is stored or transferred outside of the EEA.

7 How long will personal data be retained?

Data collected for the project, will be stored securely in the NFER systems until the final report in this research project is published. This is currently expected to be October 2026. NFER will delete all personal data from its systems within one year of publication of this final report.

8 How is the security of my data maintained?

The NFER have put in place appropriate measures to prevent your personal information from being accidentally lost, used, or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered, or disclosed. NFER has been certified to ISO / IEC 27001 2013 (GB17/872763) the international standard for information security and holds Cyber Essentials Plus (details available on request).

NFER operates Microsoft Windows Operating Systems and industry standard enterprise software such as databases and email, all managed to recognised industry standards with a full patching regime. All NFER laptops and mobile storage devices are encrypted and accessed with PIN-codes and strong passwords. Annual penetration tests are carried out by a CHECK-accredited supplier and remediation undertaken. We use a replicated disaster recovery service (RDRS) which allows the business to continue to operate in the event of failure. Any personal data which is shared with us is transferred using our secure portal and is encrypted in transit (HTTPS and TLS 1.2).

9 Can I stop my personal data being used?

School staff can withdraw from the project and/or from their data being used in the project at any time by contacting NFER.

However, the NFER appreciates schools' and participants' support in collecting the data since it is very important for the validity of the results. If your school/you withdraw from the research, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis.

Under certain circumstances, you have the right:

- to request access to information that we hold about you (subject access request)
- to have your personal data rectified, if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing
- to restrict our processing of your personal data (for example, permitting its storage but no further processing)
- to object to our processing
- not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you.

To exercise these rights, please contact our Compliance Officer, compliance@nfer.ac.uk

10 Who can I contact about this project?

To talk to someone about the day to day management of this research or question about it, please contact Jo Stringer via the following email address: KS1AttainmentResearch@nfer.ac.uk.

If you have a concern about the way this project processes personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us in the first instance (see the details above). If you remain dissatisfied, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office, the body responsible for enforcing data protection legislation in the UK, at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

11 Updates

We keep this privacy notice under review to make sure it is up to date and accurate. Any changes will be noted. The date when this privacy notice was last updated is shown in the footer at the bottom of this document.

This privacy notice has been updated from those used in previous years of this longitudinal study.

In November 2022, the privacy notice was updated to say that the study was entering its third year and now focussed on pupils in Year 3 and 4. We also updated information about NFER's Cyber Essentials Plus certification.

In June 2023, the project personnel were updated and details of the feedback survey added.

In October 2023, the privacy notice was updated to say that the study will be running for a further three years (until 2025/2026) and the current academic year will focus on pupils in Year 4 and 5. We also updated information about NFER's Cyber Essentials Plus certification and the personnel working on the project.