

OxEd Whole Class and Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) Effectiveness Research Trial 2026 - 2027:

Privacy Notice covering processing of school staff data.

1 Why are we collecting this data?

OxEd is partnering with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an evaluation of the OxEd Whole Class and the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI). The evaluation will run during the 2026-27 academic year. For more information on the evaluation, please see the school information sheet [here](#).

OxEd Whole Class aims to improve Reception pupils' oral language through three weekly whole-class enrichment sessions delivered by the classroom teacher. In this trial, it will be either delivered alone or alongside [NELI](#), which provides additional small-group and individual sessions for children with the weakest language skills.

This document outlines how school staff's personal data will be collected and processed as part of the research trial. School staff's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

There is a separate privacy notice for how pupil data will be collected and processed and is available [here](#).

The EEF has funded this trial. NFER is the independent data controller for the evaluation and makes decisions about what personal data is used and how it is processed. OxEd is the data processor and only processes personal data for the evaluation on the instruction of NFER. After the evaluation report is published on the EEF website, NFER will share anonymised data from staff surveys with OxEd. The evaluation data will also be pseudonymised and transferred to the EEF data archive, at which point the EEF will become the data controller for the archived data. See section 5 for full details of data sharing.

OxEd will also process data to deliver Whole Class and NELI. For this purpose, they are the data controllers and are responsible for making decisions about how data is processed. The privacy notice can be found here: [OxEd Privacy Notice](#).

If longitudinal research is commissioned for this project additional activities may be undertaken, these are activities are included below.

No school, educator or pupil will be named in any report arising from this work, nor will we include any information that might mean that someone else could identify them.

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.

A legitimate interest assessment has been undertaken. 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 helping to build the evidence base on effective approaches to improving children's early language skills and shaping future practice and policy to support better outcomes for all pupils. Research cannot be done without processing personal data, but NFER will ensure your rights are respected at all times.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

All personal data will be collected directly from staff in participating schools.

OxEd will collect data and share it with NFER via a secure SharePoint site for the purposes of the evaluation. The data will be collected:

- via an online Expression of Interest (EoI) form using HubSpot (a secure CRM system)
- via the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) using Microsoft Forms.
- via FutureLearn.com (extracted usage data) for the number of staff in each intervention school who completed online training.

NFER will:

- use a secure online school portal to collect participating staff and pupil's personal data directly from schools.
- ask all participating teachers to respond to an online survey at baseline and endpoint, using the Tivian survey platform (see Section 5 for Tivian Privacy Notice information). ask all participating teaching support staff to respond to an online survey at endpoint, using Tivian (see Section 5 for Tivian Privacy Notice information).
- may ask participating intervention staff to complete a short online follow-up survey after one year (as part of the longitudinal researcher), using Tivian (see Section 5 for Tivian Privacy Notice information).
- collect observation and interview data from a small number of schools and staff directly via in-person visits and remote interviews.
- collect data relating to the cost and time requirements of programme participation from a small number of schools via Microsoft Forms.

Further personal data about teachers will be collected throughout the evaluation (see section 4 for full details).

4 What personal data is being collected by this trial?

The following types of personal data will be collected:

- The full name and contact details of the school leader/interested teacher who completes the EoI form.
- The full name and contact details of the headteacher or member of the senior leadership team who completes the memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the MoU when a school signs up to participate in the trial.
- The full name, contact details and job role of the key contact (this could be the Early Years Lead or another senior staff member) on the trial.
- The full name, contact details and job role for the teacher and teaching support staff who would be responsible for delivering the programme/s should the school be randomised to the intervention groups.
- Details of completed online training (% progress) for the teacher and teaching support staff who would be responsible for delivering the programme/s should the school be randomised to the intervention groups.
- Participating staff in the intervention group will be asked about their experience of the training and delivering the programme.
- All participating teachers will be asked about their confidence and motivation in supporting early language development.
- At a one-year follow-up (as part of the longitudinal research), participating staff in intervention groups may be asked to complete a short online survey about continuation of and challenges in implementing the intervention and the nature of language provision over that time.

A small number of schools will be invited to facilitate a visit from an NFER researcher involving staff interviews and observations of session delivery and usual practice. The data collection activities will cover the context around and experience of delivering the programme.

Some of the training webinars in which teachers and support staff will actively participate will also be observed by NFER researchers. NFER researchers will also be able to view school inputs to the online training and support platforms.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

Personal data collected by OxEd which is needed for the trial will be shared with NFER securely. The name and work email address of the main signatory of the MoU will also be shared with EEF securely.

Where NFER collects any updated contact details for participating teachers and teaching support staff, these will be shared with OxEd to facilitate contact.

OxEd will share teachers' and support staff's training completion rates and their progress on each training module with NFER.

After the main EEF report is published (expected in September 2028), NFER will share anonymised data from close-ended survey responses. This data will relate to staff experiences of the training and programme delivery in intervention schools only. This will not include any personal, school or contextual data that could make matching or identification possible.

No personal data collected by NFER through school visits or online interviews will be shared with OxEd.

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

The name and work email address of the main signatory on the MoU will be shared with the EEF, so they can share the study's findings with participating schools. For details on how the EEF processes and uses personal data, please see [their privacy notice](#).

We will use a number of Microsoft products to support the interviews (Microsoft Bookings, Teams and Forms). A privacy notice for Microsoft can be found at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/privacy/privacystatement>. Specifics for those tools are under the productivity and communication product headings.

No individual will be named in any report for this trial.

Archiving at the end of evaluation

To provide maximum value to taxpayers, school leaders, policy makers and the wider education and research communities, EEF archives impact evaluation data. Data is archived with a view to tracking the long-term effect of the interventions they fund. This means that at the end of the evaluation, NFER will link all of the child-level personal data with the details of the schools including completion of training activities.

Three months after the final evaluation report is published (currently planned for June 2029), NFER will submit pseudonymised¹ matched dataset to the EEF archive. At this point, the EEF will become the data controller. The EEF archive is managed by the FFT Education (FFT) on behalf of the EEF.

The EEF data archive is hosted in the Secure Research Service (SRS) at the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Further matching to NPD and other administrative data may take place during later research. This will enable the EEF and other research teams to use the pseudonymised data as part of subsequent research through the ONS Approved Researcher Scheme.

FFT and the designated EEF archive evaluator will act as data processors for the archive.

Further information about the EEF archive is available here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/evaluation/evaluation-guidance-and-resources/evaluation-data-archive> and the privacy notice can be found

¹ Pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information that identifies an individual (like names or other meaningful identifiers) in a dataset.

here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-the-eef-data-archive>

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

NFER uses Tivian, a survey platform, to administer online surveys. Tivian stores personal in the EU.

When NFER uses Tivian, a survey platform, to administer surveys, data is stored in the EU. This transfer is protected by UK adequacy arrangements. Only personal data required for, and collected as part of, these surveys (staff name, email address and survey responses), will be stored outside of 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 (due to be published in June 2029). This deletion process is currently planned for June 2030. Recordings and digitised transcriptions of interviews will be deleted as soon as the notes are finalised.

Following the end of the trial (July 2027), participating schools will have the option to receive their assessment data into their existing school-owned OxEd account, or a new account if subscribing for the first time. Schools that choose this option will become the data controller and assume responsibility for retention. OxEd will delete any remaining personal data by July 2030. As outlined in their privacy notice, OxEd may anonymise personal data and use it for research or statistical purposes.

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.

To exercise any of these rights please contact us (see section 9). 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 evaluation and its contribution to important findings, you can withdraw from the evaluation activities at any time. If you withdraw, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis. Please note that withdrawing your data will not be possible once data analysis has commenced (from June 2027 for interviews and school visits, and September 2027 for the teacher survey). If, at any time, you wish to withdraw from the evaluation activities, or withdraw your data or correct errors in it, please contact: NFERWholeclass@nfer.ac.uk

9 Who can I contact about this trial?

Any queries about the day-to-day management of the data processing outlined in this privacy notice, please contact the evaluation team at NFERWholeClass@nfer.ac.uk

If you have concerns about the way NFER processes personal data, in the first instance please raise your concern by contacting 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/>

Further information on this trial and all privacy notices can be found [here](#).

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.

July 2026: This change clarifies anonymised staff survey data sharing with OxEd.