
Evaluation of Whizz Education: Maths-Whizz Intelligent Tutoring Programme

Privacy notice for parents and carers

1 Why are we collecting this data?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is collecting personal data to support the evaluation of Whizz Education's Maths-Whizz Intelligent Tutoring Programme using a randomised controlled trial (RCT). The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has funded NFER to carry out an independent evaluation of this programme, with Whizz Education (Whizz) overseeing delivery of the programme.

The programme includes pupil engagement with the [Maths-Whizz](#) (MW) adaptive virtual tutoring platform. The adaptive tutor focuses on addressing gaps pupils have in their maths knowledge and plugs these gaps by providing an individualized learning experience that is suited to each pupil's unique needs and pace of learning.

This efficacy trial will evaluate the impact of Maths-Whizz on maths outcomes for pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. To contribute to the trial, we will ask your child to complete a 20-minute maths assessment and a maths survey, at both the start and end of the trial (summer 2024 and summer 2025). In summer 2024, your child's year group will be assigned either to (1) receive Maths-Whizz in addition to normal maths teaching or (2) continue with their normal maths teaching only. They will use the assigned approach across the academic year 2024-25.

NFER is the data controller for the trial and will make decisions about how and what personal data is used for the RCT. Whizz also process personal data to deliver the Maths-Whizz programme and are responsible for making decisions about how that data is processed, that is, they are the data controller. The delivery partner's privacy notice is available [here](#). For the purposes of the evaluation, Whizz are data processors.

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.

A legitimate interest assessment has been undertaken. Our legitimate interest in processing personal data for this trial is to both administer the RCT and to analyse the data that is collected as part of this RCT. The evaluation fulfills one of NFER's core business purposes (undertaking

research, evaluation, and information activities). It has broader societal benefits and will contribute to improving the lives of learners and teachers by providing evidence about the impact of virtual

adaptive tutoring platforms on learning outcomes and classroom practice. Research cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

NFER will obtain personal data for pupils in the following ways from schools and directly from pupils. We will also collect background data from the Department for Education's (DfE) National Pupil Database (NPD).

- If your child's school is participating in this evaluation, and they are currently in Year 1, 2, 3, or 4, their personal data will be collected directly from the school via a secure portal by NFER.
- In Summer 2024 and 2025, NFER will access your child's baseline and endpoint Renaissance Star Maths Assessment scores from the Renaissance Learning online platform.
- In summer 2024 and 2025, NFER will collect baseline and endpoint Maths and Me survey data from pupils in all but the youngest year group via a short online survey administered using Questback.
- In summer 2024 and 2025, NFER will securely collect online or paper attendance registers for the assessments (Renaissance Star Maths assessment and Maths and Me survey) directly from schools.
- If your child's year group is receiving the programme, NFER will periodically receive platform usage and progress data from Whizz.
- Background data including gender and whether the pupil has ever been eligible for free school meals will be collected for the pupils from the NPD using the DfE's secure data exchange portal and the Office of National Statistics' secure access procedures.
- Pupil group discussions will be conducted in a small number of schools by NFER researchers to gather pupils' views and perceptions of the programme. If your child is invited to take part in a group discussion, you will receive a letter seeking your consent for your child's participation in the focus group.

4 What personal data is collected for this project?

If your child's school is participating in the trial, the child's name, date of birth, UPN, gender, free school meal eligibility, year group, class name and details of any other intervention they may be taking part will be collected either directly from the school and/or from NPD.

The following assessment data will be collected for children at baseline and endpoint:

- Your child’s Renaissance Star Maths assessment scores if they are in Years 1, 2, 3 or 4 at baseline and Years 2, 3, 4 or 5 at endpoint.
- Your child’s Maths and Me survey responses if they are in Years 2, 3 or 4 at baseline and Years 3, 4 or 5 at endpoint.

If your child’s year group is receiving the programme, the following further types of information will be collected periodically from the Maths-Whizz platform:

- Your child’s platform usage data
- Your child’s maths age
- Your child’s progress
- Time spent on tutor mode during the trial
- Time spent on practice mode during the trial

If participating in a pupil focus group, their views and perceptions of the programme will be collected.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

Schools and NFER will share pupil data with each other via a secure school data sharing portal.

If your child’s year group receives the programme, NFER will share their personal data with Whizz via a secure portal to enable Whizz to set up pupil accounts on the Maths-Whizz virtual tutoring platform.

Your child’s personal data will be uploaded to the Renaissance platform using a secure portal to set up their Star Maths assessment license. NFER will access your child’s baseline and endpoint Renaissance Star Maths assessment scores directly from the platform. Please see [Renaissance Learning’s privacy notice](#) for more information.

The Maths and Me online survey data is collected via Questback at baseline and endpoint and it stores data in the European Union. Please see [Questback’s privacy notice](#) for more information.

If your child’s year group receives the programme, Whizz will share periodic reports containing platform usage and progress data with NFER.

Your child’s full name, date of birth and UPN will be shared with the DfE’s NPD team to request background data such as gender and free school mean eligibility where required for the analysis. The name of the child will not be in any report arising from this research.

Three months after the publication of the evaluation report, pseudonymised¹ matched outcome data will be added to the EEF archive, which is managed by the Fischer Family Trust on behalf of EEF and hosted by the Office of National Statistics. This will enable the EEF and other research

¹ Pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information that identifies an individual (like names or other meaningful identifiers) in a dataset.

teams to use the pseudonymised data as part of subsequent research through the ONS Approved Researcher Scheme. Further matching to NPD and other administrative data may take place as part of this research, as per statement on page 5 of this [document](#). At this point, EEF will become the data controller and is responsible for taking decisions about the means and purposes of processing. [FFT Education](#) (FFT) and the designated EEF archive evaluator will act as data processors for the archive. Further information about the EEF archive is available [here](#).

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of UK?

NFER only stores personal data in the UK. When we use Questback, data is stored in the EU.

7 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will delete any personal data within one year of publication of the final report, expected to be May 2026.

8 Can I stop my personal data being used?

NFER handles personal data in accordance with the rights given to individuals under data protection legislation. If at any time you wish us to withdraw your child's data from the trial or correct errors in it, please contact NFER by email at mwtrial@nfer.ac.uk.

NFER will still use the personal data schools provided up to the point either the school or parent wish to withdraw unless the school or parent tell us otherwise.

In certain circumstances, data subjects have the right to restrict or object to processing. They also have the right to make a subject access request to see all the information held about them. NFER will cooperate fully when a subject access request (SAR) is made of a data controller. To exercise these rights, please contact our Compliance Officer: compliance@nfer.ac.uk.

9 Who can I contact about this project?

NFER is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project. If you have any queries about this trial, please contact NFER by e-mail at mwtrial@nfer.ac.uk.

If you have a concern about the way this evaluation 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/>.

10 Last updated

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.

The privacy notice was updated in March 2024 to clarify the data processing role of the delivery partner, Whizz Education, for the purposes of the evaluation.