



Parent/Guardian Information Sheet: Secondary Cohort Study

We are inviting all pupils in Year 7 at your child's 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. Because the research takes place over five years, it will help us to see how these things change over time. This sheet tells you about the study. Please read it carefully and discuss it with your child. Their teacher will also talk to the maths class about it.

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 maths. The secondary cohort study will follow one group of pupils from Year 7 to Year 11 (Year 13 if they continue into sixth form at this school).

Why are we doing the study?

Learning maths is important for each young person's future, in further study and in life. Knowing when changes are likely to occur to learners' confidence and enjoyment of maths, helps us to advise schools and policy makers about what to do and not do to support all pupils to learn maths effectively.

How does the study work?

- 150 schools are taking part in this research. All Year 7 pupils in these schools are being asked to complete a survey. We will ask them to do one survey every year that they are in secondary school.
- In a maths lesson, the teacher will give the pupils a paper survey of questions to complete. The survey is a set of multiple-choice questions asking their opinion about maths at school. They are not required to do any writing or maths work.

We are also doing a survey of teachers. We will ask them about their maths teaching but will not ask them about individual pupils and will not share the pupils' answers with their teacher.



We are also doing a survey of parents and guardians as you have a lot of knowledge about your child's maths experiences and have a unique view which we can learn from.

What information is being collected about my child?

We will ask the school to share a list of pupils in Year 7 with us. Your 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 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 puts all of the surveys into an envelope, and these are sent to a data processing plant where automatic scanners (like National Lottery machines) record the answers, then the survey sheets are shredded. This means that the survey answers can be sent to us digitally and securely, without any names on.

You can choose for your child not to participate in the research. To do this, you need to complete the form in the letter that your child's school sent to you. If you are unable to find this, email mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk and we will reply with a link to the form. If you complete the withdrawal form, we will not send a survey sheet to the school for your child to complete and we will not retain their pupil number or date of birth. We will keep a secure record of their name to process and quality assure the withdrawal. Their maths teacher will instruct them to do another activity whilst the rest of their class complete the survey in the lesson.

You can also withdraw them from the study at any time, even after the research has started. When you withdraw your child, no further information will be collected about them, and we will delete any information that we have about them. However, their anonymous data may still be included in any publications, reports or presentations that are already in progress and where we are not able to practically remove it.

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, parent/guardian 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.