
Impact of KS1 school closures on later attainment and social skills– Year 3 and Year 4 pupils

Privacy Notice for Parents – 2022/2023

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 is the third year of a three-year longitudinal study started in 2020/2021 and focuses on pupils as they reach Year 3 or Year 4 (having been in Year 1 or Year 2 when the study started). It investigates the impact of school closures, looking at pupil attainment, school practices and teachers' perspectives.

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

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 over the academic year.

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?

If your school participated in the first and second year of our study, we will use data collected as part of those projects and add to them pupil assessment data and findings from a social skills survey for a sample of pupils for both the 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years. We will only collect data for pupils who were in Key Stage 1 during the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 academic years. For any pupil or school who did not participate in the first and second years of this study, personal data detailed in section 4 below will be collected from their school.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The NFER will collect personal data about pupils from participating schools. This includes

- pupil name
- date of birth
- gender
- unique pupil number (UPN)
- class name
- school name
- Free School Meals status (FSM)

Teachers will provide information about a sample of pupils' socio-emotional skills. The social skills survey will be used with a sample of 12 pupils from Year 3 and 12 pupils from Year 4 in the school to assess levels of self-regulation and social development (including sociability, pro-social behaviour, externalising and internalising problems).

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

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

For the purpose of research archiving, the responses will be linked with information about the pupils from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and shared with the Department for Education, the EEF's archive manager and in an anonymised form, with the Office for National Statistics and potentially other research teams.

Other research teams may use de-identified data as part of subsequent research through the ONS Approved Researcher Scheme¹. The Approved Researcher Scheme is used by the ONS to grant secure access to data that cannot be published openly, for statistical research purposes, as permitted by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (SRSA).

More information can be found at: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/evaluation/evaluation-guidance-and-resources/archiving-evaluation-data>

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/requestingstatistics/approvedresearcherscheme>

The Social Skills survey 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 September 2024. NFER will then delete all pupil personal data within one year of publication of this final report.

After three months from the completion of the study, all of the de-identified matched pupil data will be added to the EEF archive. The EEF archive is hosted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and managed by the EEF archive manager. This data is archived to allow for further research. At this point, EEF becomes fully responsible for the data (sole data controller) and the NFER are no longer the data controllers.

8 How is the security of my child/children's data maintained?

The NFER have put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to prevent your child's 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 (2dac9450-5174-4c60-9c88-8cb88c7a4090 - recertification due 3 October 2023). 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 child/children's data being used?

Your child can be withdrawn from the project and/or from their data being used in the project at any time. You will be provided with a parent letter about the project explaining how your child's data will be collected and used and how they can be withdrawn from data processing. However, the NFER appreciates schools' and participants' support in collecting the data since it is very important for the validity of the results. If you withdraw your child from the project, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis.

The NFER will handle your child/children's personal data in accordance with the rights given to individuals under data protection legislation. If at any time, you wish to withdraw your child/children's data from this research project or correct errors in it, please contact NFER at KS1AttainmentResearch@nfer.ac.uk

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 ask a question about it, please contact Sarah Millar 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.

Further changes were made in June 2023, when project personnel were updated.