



**University of
Nottingham**
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**Observatory for
Mathematical
Education**

Dear Headteacher,

Improving maths education remains a national priority. Yet, often the large-scale evidence needed to improve young people's learning is not available. To address this challenge, the University of Nottingham has established the groundbreaking Observatory for Mathematical Education. Please join us to help improve maths education policy and practice.

I am writing to invite your school to be part of the largest ever study of maths education in England. Our Primary Cohort Study will follow around 8,000 learners through 200 primary schools over 7 years to better understand learner attitudes and engagement.

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 on the cohort study is enclosed and there are FAQs on our website.

Participation in this prestigious research is by invitation only. Your school has been selected as part of a representative sample of primary schools.

As a Research Partner School you will receive £600 per annum, (increased to £800-£1000 per annum for the first 3 years, depending on cohort size to cover the cost of teaching assistant time to support children to complete the surveys) and anonymised cohort study reports.

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 soon.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Andrew Noyes
Director – Observatory for Mathematical Education
Chair, Joint Mathematical Council of the UK
Royal Society Advisory Committee for Mathematics Education

University of Nottingham
www.nottingham.ac.uk/observatory