
Research into school attendance and engagement

Project Information Sheet for parent/carer interviews

1. Why are you receiving this information?

Your child's school is participating in a research project being carried out by the [National Foundation for Educational Research](#) (NFER) and [The Difference](#). Part of the study involves speaking to parents and carers about the support the school provides to help their child to attend and engage with education. We would like to speak to you and hear your experiences.

2. What is the purpose of this research?

The [Education Endowment Foundation](#) (EEF) and the [Youth Endowment Fund](#) (YEF) have asked us to carry out this study with selected secondary schools in England. The study aims to develop evidence about the most effective ways schools can support students who are at risk of being absent or disengaged from school.

3. What does the study involve?

We will be visiting your child's school to speak to some of the staff and students. We will also be taking a look around the school to observe some of the support the school provides.

After the school visit, we plan to speak to some parents and carers by phone or video-call at a convenient date/time. We will ask the students we speak to if they are happy if we contact their parent/carer. If they agree, the school will help to set up a call and/or pass on your contact details to us (with your permission) and we will get in touch with you to arrange a day/time to speak to you.

The interview will last around 45 minutes.

We will be asking questions about:

- how the school communicates with you about the support your child receives from them
- the ways the school supports your child and anything else you would have liked the school to do
- what difference the school's support has made to your child's attendance and/or engagement with education.

We plan to audio record our interviews with parents and carers. We will use the audio recording to create a written record of our discussion, the audio recording will then be deleted.

4. How will we use this data?

The information we collect will be used to write a report which will be published in Autumn 2025. This report will be freely available on the EEF and NFER websites. We may quote some of the things you tell us in our report. **We will not use your name or your child's name in the report** or include any other information that might mean someone else could identify you or your child.

The interviews will be conducted in confidence. The only reason we would share what an interviewee told us is if they say something that makes us think someone might be at risk of harm.

It is important to us that we keep your data safe and secure, and we have robust procedures in place to ensure we comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more details about how we will use and look after your data, please see the study [Privacy Notice for parents and carers](#).

5. What are the benefits and risks of taking part?

By participating in this evaluation, you will be helping us to:

- find out how successful your child's school has been at improving attendance and engagement with education.
- understand how school support can be improved more generally, which may benefit other children in the future.

As a thank you for your time we will provide you with a £30 Amazon gift voucher.

We do not anticipate any risks or harm to parents and carers taking part in this study. This evaluation has been checked to ensure that it abides by [NFER's Code of Practice](#) which outlines our commitment to ethical research, data security and caring for research participants. NFER has robust safeguarding protocols in place to protect individuals during the evaluation activities.

6. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide if you are happy take part. You can also choose not to answer any of the questions we ask and stop the interview at any time.

7. What if I still have questions?

If you have any questions about the interview or the research more broadly, please contact Kerry Martin at k.martin@nfer.ac.uk or call 01753 574123 (NFER head office).