

Pupil Wellbeing and Persistent Absence

Privacy Notice for Parents and Carers

1 Who is collecting the data and why?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has received funding from the [Nuffield Foundation](#) to undertake research into the potential relationship between pupil wellbeing and school attendance for secondary school pupils in England.

The research is taking place from April 2025 to December 2026.

Your child's school has agreed to support this research by allowing us to undertake a case study. One of the elements of the case study is interviews with parents and carers, and we are sending you this information because we would like to invite you to take part in an interview with us.

This document outlines how your **personal data** will be collected for the purposes of this research. NFER decides how the personal data be used for this project and is the data controller.

2 What is the legal basis for processing activities?

To process this personal data, our legal reason for collecting or processing this data is:

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 research 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 young people by helping us understand the impact of pupil wellbeing on school attendance. We cannot undertake this research without processing personal data, but NFER will ensure your rights are protected.

We do not intend to collect or process special category personal data for this project. However, it is possible you may share information related to your child's physical health, mental health, or special educational needs or disabilities during the interview. Therefore, a separate legal basis for processing special category personal data has been identified:

GDPR Article 9 (2) (j) which states 'Processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1) based on Union or Member State law which shall be Public proportionate to the aim pursued, respect the essence of the right to data protection and provide for suitable and specific measures to safeguard the fundamental rights and the interests of the data subject.'

The processing is unlikely to cause damage or distress to pupils, and no measures will be created, or decisions taken about individuals because of this research.

3 How will my personal data be collected?

The research will involve a visit to your child's school from the NFER research team. We have asked your child's school to invite parents/carers to take part in an interview with us.

If you are happy to take part in an interview with us when we visit the school we will ask your child's school to organise this with you.

If you would prefer to take part in an online interview at a time that suits you, we will ask your child's school to provide us with your contact details (name, email address, telephone numbers), or you can contact us directly at attendance@nfer.ac.uk.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The following data will be collected for all parents/carers taking part in an interview with us:

- Full name
- Views and opinions about school attendance

If you wish to take part in an online interview with us (rather than an in-person interview) we will also ask you to provide an email address and telephone number to allow us to contact you and set-up the interview.

The interviews will be audio recorded using an audio recorder or Microsoft Teams to aid notetaking and ensure we have an accurate record of the session. Personal data (such as names) of parents/carers participating in the interviews will be removed prior to the analysis.

5 Who will my personal data be shared with?

Your personal data will not be shared with anyone outside of the research team at NFER. We will write publicly available reports about our research findings, but no individuals or schools will be named in these reports.

Microsoft Teams will be used for online interviews. The privacy notice for Microsoft Teams can be found here: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/teams-privacy>

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?

NFER will delete any personal data collected as part of the evaluation within one year of publication of the final report. This deletion process is currently planned for December 2027.

Interview recordings will be deleted as soon as the interview notes have been finalised and analysis completed. We anticipate that this will be within six months of the interview taking place.

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.

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.

Please note that requests for access, withdrawal or corrections will not be possible after the data have been anonymised (that is when the data from the interviews is anonymised prior to analysis).

9 Who can I contact about this project?

NFER is responsible for the day-to-day management of this research. If you have any queries about the project, please contact the NFER project team by email at attendance@nfer.ac.uk.

To exercise any of your data protection rights or to express concerns about the way this research processes personal data, please contact our 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/>

10 Updates

We keep our privacy notice under regular 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.