

Rich Retrieval pilot evaluation:

Rich Retrieval parent and carer 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 pupils' personal data will be collected and processed for the purposes of the evaluation. No personal data will be shared with anyone beyond the project team at NFER. No individual will be named in any report for this project.

Bath Spa University will also process data to deliver the Rich Retrieval programme. For this purpose, they are independent data controllers and are responsible for making decisions about how data is processed. They are not collecting or processing any pupil data. Their privacy notice can be found here: <https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/projects/rich-retrieval/>

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has funded this evaluation. For the evaluation, NFER is the independent data controller.

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 children's rights are respected at all times.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

Data will be provided directly by the data subject during researcher visits to schools.

Children's responses during the Rich Retrieval activity in their science lesson, and children's responses from the small group discussion about Rich Retrieval, will be audio-recorded for transcription purposes only. They will be deleted once transcription and checking is complete.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

A member of the research team will:

- audio-record the Rich Retrieval activity in a science lesson, including what your child says to the teacher, class or small group. The recording may also include your child's first name.
- collect or copy/scan your child's written work from the Rich Retrieval activity. Any written work collected will not include pupil names or other identifying information.
- discuss the Rich Retrieval programme with a small group of pupils from the class, collecting pupils' views on Rich Retrieval activities and what they have learned via writing, talking and drawing activities. Any writing or drawing collected will not include pupil names or other identifying information.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

No personal data will be shared with anyone beyond the project team at NFER. No individual will be named in any report for this project.

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?

Audio-recordings of the Rich Retrieval segment of the science lesson and the small group discussion will be deleted as soon as they are transcribed and checked. Pupil names and any other identifying information will also be removed from the transcripts. This will be within one month of the school visit.

NFER will delete all other 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 child's participation in this evaluation and its contribution to important findings, you can withdraw your child 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 child's data will not be possible once data analysis has commenced (after the date of the class visit in spring 2027). Withdrawing your child's data will not impact the participation of your child's school in the Rich Retrieval programme. If at any time you wish to withdraw your child's data 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 any questions about the way NFER processes personal data, please contact the Compliance Officer using the email address provided above, or you can make a complaint as outlined in our [Complaints Policy](#).

After we have responded, if you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to raise 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.

The privacy notice was updated in August 2026 to include NFER's data protection complaints policy.