
Inspiring Futures evaluation

Information for partner charity staff

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has received funding from The Rigby Foundation to undertake an evaluation of the Inspiring Futures programme. Inspiring Futures aims to improve education and employment outcomes by supporting charities to partner with schools and colleges in Birmingham and North Solihull, to provide students with mental health and wellbeing support, academic tutoring, skills development, or guidance and experience for post-16 pathways.

As part of our evaluation, we will visit each participating school/college in summer 2026 to talk to young people, school staff and charity partner staff.

Each visit will focus on two specific charity programmes. We would like to interview (up to 30 minutes) charity staff who visit the school to deliver the programme. We will ask you questions about your experience of delivering the programme, the difference Inspiring Futures is making, and any learning for future years of the programme.

In addition, if programme sessions are happening during our visit, we would like to sit in on them where you think this is appropriate and will not disrupt the support for pupils. Sitting in on programme session is to support our contextual understanding, and we will not collect any data during the programme session.

Keeping everyone involved in the study safe

The safety and wellbeing of school, college and charity staff, students and parents/carers involved in this study are very important to the research team. NFER has robust safeguarding protocols in place to protect individuals during the visit. All researchers undertaking the interviews and case-study visits have Enhanced DBS certificates and are experienced at working with children and young people.

How will NFER use and protect the data collected?

With permission, interviews will be recorded using an encrypted audio-recorder when done in-person or using Microsoft Teams when done remotely. This will enable us to produce accurate interview transcripts. The recording will not be listened to by, or shared with, anyone outside of the research team. The only reason we would share interview data with anyone outside of the research team is in the event of a safeguarding disclosure that a young person might be unsafe or at risk of harm. If this happens, we will share the disclosure with the school/college.

All personal data gathered during this study will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR 2021, stored securely and treated in the strictest confidence by NFER. We will not name individuals, charities, schools or colleges in any reports arising from this work. We will aim to keep your views as confidential as possible. However please be aware that because of the nature of Inspiring Futures, there is the chance that other people you've worked with in the partnership may be able to identify you.

Further information about how your data will be processed and who to contact if you wish to withdraw from data processing can be found in the Privacy Notice for Charity Staff on our [project webpage](#).

How will the findings be reported?

The information we collect from everyone we speak to will be collated and summarised so we can tell The Rigby Foundation and participating schools, colleges and charities how well Inspiring Futures has worked this year, what difference it has made for young people, and how to make the programme better for future years.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions about the research more broadly, please contact Katherine Aston (k.aston@nfer.ac.uk) or call 01753 574123 (NFER head office).