

## Privacy notice for PISA 2018

### 1. Why are we collecting this data?

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. PISA is a worldwide study that has taken place every three years since 2000.

England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are all taking part in PISA 2018.

The purpose of the study is to produce statistics on pupils' learning and skills, in order to learn how best to improve teaching and learning and provide the most effective opportunities for all young people.

We take privacy and confidentiality very seriously and no individual pupil, teacher, school or parent will be identified or identifiable in any reporting.

This privacy notice tells you what government departments, and their approved contractor (NFER), will do with the information we collect from pupils and headteachers (and teachers in Scotland) as part of the PISA study and how we will ensure privacy of personal information. It explains:

- information to be collected for the study
- organisations that information will be shared with
- how we will use the personal data
- what makes it lawful to collect and share the information
- how participation affects you
- security and confidentiality
- contact details and further information

Participation in the study is voluntary. If there are any questions anyone does not wish to answer they may leave them blank. By providing information as part of this study, participants are agreeing to the use of the information provided as set out in this privacy notice.

Privacy notices specific to each of the UK governments can be found here: [England](#), [Scotland](#), [Wales](#), [Northern Ireland](#)

## 2. Who is this project sponsored and funded by?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) will carry out the PISA main study in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland during 2018 on behalf of the respective UK governments: Department for Education (DfE), England; Scottish Government (SG), Welsh Government (WG) and Department of Education (DE) Northern Ireland.

For the purpose of data protection legislation, NFER is the data processor and each of the separate government departments are the data controllers of their own country's data.

## 3. What is the legal basis for processing activities?

The legal basis for processing personal data is covered by:

- GDPR Article 6 (1e)

***Public task:** the processing is necessary for you to perform a task in the public interest or for official functions, and the task or function has a clear basis in law.*

## 4. How will personal data be obtained?

The survey data will be obtained through pupil assessments and questionnaire surveys. However, to reduce the burden on schools, some data will be accessed through existing administrative datasets - for example, personal pupil data, such as class lists, names and dates of birth may be collected from the National Pupil Database (NPD), student census data, Local Authorities and/or directly from some schools. We may also collect teacher lists in order to sample for a teacher questionnaire (Scotland only in 2018).

## 5. What personal data is being collected by this project?

The approved contractors for this study (NFER) will collect the following personal information about participating 15-year-old pupils from the local authorities or participating schools in order to administer the study:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Gender
- A broad indication of identified additional needs or limited experience of English language (to ascertain whether they may be excused from participation).

The study collects assessment data on pupils' skills in reading, maths and science (and, in Scotland only, global competence). It also includes a questionnaire covering pupils' attitudes to school and learning, and some background characteristics. We may also ask for teachers' names and subject specialisms, if a teacher questionnaire is included in your country. (Scotland only for 2018.)

**No individual pupil, teacher or school will be identified or identifiable in any reporting.**

## **6. Who will the personal data be shared with?**

NFER will collect PISA data on behalf of DfE, SG, WG and DE who are the data controllers.

Assessment and questionnaire data is shared with the international consortium contractors<sup>1</sup> for its production of aggregated statistics. However this will be an anonymised dataset and any information that could identify individual children, teachers or schools will be removed before transfer.

## **7. Is personal data being transferred outside of the European Economic Area (EEA)?**

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

## **8. How long will personal data be retained?**

Data is not kept longer than is necessary and is deleted in accordance with NFER's internal policy. For international surveys data is retained for 12 months after submission to the international consortium to allow for any anomalies or queries to be resolved.

## **9. 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 data or correct errors in it, please contact [PISA@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:PISA@nfer.ac.uk).

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](#).

## **10. Who can I contact about this project?**

NFER is responsible for the day-to-day management of this project. Contact [PISA@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:PISA@nfer.ac.uk) with any queries.

If you have any questions about how DfE, SG, WG and DE will use your information, please refer to the links in the relevant country's privacy notices in Section 1 above.

If you have a concern about the way this project processes personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us or your respective government (See section 1) in the first instance (see the details above). Alternatively, 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/>.

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<sup>1</sup> OECD contractors currently involved in data handling are ETS ( <https://www.ets.org/>) and Westat (<https://www.westat.com/>).