



## Information sheet for Primary teachers of pilot study

We are inviting all children in Reception at your school to take part in research into how children learn mathematics at school. The study will support our knowledge of children's feelings about maths including how much they enjoy maths and how they experience learning maths at school. This is a pilot for the primary cohort of the study which will take place over seven years, tracking children from Reception to Year 6.

### Who is conducting the study?

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.

### Why are we doing the study?

Learning maths is important for children's future, at school and in life. Knowing when changes are likely to occur to children's confidence and enjoyment of maths, helps us to advise schools and policy makers about what to do and not do to support all children to learn maths effectively.

### 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 200 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 the Reception class which will include a survey for each child in the class (with parent/guardian consent), a list of withdrawn children, a set of instructions for the administering adult, and child information.
- All Reception children in your school are being asked to complete a survey and Numeracy Screening test. This will take around 15 minutes for each child and a member of school staff will complete the survey with each child individually. The survey contains questions about how children feel about learning maths and about their maths lessons.

### What information is being collected about each pupil?

We will ask the school to share a list of children in Reception with us. Each child'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 children 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](mailto:mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk) which will provide them with a link to a form. If a parent/guardian chooses for their child not to participate, a survey will not be sent to the school for that child and the date of birth and pupil number will not be retained. A list of all withdrawn children will be included in the provided classpack.

## 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](#).

We are asking you to destroy the list of withdrawn children when all the surveys have been completed.

## 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](mailto:mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk)  
If you have concerns or a complaint, contact  
[educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk)