

Evaluation of STEM Horizons Computer Science Partnerships

Privacy Notice for Delivery Team Staff

1 Why are we collecting this data?

The STEM Horizons Computer Science Partnerships programme aims to partner independent schools with state schools to enhance students' experience of and attainment in GCSE Computer Science. The programme is funded by the Hg Foundation. The programme will be led by a programme manager and director, and will be delivered by specialist computer science teachers supported by senior leaders from independent 'hub' schools. The Hg Foundation has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an independent evaluation of the programme to inform its future development and scaling. The evaluation will take place between September 2025 and March 2029.

NFER is the data controller for the evaluation and will make decisions about how and what personal data is used for the evaluation. This privacy notice covers data collected about the delivery team for the purpose of the evaluation. Partner school staff and student data collected for the evaluation is covered by separate privacy notices that can be found here: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/evaluation-of-stem-horizons-computer-science-partnerships/>

STEM Horizons will process personal data in order to deliver the programme. They are the data controller for the delivery of the STEM Horizons Computer Science Partnerships programme, making decisions about what data is required and how it is processed for the programme delivery and monitoring.

2 What is the legal basis for processing activities?

The legal basis for processing personal data is covered by:

Article 6 (f) Legitimate interests: the processing is necessary for NFER's legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party, unless there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides those legitimate interests.

A legitimate interests assessment has been undertaken. It demonstrates that it is within NFER's interests to undertake this evaluation to collect and analyse data on the programme's effectiveness and outcomes. 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 an opportunity to improve GCSE Computer Science outcomes and take-up of STEM subjects. The research cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

Personal data will be collected directly from the delivery team by the STEM Horizons programme manager and shared with NFER.

Further information will be collected directly by NFER during virtual interviews/focus groups with the STEM Horizons programme manager and director, as well as senior leaders and specialist computer science teachers from hub independent schools. With participants' agreement, these interviews/group discussions will be audio-recorded.

4 What personal data is being collected for this project?

The following personal data will be collected for the STEM Horizons programme manager and director, and a senior leader and specialist computer science teacher in independent hub schools:

- Name
- Contact details (e-mail and telephone number)
- Job role and background/qualifications in relation to computer science
- Engagement with and perceptions of the STEM Horizons Computer Science Partnerships programme and costs of its delivery.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

For the purposes of the evaluation, the STEM Horizons team will share with NFER data on the delivery team involved in the programme (see section 3). Any personal data shared between STEM Horizons and NFER will be via secure online data portal. Data will not be shared with any other parties and will not be used for any other purposes.

Microsoft Teams may be used for virtual interviews, their privacy notice is available: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/teams-privacy>

NFER will store all personal data on their secure servers/cloud-based storage.

NFER will produce a publishable report for Hg Foundation. No individual or school will be identifiable in the report, unless permission has explicitly been given by the data subject. All of the findings from the evaluation will only be shared in anonymised form.

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

NFER only stores personal data in the UK.

7 How long will personal data be retained?

Any personal data collected for evaluation purposes will be deleted by NFER within one year of publication of the final report, which is scheduled for March 2029. At the latest, all personal data will be deleted by March 2030.

8 Can I stop my personal data being used?

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 the NFER's Compliance Officer at compliance@nfer.ac.uk

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.

9 Who can I contact about this project?

NFER is responsible for the day-to-day management of the evaluation. Please contact the evaluation team at: StemHorizons@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 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/>.

Further information about this evaluation, including information sheets and privacy notices can be found here: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/evaluation-of-stem-horizons-computer-science-partnerships/>

10 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.