

# Evaluation of STEM Horizons Computer Science Partnerships

## Privacy Notice for School 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 partner school staff for the purpose of the evaluation. Student data collected for the evaluation is covered by a separate privacy notice for students and their parents/carers, available here: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/evaluation-of-stem-horizons-computer-science-partnerships/>

The specialist computer science teachers from independent hub schools will process personal data in order to deliver the programme. STEM Horizons 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?

Specialist computer science teachers from independent hub schools will record data about participating partner state schools, including for a key contact. This data will be shared with the STEM Horizons programme manager/director and NFER.

Further data will be collected directly by NFER using an online survey tool, Tivian, to collect teacher perspectives.

NFER will also carry out in-person observations of programme activities and in-person and virtual interviews with a small number of teachers. With participants' agreement, the interviews will be audio-recorded.

### 4 What personal data is being collected for this project?

In addition to collecting school name, Unique Reference Number (URN), contact details and headteacher name, the following personal data will be collected for the key project contact in partner state schools (e.g. a teacher of computer science):

- 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 programme
- Usual practice in relation to teaching computer science.

### 5 Who will personal data be shared with?

For the purposes of the evaluation, the STEM Horizons team will share with NFER data on key staff in schools 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.

The online survey data is collected via Tivian which stores survey responses in Azure and AWS data centre infrastructure in the European Union. Tivian's privacy notice is available: <https://www.tivian.com/uk/privacy-policy-2/>

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

Personal and individual interview data and notes from the lesson observations will not be shared outside the NFER research team. 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.

The online survey data collected via Tivian stores survey responses in the European Union.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 on this project, 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.