
Enrichment Partnership Pilot: Evaluation Information for Schools

Introduction

Your school has been invited to take part in the evaluation of the Enrichment Partnership Pilot (EPP). The pilot has been funded via the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) with the aim of improving access to and uptake of enrichment activities for secondary school aged pupils by coordinating local enrichment provision.

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is now conducting an evaluation of this pilot, on behalf of DCMS and DfE. We are working with the National Citizen Service Trust (NCST) and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) who are delivering the pilot.

About the evaluation

The evaluation will take place from March 2024 to March 2025. The aims of the evaluation are to understand:

- What enrichment activities were delivered during the pilot.
- How the pilot was delivered and what worked well or less well.
- How coordinating organisations (the local organisations coordinating enrichment provision as part of the pilot), enrichment providers, schools, and pupils responded to the pilot.
- What has changed because of the pilot and the extent to which these changes can be sustained.

How will the results of the evaluation be used?

The findings from this evaluation will be key to informing funding decisions for future work in enrichment, so your support for and participation in these activities is greatly appreciated. The results and learning from the evaluation will be published in a final report in Summer 2025. No schools or individuals will be identified in any of the reports.

What are the benefits and risks of taking part?

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

- find out how successful the EPP has been at improving the quality and uptake of enrichment activities.
- understand how the activities can be improved, which will benefit other schools and pupils in the future.

We will also ask 16 schools to be case study schools (see below for more information). On completion of the case study activities, these 16 schools will each receive £150 (which can be used at their discretion) in recognition of their time and as a thank you for taking part.

We do not anticipate any risks or harm to any of the schools, teachers or pupils taking part in this evaluation. 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 children during the evaluation activities.

Evaluation design

The evaluation consists of two strands:

Pilot-wide data collection: which **all schools** participating in the EPP are asked to take part in.

Case studies: which we will select 16 schools to take part in. These schools will be selected to ensure schools with a range of characteristics and from the different regions participating in the pilot are represented.

The activities involved in each of these strands are described in more detail in the next section.

What will the evaluation involve for my school?

The table below sets out the evaluation activities we will ask all schools to take part in, as well as the activities for schools selected as case studies.

All schools	
<p>Monitoring information</p> <p>All schools taking part in the EPP will be asked to complete an Excel template at baseline and follow up to provide a one-week snapshot of the enrichment activities run by school staff on school premises and the number of pupils participating in them. This will be sent to the EPP lead at your school.</p>	<p>Dates: June 2024 and February 2025 to March 2025</p>
<p>Online survey</p> <p>The EPP lead in all schools will be asked to complete an online survey about their experiences of taking part in the EPP at baseline and follow up. This will include topics such as: views about the delivery of the pilot, views on enrichment, experiences working with enrichment providers and schools, barriers to and support for participation, outcomes and changes that could be continued.</p>	<p>Dates: June 2024 and February 2025 to March</p>

Case study schools only	
<p>Agreement to participate</p> <p>Schools selected as case studies will be asked to complete an online agreement (Memorandum of Understanding – MoU) and provide a named person within their school who will be the key contact for the evaluation</p>	<p>Date: March 2024</p>
<p>Pupil data</p> <p>Schools submit pupil data for all Year 8 and Year 10 pupils. This data will include pupil names, date of birth, Unique Pupil Numbers (UPNs), class name and eligibility for Free-School Meals (FSM). We are collecting this information to be able to analyse by FSM, and to allow follow up analysis by DfE after the project (for more information please see the parent and carer privacy notice).</p>	<p>Dates: November 2024</p>
<p>Pupil survey</p> <p>In June 2024 we will ask schools to administer an anonymous paper survey to all pupils in Year 7 and in Year 9. The survey will be repeated with the same pupils in February to March 2025. It will include questions about their participation in enrichment activities, their wellbeing, any identified barriers to and support for their participation.</p>	<p>Dates: June 2024 and February 2025-March 2025</p>
<p>Pupil focus groups</p> <p>We will visit case study schools in person to conduct two focus groups with 6 to 8 pupils (from across a range of year groups). We will ask schools to support us by selecting these pupils, providing parents/carers and pupils with information about the focus groups, and facilitating these visits. During the focus groups pupils will be asked about their views about the enrichment activities, what ‘good’ enrichment looks like, barriers to and support for their participation and what different they feel the activities have made for them.</p>	<p>February 2025-March 2025</p> <p>(dates to be agreed on an individual basis with case study schools)</p>
<p>Staff focus group</p> <p>On the same day as the pupil focus groups, school staff will be invited to take part in a focus group. This focus group will cover implementation of the pilot, views about the enrichment activities, experiences working with enrichment providers and coordinating organisations, barriers to and support for participation (for schools and pupils), identified outcomes, and whether it is possible to continue the pilot activities.</p>	<p>February 2025-March 2025</p> <p>(dates to be agreed on an individual basis with case study schools)</p>

How will the research team use the data collected?

All data gathered during the evaluation will be held within the rules of the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence by the research team. No schools or individuals will be identified in any of the reports. Please see the [Privacy notice for schools](#) and [Privacy notice for parents and carers](#) for more information about how we will use the data we collect.

Does my school have to take part?

Your school's participation is really important to us and the data we collect will help inform funding decisions for similar projects in the future. If you do not wish for your school to participate in any of the evaluation activities, please let us know, so we know not to contact you about further evaluation activities.

If your school is approached to be a case study school and you do not wish to participate in this capacity, please let us know as soon as possible so we can approach another school.

If you change your mind about taking part and wish to withdraw your school, please contact NFER as soon as possible at EPP@nfer.ac.uk.

What if a parent/carer or pupil does not wish to take part?

Pupils will **only** be asked to participate in the evaluation if your school is selected as a case study school. Prior to any data being collected about or from pupils, we will provide information for you to give to parents/carers about the evaluation. We will also provide you with information to give to pupils about the survey and, if they are selected to participate, the focus groups. Parents/carers will have the option to complete a withdrawal form prior to the start of the evaluation if they do not wish for their child to take part.

Participation in the pupil survey is voluntary and all questions in the pupil survey are optional, so pupils can decide if they wish to answer them. Participation in the pupil focus groups is also optional. If a pupil does not wish to participate in the focus group, you can select another pupil to take part in their place.

Further information about the use of data and participants' rights can be found in the [Privacy notice for parents and carers](#).

How can I find out more information?

If you would like any additional information or have any further questions, please contact the research team at EPP@nfer.ac.uk.