

# Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 (Reception focus) trial 2025-26: Staff privacy notice

## 1 Why are we collecting this data?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an evaluation of Mastering Number at Reception and KS1 (Reception focus), delivered by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM). The evaluation will use a randomised controlled trial (RCT) design.

The Mastering Number programme, developed by the NCETM and funded by the Department for Education (DfE), is an approach to teaching mathematics focusing on key knowledge and understanding needed in Reception and Key Stage 1. The programme aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. The programme provides training to participating teachers and access to lesson resources to support delivery to pupils.

The trial aims to assess the impact of the Mastering Number programme on Reception pupils including disadvantaged pupils and their teachers and will take place over the course of the 2025-26 academic year.

This document outlines how personal data for school staff will be collected from schools and processed for the purposes of the evaluation. There is a separate privacy notice for parents and carers, which covers the pupils' personal data collected as part of the evaluation (available here: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/effectiveness-trial-of-mastering-number-2025-26/>).

NFER makes decisions about how personal data is used for the trial and is the data controller. NCETM supports the evaluation and is a data processor, processing personal data following NFER instructions. For the delivery of the NCETM programme, the DfE is the data controller and NCETM are again a processor following their instruction on how personal data is used in delivery. Further information about the processing is available here: <https://www.tribalgroupp.com/privacy-policy>. Any data shared between NFER and DfE (via NCETM) will be done under a controller to controller data sharing agreement.

## 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 evaluation fulfils one of NFER's core business purpose (undertaking research, evaluation and information activities). It cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests. The research has wider societal benefits as it will contribute to improving the lives of learners by providing evidence about the impact of teaching techniques used in the classroom.

## 3 How will personal data be obtained?

At recruitment, personal data will be collected directly from participating schools by NCETM and local [Maths Hubs](#). When the school signs up to join the trial, the hub (on behalf of the NCETM) will collect staff personal data about the Main Contact (EEF trial) and headteacher directly from the schools.

Between signing the MoU and before the end of July 2025, the Maths Hub (on behalf of the NCETM, as part of their usual processes) will also collect staff personal data about the Maths Lead, and the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Lead Teachers.

NCETM will securely share this data with NFER.

NFER will collect further personal data directly from schools including the Reception class teacher details for all participating Reception classes via a Teacher and Pupil data template and using their online survey platform, Tivian.

NFER will collect personal data about participating school staff using the following online surveys on the survey platform, Tivian.

- Survey to be completed by the Maths Lead in all school in September 2025 (baseline).
- Survey to be completed by all Reception teachers in September 2025 and June/July 2026 (baseline and endpoint).
- Survey to be completed by Headteachers in Intervention schools in June/July 2026 (endpoint).
- Survey to be completed by Reception teachers and the Year 1 and Year 2 Lead teachers in intervention schools in June/July 2026 (endpoint).
- Survey to be completed by the Maths Lead in Control schools in June/July 2026 (endpoint).

A small number of intervention and control schools will be invited to participate in case studies. These may involve: interviews with the participating Reception teachers and the Year 1 and Year 2 lead teachers, and observations of programme session delivery in intervention schools or usual practice in control schools. Participation in these additional activities is optional.

## 4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

To facilitate contact with participating schools throughout the evaluation, the following personal data will be collected about the Main Contact, Headteachers, Maths Lead, Reception and Year 1 and 2 teachers:

- Name
- Contact details
- Job role.

In addition to the contact details listed above, more specific personal data will be collected from the different types of participating teachers:

- For the Maths Lead in control and intervention schools, information on use of mastery practices, early maths programmes, targeted group teaching, and maths specific continuous professional development (CPD) in Reception and KS1 is collected.
- For all Reception class teachers in control and intervention schools, data will also be collected on teachers' beliefs and confidence about teaching early maths.
- For all Reception class teachers and the Year 1 and Year 2 Lead Teachers in intervention schools, views on training, delivery, adaptation/tailoring, any targeted small group work, cascading and perceived impact for teachers and pupils, from Mastering Number.

In addition to the above data, case study visits will also collect data on Reception teachers' maths practice in both intervention and control schools..

## 5 Who will personal data be shared with?

NFER may securely share staff personal data (names and contact emails) with NCETM to ensure records are kept up to date in order to facilitate the delivery of the programme.

As part of the trial, NFER will link Reception teacher data (e.g. training attendance data, beliefs and confidence survey data) with pupils' attainment data for analysis. This pupil-level dataset will be shared with the DfE's National Pupil Database team to allow matching with pupils' background data from the NPD.

Three months after the publication of the evaluation report, all pseudonymised<sup>1</sup> matched pupil data (including linked pseudonymised teacher 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 (ONS). This will enable the EEF and other research 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 during subsequent research. At that point, EEF will become the data controller and NFER will no longer hold responsibility for the data and will no longer

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

be the data controller. **FFT Education** (<https://fft.org.uk/about-fft/>) and the designated EEF archive evaluator will act as data processors for the archive. Further information about the EEF archive is available here:

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/evaluation/evaluation-guidance-and-resources/evaluation-data-archive>

The online survey data and baseline observation checklist is collected via Tivian which stores names, contact details and survey responses in Azure and AWS data centre infrastructure in the European Union (EU). Tivian's privacy notice is available here: <https://www.tivian.com/uk/privacy-policy-2/>

NFER may use Microsoft Teams to conduct, record and transcribe interviews as part of the case studies. A privacy notice for Microsoft Teams can be found at <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/security-compliance-overview#privacy>

## 6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

When NFER use Tivian to administer the baseline observational checklist and all online surveys, data is stored in the EU. Data required for the surveys and observational checklist (teacher names, contact emails and survey responses) will therefore be stored in the EU.

## 7 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will share all the pseudonymised data with EEF's data archive processor within three months of publication of the report. NFER will delete any personal after one year from the publication of the final report (due to be published May 2027). Once NFER delete the data, EEF will retain sole data controller responsibility for the archived data.

The deletion process is currently planned for May 2028.

## 8 What are my rights with respect to personal data?

NFER handles personal data in accordance with the rights given to individuals under data protection legislation. Under certain circumstances data subjects have the right:

- to request access to information that is held about them (a data subject access request).
- to have 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 processing of personal data (for example, permitting its storage but no further processing).
- to object to processing
- to data portability

- not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect.

We may need to request specific information from you to help us confirm your identity and ensure your right to access the information (or to exercise any of your other rights). This helps us ensure that personal information is not disclosed to any person who has no right to receive it.

Although we value your participation in this evaluation and its contribution to important findings, you can withdraw from the evaluation activities at any time. If you withdraw, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis. Please note that withdrawing your data will not be possible once data analysis has commenced (from September 2026). Withdrawing your data will not impact on your school's participation in the Mastering Number programme. If at any time you wish to withdraw from the evaluation activities, withdraw your data or correct errors in it, please contact: [masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk)

## 9 Who can I contact about this project?

Any queries about the day-to-day management of the data processing outlined in this privacy notice, please contact the project team at [masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk)

If you have concerns about the way NFER processes personal data or wish to exercise a data subject right (see section 8), please contact the Compliance Officer: [compliance@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:compliance@nfer.ac.uk)

If you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to lodge a complaint about data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office, the body responsible for enforcing data protection legislation in the UK, at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

## 10 Updates

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