



The Observatory's Secondary Cohort Study is part of the largest ever longitudinal study of mathematics education in England. It will start in 2024/25 and run for seven years, following the same group of pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 (or Year 11 in 11-16 schools). It will explore attitudes to, and experiences of, learning mathematics, and investigate how and why these vary between classes, schools, regions and groups of learners over time.

The Research Partner School's commitment:

- Arrange for pupils to complete a short paper survey during one lesson in the Spring Term, from Year 7 in 2024/5, and annually thereafter.
- In schools with post-16 provision, arrange for A-level Mathematics students to complete an online survey in Year 12 (Spring 2025) and Year 13 (Spring 2026).
- Ask Heads of Mathematics to complete a teacher audit and short annual survey.
- Ask teachers of mathematics to complete a short online survey annually.
- Send annual information letters to parents that include details of how they can withdraw their child. These will contain a survey link for parents in some years.
- Provide class lists and limited data for the pupils in the cohort study (name, DOB, UPN) through the Observatory's secure portal, once each year.

The Observatory for Mathematical Education's commitment:

- Make an annual payment to each school when the different surveys have been completed.
- Provide clear and accessible information and instructions to ensure the smooth running of the cohort study.
- Send paper surveys for pupils in pre-sorted class packs to each school annually and provide courier collection for the completed surveys.
- Send links to online surveys for teachers at the appropriate time.
- Provide annual, anonymised reports from the cohort study.
- Ensure the highest standards of data security and confidentiality.

Participation in this prestigious research is by invitation only. The 150 participating secondary schools form a nationally representative sample from across England.



150 secondary
schools



30,000 pupils



1,200
teachers