

# Observatory for Mathematical Education: Participant Information Sheet

It is important that we share the details of the work that we are doing with anyone whose data may be included in our research. This information sheet and the privacy notice provide important information about the data that we are using, whose data this is and what you should do if you have any concerns about your data which you think may be included within this.

## Who is conducting the study and why?

The Observatory for Mathematical Education is based in the School of Education at the University of Nottingham. It identifies trends in mathematics achievement (e.g. qualifications such as GCSEs) and progression (e.g. moving onto the next stage of education). Knowing trends is helpful to researchers and policy makers as it can show which groups of pupils are more likely to go on to study mathematics at A level or university, for example. *In this study we are investigating the role of maths schools to assess whether they have a positive impact on student outcomes.*

## What are we doing?

Maths schools will tell us whether you have participated in their outreach and enrichment activities, and the extent of that engagement. We will pass this information to the Department for Education who will identify your record in the National Pupil Database and other large administrative datasets (for example, relating to university education). These administrative datasets have already been collected by other organisations. *Following their strict rules, we will use their data to evaluate whether pupils engaged in maths school programmes have better achievement and progression compared to other students.* The organisations which collected the administrative datasets were responsible for ensuring that all participants consented to their data being collected and are responsible for making sure that they only share data with trustworthy researchers and that they only share data that is necessary for the specified purpose. They are also responsible for ensuring that all data is anonymous before it is shared and for checking that no individuals can be identified. We are not paying or offering any other incentives to get access to this data.

## What do I have to do?

As the data we are using already exists, we are not asking any participants to do anything or sign anything. Consent for inclusion in the administrative datasets was granted from the participants when the data was originally collected. *Information about participation in maths school programmes is being supplied by maths schools.* Please see the attached privacy notice if you would like your data to not be included in this study.

## Are there any benefits, disadvantages or risks?

There are no disadvantages or benefits for participants as you are not being asked to do anything. The risk of identification of participants is very low as data is anonymised prior to any analysis and has been checked to ensure that individuals cannot be identified.

## Will my data be kept confidential?

Yes. Data will be transferred from maths schools to the Observatory using secure methods and only accessible to a restricted team of Observatory researchers. Administrative data is shared with us using secure methods via the Office for National Statistics and UK Data Archive and only accessible to a restricted team of Observatory researchers.

## **How are we ensuring GDPR compliance?**

We are processing personal data based on Article 6(1)(e) of UK GDPR in which processing is legal as it has a basis in public interest. Special category data such as pupil ethnicity and pupil special educational needs status will be processed on the basis of Article 9(2)(j), that processing is legal in that it is necessary for achieving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes. Further details of how we ensure compliance with GDPR are provided in the Observatory's privacy notice.

## **What will happen with the results of the research?**

The results may be included in the Observatory's annual report, academic articles, and other written outputs for the purpose of sharing our insights into what happens in mathematics education systems of the UK. Individual people will not be included or identifiable in any outputs.

## **Who is responsible for the ethical conduct of the research?**

The Observatory's research is conducted according to the University of Nottingham's Code of Research Conduct and Research Ethics and has been approved by the School of Education Research Ethics Committee. They can be contacted at [educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk)

## **What if I have questions?**

The Observatory's privacy notice contains information about how to raise a concern about how data is being used. If you have more general questions, then please email us at: [mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk)