

OECD PISA 2024 Field Trial in Scotland Information for Schools



www.oecd.org/pisa/
www.nfer.ac.uk/pisa

 **Scottish Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

 **NFER**
National Foundation for
Educational Research

 **OECD**
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

Why is the PISA Field Trial important?

The Programme for International Student Assessment, or 'PISA', is the world's biggest international education study, involving students in over 80 countries. It provides an independent international measure of the strengths and weaknesses of education systems and promotes knowledge sharing and learning between countries. Scotland has participated in PISA since 2000. It is our key international benchmark of student performance and, as such, plays a vital part in Scottish education. PISA provides valuable information on our key priorities – literacy, numeracy and wellbeing. It is an opportunity to tell us about your school and to be a part of a study that informs policy making in Scotland and around the world.

The PISA Field Trial is essential to provide important information about the practicalities of implementing the PISA survey to help ensure the Main Study in the autumn of 2025 will run as smoothly as possible. It will also trial new assessment content with students to ensure that the assessments are effective in yielding valuable data on the comparative performance of students in Scotland with others across the globe.

How are schools and students chosen to participate in the Field Trial?

Following procedures approved by the organisers of the study, we have selected schools to be representative of Scotland in terms of geographical area, school type and prior attainment. Your school is among 40 schools carefully chosen to represent Scotland. Up to 72 students from your school will be randomly selected by the organisers of the study. Students are selected from the age range of 15 years 3 months to 16 years 2 months (mostly S4 students).

What does the PISA Field Trial involve?

The assessments are computer-based and include multiple-choice and open-ended questions on science, reading, mathematics and learning in a digital world. There is no need for any special preparation.

Students will also complete a computer-based questionnaire on their attitudes and experiences. The headteacher (or head of year) will be invited to complete an online School Questionnaire.

What does our school need to do?

- Nominate a School Coordinator and an IT Coordinator to liaise with NFER.
- Run a diagnostic check of school computers, which need an internet connection to access the tests.
- Arrange a convenient time, during the test window, for the study to take place in your school. Ensure access to computers for the whole session, which will take about three and a half hours to complete.
- Pass on relevant information from NFER to teachers, students and parents.
- Provide information which we can use to draw a sample of students in the relevant age group.

How will NFER support our school?

An NFER administrator will bring everything to the school and run the session. Schools will not need to administer the students' tests and questionnaires.

We will also send you £200 as a thank you for your time and effort carrying out the preparatory tasks.

Are the results confidential?

The responses to the study from students and schools are treated in confidence. No school or individual will be identified in any of the PISA reports. The final data will be available on the OECD website and all schools and students will be anonymised.

Full details of NFER's privacy notice are available on our website.

Where can I find out more?

We have set up a dedicated website to update schools, students and parents on the study at www.nfer.ac.uk/pisa

The OECD website also has some further information about PISA at <http://www.oecd.org/pisa/aboutpisa/>

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at pisascotland@nfer.ac.uk

Timeline for the 2024 PISA Field Trial in Scotland

	We will ask you to:
November/December 2023	Nominate a School Coordinator and an IT Coordinator Complete the online form to identify two school contacts and select a range of suitable dates for the study to take place in your school. In most schools, two computer suites will be needed.
January 2024	Run a check on your school computers We will ask your IT Coordinator to make sure the PISA study will run on your school's computers and over your internet connection. Provide student information We will then draw a random sample of up to 72 students aged 15 or 16 across S4 and S5.
February 2024	Check the list of students selected to participate We will ask you to share information about the study with these students, their parents/guardians and teachers.
4th – 22nd March 2024	Students participate on a convenient day for your school Your NFER study administrator will confirm arrangements with your School Coordinator. Our study administrators are qualified teachers and have been checked by Disclosure Scotland. We ask that your IT Coordinator is available during the session. The complete administration will take about half a day.
March 2024	Complete a school questionnaire