



University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



Observatory for
Mathematical
Education

Dear Headteacher

I am writing to invite your school to join the largest ever longitudinal study of mathematics education in England as a Research Partner School of the Observatory for Mathematical Education.

The Observatory, based at the University of Nottingham, is conducting three Cohort Studies (Primary, Secondary and Further/Higher) to explore learner attitudes, teacher practices, and other factors that influence engagement and attainment. Our analyses will support policymakers, headteachers like yourself, and curriculum leaders to improve learner outcomes in mathematics.

The Primary Cohort Study will follow around 8,000 pupils over seven years as they progress through 200 primary schools. Participation in this prestigious research is by invitation only and your school has been selected following a careful sampling process.

The key features of each annual cycle of the research programme are child-friendly surveys of the cohort, following the same group of children from Reception in 2024/25 until Year 6, and short surveys for class teachers and curriculum leaders. Further information is attached. Visit our website to find out more about the Observatory, the cohort studies, and our vision for *excellence in mathematical education, everywhere, and for everyone*.

As a Research Partner School you will receive £600 per annum to support mathematics teaching and learning in your school. Furthermore, **for the first three years of the study, you will receive an additional £200-£600, depending on cohort size, to cover the cost of teaching assistant time** to support children to complete the surveys. You will receive annual, anonymised cohort study reports, and we intend to build a data dashboard that will enable you to explore data from schools like yours.



Please use this QR Code to register your response – whether yes or no or to request further details.

Many things are asked of schools, so we are grateful for your consideration. We are also sending a copy of this letter via email and would appreciate hearing back from you within two weeks.

I hope that we can welcome you as a Research Partner School very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Andrew Noyes
Director – Observatory for Mathematical Education
School of Education
University of Nottingham
Jubilee Campus
Nottingham
NG8 1BB
www.nottingham.ac.uk/observatory