

Information for Secondary teachers

We are inviting all pupils in Year 7 at your school to take part in research into how pupils learn mathematics at secondary school. The study will support our knowledge of pupils' feelings about maths including how much they enjoy maths and how they experience learning maths at school. This sheet tells you about the study.

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 learning, experiences, and attitudes from Reception to university mathematics. The secondary cohort study will follow one cohort of pupils from Year 7 throughout their secondary education.

Why are we doing the study?

In education, we appreciate the importance of pupils succeeding in mathematics at school. It lays important foundations for their future success in further education, employment and in life in general. Knowing about pupils' enjoyment, attitudes, experiences, and attainment in mathematics as well as when changes in these tend to occur and for which pupils, will provide crucial evidence for educators, leaders, and policy makers about how we can best support all pupils to be successful in mathematics. To do this, we need to take a long view so the secondary cohort study will run for the whole of their time in secondary school, collecting data in every school year for one cohort of pupils.

How does the study work?

- This is a small study with six schools. What we learn from the pupil responses will help us amend the survey questions before we use them in a larger study with 150 schools next year. The larger research study will take place over seven years and will help us to see how things change over time.
- Schools will receive a classpack for each Year 7 class which will include a survey for each pupil in the class (with parent/guardian consent), a list of withdrawn pupils, a set of instructions for the teacher, and pupil information.
- The teacher will choose one maths lesson for pupils to complete a paper survey of multiple-choice questions about their experience of learning maths at school. There is no writing in the survey and no maths questions. Each question just asks for pupils' opinions on what it is like to learn maths.

What information is being collected about each pupil?

We will ask the school to share a list of pupils in Year 7 with us. Each pupil's name, date of birth and unique pupil number will be on this list so that we can send the surveys to school for the pupils and so that we can make links to existing records about pupils in England. They will then do the survey in a maths lesson, writing their answers on a sheet with a barcode on. The barcode helps us track the surveys, so we can avoid surveys getting mixed up. The school will put all the surveys into an envelope which is sent to a data processing plant where automatic scanners (like National Lottery machines) record the answers before, then the survey sheets are then shredded. This means that the survey answers can be sent to us digitally and securely, without any names on.

Parents/guardians may choose for their child not to participate in the research. To do this, parents/guardians will need to complete the form in the school's letter or by emailing mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk which will provide them with a link to a form.

If a parent/carer chooses for their child not to participate, a survey will not be sent to the school for that pupil. A list of all withdrawn pupils will be included in the provided classpack. These pupils will need to be instructed to complete another activity whilst the rest of the class completes the survey in the lesson.

What happens to the information collected for the study?

We store the data securely in a SharePoint site that is only accessible to the research team. The class list data will be deleted as soon as possible after the survey data has been processed and anonymised. The anonymised survey data will be stored for a minimum of 14 years and then deleted if no longer in use.

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. Further details of how we ensure compliance with GDPR are provided in the [privacy notice](#).

Where will the research be published?

We will publish the research in reports, articles, and presentations. No pupil, teacher or school names will be included in these publications.

Where can I find out more information?

If you have questions about the research, contact mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk . If you have concerns or a complaint, contact educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk