

OxEd Whole Class and Nuffield Early Language Intervention

(NELI) Effectiveness Research Trial 2026 - 2027:

Privacy Notice covering processing of pupil data

1 Why are we collecting this data?

OxEd is partnering with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an evaluation of the OxEd Whole Class and the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI). The evaluation will run during the 2026-27 academic year. For more information on the evaluation, please see the school information sheet here ([LINK](#)).

OxEd Whole Class aims to improve Reception pupils' oral language through three weekly whole-class enrichment sessions delivered by the classroom teacher. In this trial, it will be either delivered alone or alongside NELI, which provides additional small-group and individual sessions for children with the weakest language skills.

This document outlines how children's personal data will be collected and processed as part of the research trial. Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

The EEF has funded this trial. NFER is the independent data controller for the evaluation and makes decisions about what personal data is used and how it is processed.

OxEd is the data processor and only processes personal data for the evaluation on the instruction of NFER. The evaluation data will also be pseudonymised and transferred to the EEF data archive, at which point the EEF will become the data controller for the archived data. See section 5 for full details of data sharing.

OxEd will also process data to deliver Whole Class and NELI. For this purpose, they are the data controllers and are responsible for making decisions about how data is processed. The privacy notice can be found here: [OxEd Privacy Notice](#)

After the evaluation report is published on the EEF website, NFER will share evaluation data with OxEd; see section 5 for further details.

If longitudinal research is commissioned for this project additional activities may be undertaken, these are activities are included below.

No school, educator or pupil will be named in any report arising from this work, nor will we include any information that might mean that someone else could identify them.

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 helping to build the evidence base on effective approaches to improving children's early language skills and shaping future practice and policy to support better outcomes for all pupils. Research cannot be done without processing personal data, but NFER will ensure your child's rights are respected at all times.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

NFER will collect children's personal data from all schools participating in the project. The data will be collected via a child data form completed by a member of school staff and shared with NFER via NFER's secure online portal.

Children's LanguageScreen scores will be collected via OxEd's LanguageScreen software. The assessment will be administered by school staff at the start of the trial (October/November 2026) and by NFER's Test Administrators at the end of the trial (June /July 2027).

NFER's Test Administrators will also administer Renfrew Action Picture Test (RAPT) paper-based assessments alongside the LanguageScreen. Children's audio responses to RAPT will be recorded for transcription purposes only. They will be deleted once the marking is complete. For children receiving the intervention, NFER will collect attendance at OxEd Whole Class and NELI sessions via attendance registers completed by school staff and shared with NFER via NFER's secure online portal.

A small number of schools will receive a visit from an NFER researcher to observe delivery of the Whole Class and NELI sessions. Children will be observed as part of this and asked to indicate anonymously how they feel on a feelings chart, but no further personal data will be collected.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

Data will be collected for Reception pupils in a participating class in each school – a school can nominate up to 2 classes to participate in the trial.

The following personal data will be collected for each child in participating classes:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Class name
- Gender
- Free School Meals data (FSM)

- Unique Pupil Number (UPN)
- LanguageScreen assessment scores (at the start and end of the trial)
- RAPT assessment – children’s audio responses to RAPT (for transcription purposes only), transcribed responses and scores (at the end of the trial)
- Whether or not they are suitable for NELI (whether they are able to access interactive small group sessions)
- Whether they attended the Whole Class and/or NELI sessions

Each participating child’s Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) score will be used, and (as part of the longitudinal research) their Phonics Test score may also be used, via the Department for Education’s (DfE’s) National Pupil Database (NPD).

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

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

Personal data collected by NFER via the child data form will be shared with OxEd using a secure data portal. Personal data will be entered into the OxEd portal to facilitate the administration of LanguageScreen assessments.

Personal data collected by LanguageScreen will be shared back with NFER via OxEd’s portal.

NFER will share children’s personal data (full name, date of birth and UPN) with the DfE’s NPD team in order for their data to be matched to the EYFSP scores, and (as part of the longitudinal research) the data may also be matched to Phonics Test scores.

OxEd’s privacy notice is available here: <https://www.oxedandassessment.com/privacy>

The RAPT language assessment data will be transcribed by the NFER Test Administrator into Tivian which stores names and the measures responses in Azure and AWS data centre infrastructure in the European Union (EU). Tivian’s privacy notice is available here: <https://www.tivian.com/uk/privacy-policy-2/>

Archiving at the end of evaluation

To provide maximum value to taxpayers, school leaders, policy makers and the wider education and research communities, EEF archives impact evaluation data. Data is archived with a view to tracking the long-term effect of the interventions they fund. This means that at the end of the evaluation, NFER will link all of the child-level personal data described in section 4 with details of the schools. This will include the school name, address, postcode, school identifier, school Local Authority, summary data for school staff’s OxEd Whole Class and NELI training attendance. Three months after the final evaluation report is published (currently planned for June 2029), NFER will submit a pseudonymized¹ matched dataset to the EEF archive. At this point, the EEF will

¹ Pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information that identifies an individual (like names or other meaningful identifiers) in a dataset.

become the data controller. The EEF archive is managed by the FFT Education (FFT) on behalf of the EEF.

The EEF data archive is hosted in the Secure Research Service (SRS) at the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Further matching to NPD and other administrative data may take place during later research. This will enable the EEF and other research teams to use the pseudonymised data as part of subsequent research through the ONS Approved Researcher Scheme.

FFT and the designated EEF archive evaluator will act as data processors for the archive.

Further information about the EEF archive is available

here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/evaluation/evaluation-guidance-and-resources/evaluation-data-archive> and the privacy notice can be found here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-the-eef-data-archive>

After the main evaluation report is published on EEF website (likely to be in July 2028), NFER will share children's personal data (except the data collected from the NPD and audio recordings from RAPT assessments) with OxEd. This will enable OxEd to link it with the data they hold and undertake their own research to publish findings from the trial in scientific journals. At this point, OxEd will become an independent data controller.

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

When NFER uses Tivian, a survey platform, to support the data collection of the RAPT language assessment responses, data is stored in the EU. This transfer is protected by UK adequacy arrangements. Only personal data required for, and collected as part of, the RAPT language assessment (child name and assessment responses), will be stored 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 evaluation report (due to be published in June 2029). This deletion process is currently planned for June 2030. Recordings and digitised transcriptions of assessments and interviews will be deleted as soon as the notes and responses are finalised.

Following the end of the trial (July 2027), participating schools will have the option to receive their assessment data into their existing school-owned OxEd account, or a new account if subscribing for the first time. Schools that choose this option will become the data controller and assume responsibility for retention. OxEd will delete any remaining personal data by July 2030. As outlined in their privacy notice, OxEd may anonymise personal data and use it for research or statistical purposes.

8 What are my rights with respect to personal data?

NFER and its partners 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 (from June 2027 for school visits, and September 2027 for LanguageScreen and RAPT assessment data). Withdrawing your child's data will not impact on the participation of your child's school in the programme/s. 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 NFERwholeclass@nfer.ac.uk.

9 Who can I contact about this project?

If you have any queries about the day-to-day management of the data processing outlined in this privacy notice, please contact the project team at NFERwholeclass@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/>

Further information on this trial and all privacy notices can be found [here](#).



10 Updates

We keep this privacy notice under review to make sure it is up to date and accurate. Any changes will be recorded. 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.