
Rich Retrieval pilot evaluation:

Rich Retrieval programme team 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 a pilot evaluation of Bath Spa University's Rich Retrieval primary science programme. The Rich Retrieval programme provides professional development and curriculum resources to support primary science teachers. The aim of this programme is for pupils to build rich scientific concepts that are interconnected to form meaningful schemas of science topics. The pilot evaluation aims to observe how the programme runs, its feasibility, any early evidence of promise including initial signs of perceived impact, and potential for scaling/evaluating further in a randomized controlled trial. The pilot will take place over the course of the 2026-27 academic year.

This document outlines how the Rich Retrieval programme leads' personal data will be collected and processed for the purposes of the evaluation.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has funded this evaluation. For the evaluation, NFER is the independent data controller. This means that NFER will determine the purposes of data processing for the evaluation.

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. The evaluation fulfils 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 by providing evidence about professional development and teaching techniques in primary science. Research cannot be done without processing personal data, but NFER will ensure your rights are respected at all times.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

Data will be provided directly by the data subject, through online interviews and online and in-person observations.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

A member of the NFER research team will observe a number of the Rich Retrieval professional development sessions offered by Bath Spa University, and will write descriptive notes about the sessions. We will not collect any names or identifiers from these sessions.

NFER will also collect data from the Rich Retrieval programme team via interviews, including their description and views of school recruitment, professional development days, implementation support sessions, barriers and facilitators, and learning for potential scale-up.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

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

No other personal data will be shared with anyone beyond the project team at NFER.

No individual will be named in any report for this project. Due to the small number of Programme Leads delivering Rich Retrieval, it may be possible to identify individuals in the report. Every effort will be taken to prevent this.

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

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

7 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will delete any personal data collected as part of the evaluation within one year of publication of the final report (due to be published in March 2028). This deletion process is currently planned for March 2029.

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.

To exercise any of these rights please contact us (see section 9). 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 November 2026). If at any time you wish to withdraw from the evaluation activities, or withdraw your data or correct errors in it, please contact: richretrieval@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 richretrieval@nfer.ac.uk

If you have concerns about the way NFER processes personal data, in the first instance please raise your concern by contacting the Compliance Officer: 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.