
Privacy Notice for: Schools' responses to Covid-19 – a qualitative investigation

1 Why are we collecting this data?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), funded by the Nuffield Foundation, is conducting research into the impact of Covid-19 on schools and pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools in England. The study has already explored schools' experiences of the pandemic, and has estimated its impacts on schools and pupils based on surveys of senior leaders and teachers in 2020. This new research will explore these and other issues in greater depth, through qualitative interviews with school senior leaders. It aims to identify the immediate and longer-term impacts of the pandemic on teaching and learning and on pupils' mental health; identify priorities and support needs for system recovery; and consider how the system can best prepare for future shocks, preserve high quality teaching and learning and protect pupils' mental health and wellbeing.

No individual participants or schools will be identified in any report that NFER writes as part of this research. However, we intend to approach a small number of participants to be involved in short video recordings in which they will be identified. The purpose of these videos will be to publicise the findings of the research.

NFER is the Data Controller responsible for setting the means and purposes of processing personal data.

2 What is the legal basis for processing activities?

The legal basis for processing personal data is GDPR Article 6 (1) (f) which states that *'the processing is necessary for the controller (or a third party's) legitimate interests unless there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides those legitimate interests.'*

The NFER's legitimate interest for processing personal data is to enable delivery of this research. We have carried out a legitimate interest assessment which demonstrates that our research fulfils one of NFER's core business purposes (undertaking research, evaluation and information activities). It also has wider social benefit as it will enable NFER and other professional organisations to understand the continuing impact of the pandemic on pupils and thus contribute to improving the lives of learners. The research cannot be done without processing personal data but processing does not override the data subject's interests.

The legal basis for participation in the video recordings is GDPR Article 6 (1) (a). Participants have consented to the use of their personal data for the purpose described in section 1 above.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

We will identify potential school senior leader research participants from responses to the earlier school surveys conducted by NFER in May and July 2020. These surveys asked respondents to indicate whether they would be willing to be contacted to take part in a future qualitative research study, and if so, to provide their contact details.

Once agreement to participate in the study has been confirmed, further personal information will be collected in telephone interviews/video calls.

Agreement to participate in video recording to publicise the research findings will be obtained from the individual during or after the research interview has taken place.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The research will collect the contact details, roles, experiences and views of school senior leaders.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

No personal data will be shared outside of the NFER research team.

At the end of the study, NFER will publish reports, and give presentations based on anonymised findings from the research. No school or individual participant's views or responses will be identifiable from the outputs NFER will produce.

The individuals involved in the videos will be identifiable, and will be identified by name, with their consent.

6 Is personal data being transferred outside of the European Economic Areas (EEA)?

No personal data is stored or transferred outside of the EEA.

7 How long will personal data be retained?

Given the importance of this research, we are proposing to retain personal data (contact details and survey responses) of survey respondents who agreed to be contacted again in one or both of

the surveys that took place in May and July 2020 for a period of ten years. The reason for keeping it for this period is so that we may approach the same participants again for involvement in further studies and wish to use the data already collected to analyse trends over time. We will destroy the data in May 2030.

8 Can I stop my personal data being used?

NFER handles personal data in accordance with the rights given to individuals under data protection legislation. If at any time you wish us to withdraw your data or correct errors in it, please contact Dr Julie Nelson at j.nelson@nfer.ac.uk.

In certain circumstances, you have the right to restrict or object to processing. You also have the right to make a subject access request to see all the information held about you. To exercise any of these rights, please contact the NFER's Compliance Officer at compliance@nfer.ac.uk.

9 Who can I contact about this project?

The NFER is responsible for undertaking this research. Please contact Julie Nelson at j.nelson@nfer.ac.uk with any queries.

If you have a concern about the way this project processes personal data, we request that you raise your concern with the NFER Compliance Officer in the first instance (see the details above). If you remain dissatisfied, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office, the body responsible for enforcing data protection legislation in the UK, at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

10 Updates

We keep this privacy notice under review to make sure it is up to date and accurate. Any changes will be noted. The date when this privacy notice was last updated is shown in the footer at the bottom of this document.

The document was updated in July 2021, to include information about the videos with individuals.