

Research into student wellbeing and school attendance: Student interviews

Information for parents and carers

Your child's school is participating in a research project about the possible relationship between pupil wellbeing and school absence. We are interested in finding out what can be done to help students who regularly miss school to attend more often.

This is a chance for them to share their opinions and experiences.

We have provided some information below about what we will ask your child so you can decide whether you are happy for them to take part. We have also provided your child with some information so you can discuss this with them.

Please complete the form at the bottom of this letter and return it to [SCHOOL CONTACT] to let us know if you AGREE to your child taking part.

Who is carrying out this research?

[National Foundation for Educational Research](#) (NFER) is carrying out this study, which is funded by [The Nuffield Foundation](#). One of the researchers from the project team will speak with your child. These researchers are experienced at working with young people and have the relevant background checks in place.

What will we ask your child to do?

We will visit the school and ask your child about:

- what led to them beginning to miss school regularly
- their experiences of the support they have received from the school or other services
- whether they found it helpful (and if so, how)
- what else the school could do to support them.

We will work closely with the school to ensure we are operating in line with their policies for engaging with students. We plan to speak to your child individually, for example, in the corner of classroom or library with a member of school staff nearby. This will take place during the school day and will take around 30 minutes.

If they wish, your child can request to have an adult they trust in the interview with them. This could be you or a school staff member.

How will we record the information?

We plan to audio record our interviews. We will use the audio recording to create a written record of our discussion with your child, which will be anonymised and held securely. The audio recording will then be deleted. If your child does not wish to be audio recorded, then we will take notes of the interview.

How will we use this data?

The information we collect will be used to write a report which will be published at the end of 2026. This report will be freely available on the NFER's and The Nuffield Foundation's websites. We may quote some of the things your child tells us in our report. **We will not use**

your child's name in the report or include any other information that might mean someone else could identify them. The only reason we will share anything your child tells us is if they say something that makes us think that they or another child might be unsafe or at risk of harm. If this happens, we will let your child's school know.

It is important to us that we keep your child's data safe and secure, and we have robust procedures in place to ensure we comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more details about how we will use and look after your child's data, please refer to the Privacy Notice for Students.

What are the benefits and risks of my child taking part?

This research 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.

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

- find out how successful their school has been at improving attendance
- understand how school support can be improved, which may benefit other children in the future.

We are aware that some of the topics might be difficult for your child to talk about. For example, the reasons they began to miss school. Your child can choose how much they want to tell us, and they can also ask to skip any questions they do not want to answer.

Does my child have to take part?

It is up to you to decide if you are happy for your child to take part in the interview.

Your child can decide that they do not want to take part even if you have said they can. They can also choose not to answer any of the questions we ask them, or to stop the interview at any time. If this happens, they will be able to return to their normal lesson.

What if I still have questions?

If you have any questions about the interview or the research more broadly, please contact Dr Emma Moore e.moore@nfer.ac.uk or call 01753 574123 (NFER head office).



I give my permission for my child to take part in the research interview.

Child's name.....

Child's year group/class name.....

School name:.....

Your full name (block capitals).....

Your signature.....Date:.....