
Implementation and Sustainability of Mastering Number at Reception and KS1: Staff Privacy Notice

1 Why are we collecting this data?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an evaluation of Mastering Number at Reception and KS1, delivered by the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) and Maths Hubs. As part of the evaluation, we will explore the implementation and sustainability of practice in a sample of schools that have previously been trained in Mastering Number.

The Mastering Number programme, developed by the NCETM and funded by the Department for Education (DfE), is an approach to teaching mathematics focusing on key knowledge and understanding needed in Reception and Key Stage 1. The programme aims to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children from Reception through to Year 1 and Year 2. The programme provides training to participating teachers and access to lesson resources to support delivery to pupils in the first year of delivery. In the second year, support to embed the programme within schools is provided by local Maths Hubs through the Mastering Number Embedding the Impact Community.

This research will run alongside a wider evaluation exploring the impact of Mastering Number on the numeracy skills of Reception pupils. This strand of the evaluation aims to understand the extent to which Mastering Number is embedded within the practice of schools who have previously received Mastering Number training by focussing on schools within the [15 Maths Hubs](#) participating in the wider evaluation. Findings from this strand of the evaluation about existing and embedded delivery, alongside findings from the wider evaluation, will inform recommendations about the continued nationwide rollout of Mastering Number.

This document outlines how personal data for school staff will be collected and processed for the exploration of the implementation and sustainability of Mastering Number practices.

NFER makes decisions about how personal data is used for the evaluation and is the data controller. NCETM supports the evaluation and is a data processor, processing personal data following NFER instructions. For the delivery of the Mastering Number programme, the DfE is the data controller and NCETM are again a processor following their instruction on how personal data is used in delivery. Further information about the processing is available here: <https://www.tribalgroup.com/privacy-policy>.

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.

We have carried out a legitimate interest assessment, which demonstrates that the evaluation fulfils one of NFER's core business purposes (undertaking research, evaluation and information activities). It cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests. The research has wider societal benefits as it will contribute to improving the lives of learners by providing evidence about the impact of teaching techniques used in the classroom.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

The NCETM and local [Maths Hubs](#) hold contact information for schools who have previously received Mastering Number training. The NCETM and/or the [15 Maths Hubs](#) involved in the wider evaluation will share a link to the survey with Headteachers within these schools on behalf of NFER. No school staff personal data will be shared by Maths Hubs or the NCETM with NFER.

NFER will collect personal data directly from teachers, maths leads and senior leaders in schools who respond to the survey using the online survey platform Tivian. Responses will not be limited so data for more than two members of staff may be collected from each school.

Staff (Headteacher/other senior leader, maths lead, Reception or KS1 class teacher) in a small number of willing schools will be invited to participate in a visit/interviews with NFER to share more information about their experiences of implementation and sustainability of Mastering Number within their setting.

Participation in the survey and in the visit/interviews is optional.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The survey of Reception and KS1 teachers, maths leads and senior leaders will explore implementation of the programme and sustainability of practice in a sample of schools who have previously been trained in Mastering Number.

To understand the characteristics of teachers, maths leads and senior leaders who participate in the survey, we will ask respondents to provide:

- Job role
- Year group they teach
- If they have been a Mastering Number Lead Teacher (i.e., a teacher who has attended Mastering Number training).

In addition we will collect data about participating teachers', maths leads' and senior leaders' experiences of implementing Mastering Number in their school, including: extent of current/continued use, engagement with the Embedding the Impact Community, cascading of the training within school, embedding the programme and associated support and barriers, perceptions of the impact of Mastering Number for pupils, teachers, and maths teaching and learning in school more widely.

The first two members of staff per school who submit a completed survey response will receive a £10 Amazon voucher as a thank you for their participation. So that NFER can provide respondents with their voucher, the survey will ask respondents to provide their:

- full name
- email address.

These personal details will be held within NFER systems.

Through the survey, respondents will be asked if their school would be willing to participate in a visit/interviews with an NFER researcher to understand more about implementation and sustainability of Mastering Number within their setting. Respondents who indicate that they would be willing to participate in this additional activity will be asked to provide their:

- full name
- email address.

These contact details will be collected so a member of the NFER research team can contact teachers if they are one of six schools invited to participate in this evaluation activity. These personal details will be held within NFER systems.

In cases where teachers confirm their schools would like to participate in this activity through virtual interviews, NFER will require the names and email addresses of all staff who are willing to participate in order to share with them further information about the research and a Microsoft Teams meeting link for the interview. We will ask the teacher for whom we have contact details for (provided through the survey) to gain agreement from their relevant colleagues to a) participate in an interview and b) for their details to be shared with NFER to enable interview scheduling. Staff who would prefer to speak with NFER over the phone will be asked to provide a contact number.

School staff who participate in a visit/interview will provide further personal details related to: the extent of Mastering Number use; how Mastering Number has been cascaded and embedded; and perceptions of this cascading model and its effectiveness.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

The online survey data is collected via Tivian: <https://www.tivian.com/uk/privacy-policy-2/>

NFER may use Microsoft Teams to conduct, record and transcribe interviews as part of the visits/interviews. A privacy notice for Microsoft Teams can be found at <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/security-compliance-overview#privacy>

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

When NFER use Tivian to administer the online survey, data is stored in the EU. Data collected through the survey (teacher names, contact emails and survey responses) will therefore be held in Azure and AWS data centre infrastructure in the EU.

7 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will delete any personal data after one year from the publication of the final report (due to be published May 2027).

The deletion process is currently planned for May 2028.

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.

Although we value your participation in this project and its contribution to important findings, you may choose not to complete the surveys or participate in the visits/interviews. If teachers complete surveys partially, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to the point of completion in our analysis. Please note that withdrawing your data will not be possible once data analysis has commenced (from April 2026). If at any time you wish to withdraw your data or correct errors in it, please contact: masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk.

9 Who can I contact about this project?

For any queries about the day-to-day management of the data processing outlined in this privacy notice, please contact the project team at masteringnumber@nfer.ac.uk

If you have concerns about the way NFER processes personal data or wish to exercise a data subject right (see section 8), please contact 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/>

10 Updates

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