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# Impact of KS1 school closures on later attainment and social skills: a longitudinal study (pupils currently in Years 4 and 5, 2023/24)

## Privacy Notice for Parents – 2023/24

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### 1 Why are we collecting this data?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to continue its research into the impact of Covid-19 related school closures on attainment in primary schools. The research looks at how quickly the youngest pupils affected by partial school closures recover from the learning they have missed. This is the fourth year of a six-year longitudinal study started in 2020/21. It focuses on pupils now in Year 4 and Year 5 (having been in Year 1 and Year 2 when the study started). It investigates the impact of school closures, looking at pupil attainment, school practices and teachers' perspectives.

This document outlines how your child's personal data will be collected and processed as part of the project.

NFER is the data controller for the project.

### 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 research fulfils one of our core business purposes (undertaking research, evaluation and information activities). The research project has broader societal benefits and will contribute to improving the lives of learners by identifying if any pupil level factors are associated with the degree of impact of the Covid-19 school closures on pupils' attainment and their recovery throughout primary school.

The research cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests. To mitigate the risks to the rights and freedoms of the individual data subjects, as far as possible, NFER has put in place the technical and organisational measures set out in this privacy notice.

### 3 How will personal data be obtained?

Pupil data will be collected directly from schools.

For schools who participated in the 2022/23 study, we will use and build on pupil data and assessment data collected and confirmed during the last academic year. Schools will be asked to confirm that all pupil data that we hold for the study is correct. Assessment data and findings from the social skills survey will also be used from previous years (2020/21 and 2021/22).

For schools who are returning to the study after a break last academic year (2022/23), will be asked to provide pupil level data for those pupils in Years 4 and 5. This data will then be matched to any assessment and social skills survey data we hold for pupils participating again this year (2023/24).

### 4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The NFER will collect personal data about pupils from participating schools. This includes:

- pupil name
- date of birth
- gender
- unique pupil number (UPN)
- class name
- school name
- Free School Meals status (FSM)

The NFER will mark and collect the assessment data from the completed NFER spring term assessments used in your child's school.

Teachers will also provide information about a sample of pupils' socio-emotional skills. The social skills survey will be used with a sample of 12 pupils from Year 4 and 12 pupils from Year 5 in the school to assess levels of self-regulation and social development (including sociability, pro-social behaviour, externalising and internalising problems).

### 5 Who will personal data be shared with?

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

For the purpose of research archiving, pseudonymised<sup>1</sup> pupil data will be shared with the Department for Education and linked with information about the pupils from the National Pupil Database (NPD); and then added to the EEF archive which is managed by the Fisher Family Trust on behalf of EEF and hosted by the Office of National Statistics.

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<sup>1</sup> Pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information (like names or other meaningful identifiers) in a data set that identifies an individual.

Other research teams may use the pseudonymised data as part of subsequent research through the ONS Approved Researcher Scheme<sup>2</sup>. The Approved Researcher Scheme is used by the ONS to grant secure access to data that cannot be published openly, for statistical research purposes, as permitted by the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 (SRSA).

More information can be found at: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/evaluation/evaluation-guidance-and-resources/archiving-evaluation-data>

The Social Skills survey will be managed and run using Questback software. Their privacy policy can be found here: [https://www.questback.com/assets/uploads/Survey\\_Privacy\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.questback.com/assets/uploads/Survey_Privacy_Policy.pdf)

## 6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the European Economic Areas (EEA)?

No personal data is stored or transferred outside of the EEA.

## 7 How long will personal data be retained?

Data collected for the project will be stored securely in the NFER systems until the final report in this research project is published. This is currently expected to be October 2026. NFER will then delete all pupil personal data within one year of publication of this final report.

After three months from the completion of the study, all of the pseudonymised matched pupil data will be added to the EEF archive. The EEF archive is hosted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and managed by the EEF archive manager. This data is archived to allow for further research. At this point, EEF becomes fully responsible for the data (sole data controller) and the NFER are no longer the data controllers. Please see [EEF's privacy notice](#) for more information on how EEF processes and uses your data.

[Privacy notice for the EEF data archive | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

## 8 How is the security of my child/children's data maintained?

The NFER have put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to prevent your child's personal information from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered or disclosed. NFER has been certified to ISO / IEC 27001 2013 (GB17/872763) the international standard for information security and holds Cyber Essentials Plus (details available on request). NFER operates Microsoft Windows Operating Systems and industry standard enterprise software such as databases and email, all managed to recognised industry standards with a full patching regime. All NFER laptops and mobile storage devices are encrypted and accessed with PIN-codes and strong passwords. Annual penetration tests are carried out by a CHECK-accredited supplier and remediation undertaken. We use a replicated disaster recovery service (RDRS) which allows the business to continue to operate in the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/requestingstatistics/approvedresearcherscheme>

event of failure. Any personal data which is shared with us is transferred using our secure portal and is encrypted in transit (HTTPS and TLS 1.2).

## 9 Can I stop my child/children's data being used?

Your child can be withdrawn from the project and/or from their data being used in the project at any time. You will be provided with a parent letter about the project explaining how your child's data will be collected and used and how they can be withdrawn from data processing. However, the NFER appreciates schools' and participants' support in collecting the data since it is very important for the validity of the results. If you withdraw your child from the project, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis.

The NFER will handle your child/children's personal data in accordance with the rights given to individuals under data protection legislation. If at any time, you wish to withdraw your child/children's data from this research project or correct errors in it, please contact NFER at [KS1AttainmentResearch@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:KS1AttainmentResearch@nfer.ac.uk)

Under certain circumstances, you have the right:

- to request access to information that we hold about your child/children (subject access request)
- to have your child/children's personal data rectified, if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- to request the deletion or removal of your child/children's personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing
- to restrict our processing of your child/children's personal data (for example, permitting its storage but no further processing)
- to object to our processing
- not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you.

To exercise these rights, please contact our Compliance Officer, [compliance@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:compliance@nfer.ac.uk)

## 10 Who can I contact about this project?

To talk to someone about the day-to-day management of this research or ask a question about it, please contact Jo Stringer via the following email address: [KS1AttainmentResearch@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:KS1AttainmentResearch@nfer.ac.uk)

If you have a concern about the way this project processes personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us in the first instance (see the details above). If you remain dissatisfied, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office, the body responsible for enforcing data protection legislation in the UK, at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

## 11 Updates

We keep this privacy notice under review to make sure it is up to date and accurate. Any changes will be noted. The date when this privacy notice was last updated is shown in the footer at the bottom of this document.

This privacy notice has been updated from those used in previous years of this longitudinal study.

In November 2022, the privacy notice was updated to say that the study was entering its third year and now focussed on pupils in Year 3 and 4. We also updated information about NFER's Cyber Essentials Plus certification.

In June 2023, the project personnel were updated.

In October 2023, the privacy notice was updated to say that the study will be running for a further three years (until 2025/2026) and the current academic year will focus on pupils in Year 4 and 5. We also updated information about NFER's Cyber Essentials Plus certification and the personnel working on the project.

In November 2023, Section 9 of the privacy notice was updated to clarify that it was the child/children's personal data that was being referred to.