

Evaluation of the Maths Excellence Fund: Privacy Notice for Students and their Parents/Carers

1 Why are we collecting this data?

The Maths Excellence Fund ('the Fund'), managed by Purposeful Ventures, was set up to help more students join and stay on the maths excellence pathway. The Fund has been established to improve student attainment and progression in maths, increasing the number of students who are on track to succeed in A-level maths and beyond. It has a particular focus on high attaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds, for whom studying maths can unlock significant opportunities. The Fund is currently supporting four programmes being delivered by Inspiration Trust, Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI), Co-operative Academies Trust and United Learning. The Fund has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out an evaluation of the four programmes.

Your/your child's school/college is taking part in one of the four programmes named above. The programme delivery team will be sharing data with NFER who are evaluating the programmes.

Phase 1 of the evaluation was originally intended to run for two years and has recently been extended to cover three years of programme delivery (June 2024 to July 2027). The focus will be on the implementation of the programmes. Evaluation activities in the third year of the Fund (2026/27) involving students will include: the collection of management information (MI) data; student surveys; and student focus groups. There will be a Phase 2 of the evaluation which will take place from September 2027 to December 2029, focusing on the impact of the programme. The Phase 2 evaluators have not yet been appointed.

This document outlines how student personal data will be collected and processed for Phase 1, year 3 of the evaluation. This data will be securely stored and also used in Phase 2.

For the purpose of this document, we will refer to the four above programmes as 'programme delivery teams'.

We will treat all personal data with the strictest confidence, and it will be processed in accordance with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. We will not use your/your child's name or any information that might mean someone could identify you/your child in any reports about the results of this evaluation.

2 Who is the data controller?

NFER is the data controller for the Phase 1 evaluation and makes decisions about what personal data is collected and how it is processed in accordance with the objectives set by the Fund.

Personal data will be processed to deliver the programmes. Each of the four programme delivery teams are responsible for making decisions about how that data is processed and they are the data controllers for programme implementation. The privacy notice for each programme can be accessed [here](#).

The Fund will become data controller once the data is archived (see Section 6). A copy of the Purposeful Ventures general privacy notice can be found on their website.

3 What is the legal basis for processing activities?

The lawful basis for processing personal data is covered by GDPR Article 6 (1) (f):

Legitimate interests: the processing is necessary for NFER'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 providing evidence about the impact of teaching techniques used in the classroom. Research cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override your or your child's interests.

4 How will personal data be obtained?

Student personal data will be collected by the programme delivery team via a data template. This data will then be shared with NFER via secure portal. Student views of the programme will be collected via an online survey and audio recorded in-person focus groups.

5 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The following student data will be collected by the programme delivery teams from the student schools and shared with NFER using a data template and shared via a secure portal:

- Name
- Unique Pupil Number (UPN)
- Gender
- Date-of-birth
- Whether they are eligible for Free School Meals
- Whether they are eligible for Pupil Premium
- Whether they are eligible for post-16 bursary

- Whether they have a Special Educational Need or Disability (SEND – yes/no rather than specific categories of need)
- Whether they speak English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Overall % attendance at school/college
- Maths set (if applicable)
- Prior attainment in maths (e.g. at key stage 2)
- Predicated maths grades (e.g. at GCSE/A level)
- Actual maths grades (e.g. at GCSE/A level)
- Higher education destination and course studied (if relevant)
- Their participation in programme activities (e.g. name of activity, length of session, number of sessions attended)
- Reasons for programme drop-out (if relevant).

Students' views of the programme will also be collected via an online survey, and in-person focus groups in a small number of schools/colleges.

6 Who will personal data be shared with?

No individual will be named in any published reports of our research findings.

At the end of Phase 1, a full set of data will be shared with the Fund for archiving and use in the Phase 2 evaluation. The Fund will share the dataset with the Phase 2 evaluator.

Data collected via an online survey of students will be collected via the Tivian survey platform. Tivian's privacy notice is available here: <https://www.tivian.com/uk/privacy-policy-2/>

7 Is personal data being transferred outside of the UK?

NFER only stores personal data in the UK.

When NFER uses Tivian, a survey platform, to administer online 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 (pupil name, date of birth, school/college attended, year group, unique pupil number, and survey responses), will be stored outside of the UK.

8 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will delete any personal data collected as part of the Phase 1 evaluation within one year of publication of the final Phase 1 evaluation report. This deletion process is currently planned for December 2028.

Evaluation data from Phase 1 will be shared with and archived by the Fund to enable future evaluation.

The Fund intends that evaluation data from the whole five years will also be archived when Phase 2 of the evaluation is complete (December 2029) to allow for further research. Plans have not yet been finalised but archiving of evaluation data will comply with and meet the requirements of data protection legislation.

Audio recordings of student focus groups will be deleted once transcribed.

9 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 you have the right:

- to request access to information that is held about you/your child (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/your child's 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.

To exercise any of these rights, please contact the NFER's Compliance Officer at compliance@nfer.ac.uk.

We value your participation in this evaluation and its contribution to important findings; however, 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. Note that withdrawing will not impact on your/your child's participation in the programme. If at any time you wish to withdraw from the evaluation activities, or withdraw your/your child's data or correct errors in it, please contact: MEF@nfer.ac.uk.

10 Who can I contact about this project?

NFER is responsible for the day-to-day management of the evaluation. If you have any queries about the project, please contact the NFER project team by email at MEF@nfer.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about the way NFER processes personal data, please contact the Compliance Officer using the email address provided above, or you can make a complaint as outlined in our [Complaints Policy](#).

After we have responded, if you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to raise 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 evaluation and all privacy notices can be found [here](#).

11 Updates

We keep our privacy notice under regular review to make sure it is up to date and accurate; any changes will be recorded. 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.

August 2026 update: Updated to include additional year (Year 3) of Phase 1 evaluation; details of student focus groups; and sharing / archiving for Phase 2.