

Understanding young people's knowledge, attitudes and behaviours towards careers in Tech

School Information Sheet

The National Foundation for Educational Research, NFER, would like to invite you to participate in the development of a new measure to understand young people's views about, and interest in having, a career in Tech. A measure is a tool (in this case a survey) that quantifies the impact of an intervention, measuring it against a desired outcome.

To help us develop the measure, we would like to test the survey with a group of your Year 10 students in either February or May 2025 to understand their knowledge, attitudes and behaviours related to career opportunities in the tech field. Schools who participate in the survey testing will receive a £200 Amazon voucher as a thank you for taking part.

We are undertaking this work as part of an evaluation of the [Speakers for Schools](#) (SfS) IntoTech programme (see below for more information). This work is being funded by [The Hg Foundation](#) separate to the SfS evaluation.

This document describes the project and what it would involve for your school. Please read the information below and, if you would like to take part, please sign-up by completing the short form here: <https://forms.office.com/e/nXdcyrVXQT>

What will my school be asked to do?

The survey development will run in two stages. In **February 2025**, 16 schools will be asked to pilot the online survey with thirty Year 10 pupils. The online survey can be done on any modern internet enabled device and will take up to 30 minutes to complete.

The data from this pilot will be analysed by NFER's experienced psychometricians and used to develop the questions further, to enhance their validity and usability, and some questions will be removed.

A further 34 schools will then be invited to test the modified survey in **May 2025**. We will ask these schools to test the questions with sixty pupils from Year 10. We anticipate the survey will take up to 20 minutes to complete.

In each stage, there will be a period of 3 school weeks for the survey to be completed in.

We will share the link to the survey with you in advance, and a list of domains your ICT technicians can check to ensure that they are not blocked by your school firewall. You will then need to share the link with your pupils and schedule time for them to complete the survey. Depending on your school timetable, you could run the survey in a tutor period, or a suitable lesson (PSHCE, Careers or Citizenship, for example).

We are particularly eager to hear from schools who can administer the survey in February.

You are welcome to select your year 10 pupils in a way that suits your school. For example, it could be a whole tutor group, or you could pick a random group of pupils from across the year group.

We ask that you do not complete the survey during an IT or Computer Science class. You do not need to exclude these pupils, but the selection should be wider. Mixed-year group classes or tutor groups are eligible, but only Year 10 pupils may take the survey.

What are the benefits of my school participating in this trial?

Schools will receive a £200 Amazon voucher to thank you for facilitating the testing of the survey by your Year 10 pupils. Amazon are not connected to the research.

Your school will be contributing to the development of a measure that will be used by educational researchers to explore how pupils react to STEM interventions.

Involvement will enable the Hg Foundation and SfS to develop their offering, ensuring that under-represented groups are given better access to opportunities and careers in the future.

This will contribute significantly to enabling access to life-changing career opportunities for thousands of young people who are currently missing out.

Who can take part in this project?

To be eligible to take part in the project, schools **must**:

- Be state secondary schools in England;
- **Not** be participating in the SfS IntoTech programme;
- Be able to administer the survey to pupils in Year 10 in either February or May 2025;
- Have sufficient pupils in Year 10 to participate in the appropriate phase of the project;
- Agree to facilitate the data collection activities outlined in these documents.

Use of Data

NFER is the data controller for the development of the measure; following the objectives set by the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we have minimised the personal data we collect and will treat all data with the strictest confidence.

- Data collected from schools is reduced to a minimum necessary to communicate with schools to deliver the survey to pupils. We will collect the name and contact details of the school head teacher and a key contact only.
- The pupil survey is anonymous. We only will only ask for pupils' views about careers in tech and their gender. This cannot be used to identify them.
- This means submitted pupil responses are not uniquely identifiable, and as such we cannot remove a response once submitted. All submitted responses will be used for analysis and development.

We will share a parental and pupil letter explaining what we are doing, how we will use the data from the survey and how we keep their data secure with you. We will ask you to share these with the parents and pupils of the group(s) you select to take part in the project.

NFER's [privacy notice](#) sets out the legal basis for processing school staff contact information and the ways NFER will use it for the purposes of this project.

No school, staff member or pupil will be named in any report arising from this work, nor will we include any information that might mean that someone else could identify them.

NFER will delete the contact data collected from schools within one year of the measure being finalised. This deletion process is currently planned for September 2026.

What is the timeline for my school's involvement?

Time	Event
January 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools confirm willingness to take part in February 2025 or May 2025 and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreeing the details of the project. NFER contacts schools who have signed the MoU to confirm selection and provide the pupil and parent information letter.
February 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 schools will be invited to pilot the survey with a group of 30 Year 10 pupils (Stage 1). NFER liaises with schools to confirm where to send vouchers.
March 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amazon vouchers will be sent to schools in Stage 1.
May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 schools will be invited to trial the modified survey with a group of 60 Year 10 pupils (Stage 2).
June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amazon vouchers will be sent to schools in Stage 2.
September 2025 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The completed outcome measure will be used to survey pupils taking part in SfS's IntoTech programme.

What if pupils and/or parents/carers don't want to take part?

If parents/carers or pupils withdraw before the survey is administered, please do not share the survey link with them. You do not need to contact NFER to tell us. Please replace the pupil with another, to ensure that at least the minimum number of pupils complete the survey from your school. As the pupil survey is completed anonymously, we are unable to remove survey responses from the data once the survey has been submitted to NFER.

More information about the IntoTech Programme

[Speakers for Schools](#) are the largest social mobility charity in the UK and have supported more than 1.6 million young people by partnering with educators, speakers and employers from across the UK.

The IntoTech programme is being jointly funded by SfS and The Hg Foundation and aims to address the UK's persistent diversity gap in the technology (tech) industry by providing inspirational talks, employer-led insight days and work experience in the tech sector to school pupils to inspire them to consider a career in tech.

Who should I contact to sign up or if I have questions?

To sign up, please [click here: https://forms.office.com/e/nXdcyrVXQT](https://forms.office.com/e/nXdcyrVXQT). This short form captures your school's expression of interest in the project and asks for some key information from you about your key school contact. Schools will then be contacted to confirm their place on the project. The deadline for letting us know if you would like to take part is 20 January 2025.

For further information about the project, please visit the project website <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/understanding-young-people-s-knowledge-attitudes-and-behaviours-towards-tech-careers/> or get in touch with the NFER project team at HGOOutcomeMeasure@nfer.ac.uk. Please include your school's DfE number in your email.

Memorandum of Understanding - Responsibilities

NFER will:

- Select schools on a first-come first-served basis from those who apply to participate in the project.
- Provide schools with a link to an online survey, taking pupils up to 30 minutes to complete.
- Liaise with schools to arrange suitable dates and times for conducting the survey.
- Share the information and withdrawal letter for pupils/parents/carers with schools.
- Log school and pupil recruitment data and report this in aggregate to the Hg Foundation.
- Provide a key contact who will be available to support schools during the project.
- Provide schools whose Year 10s complete the surveys with a £200 Amazon voucher to thank them for their participation.
- Ensure that all members of the evaluation team contacting the school are familiar with the schools' safeguarding procedures and have received appropriate training on safeguarding protocols.
- Produce the outcome measure and use this in future evaluations of STEM interventions.

Our overall expectations of your school:

The following outlines our expectations from schools taking part in the project. Please read the following statements and sign below to confirm you have read the document. Please also keep a copy for your reference.

The school will:

- Allocate a key contact for NFER to liaise with. The key contact should have sufficient capacity to be able to respond promptly to communications and facilitate programme activities. If they leave the school or are no longer able to meet the requirements for the role, NFER should be informed of this and provided details of a replacement contact.
- Share the pupil/parent/carer letter provided by NFER with pupils and the parents/carers of the pupils who will be participating in this project.
- Be a point of contact for parents/carers, including providing them with full information about the program and facilitating any pupil withdrawal requests from parents/carers before the survey is taken.
- Ensure that at least 30 Year 10 students undertake the survey in February, **or** 60 Year 10 students undertake the survey in May; schools will be partaking in one phase of the project only.
 - Stage 1 is live from Monday 03 to Friday 21 February 2025
 - Stage 2 is live from Monday 12 May to Friday 07 June 2025
- Ensure that pupils have access to an internet enabled device to complete the survey; this can be a desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile device.
- Ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for the supervision of pupils when undertaking the survey.