
Research into school attendance and engagement

Research with students: Information for parent/carers

Your child's school is participating in a research project on the support they provide to students to help them engage with education and we would like to ask your child about the support they receive. This is a chance for them to share their opinions and experiences. Your child's views will be used to help us understand more about the school's support.

We have provided some information below about what we will ask your child so you can decide whether you are happy for them to take part. We have also provided your child with some information so you can discuss this with them.

Please complete the form at the bottom of this letter and return it to [child's class teacher/school reception] to let us know if you AGREE to your child taking part.

Who is carrying-out this research?

The [Education Endowment Foundation](#) (EEF) and the [Youth Endowment Fund](#) (YEF) have asked the [National Foundation for Educational Research](#) (NFER) and [The Difference](#) to carry out this study with selected secondary schools in England. One of the researchers from the project team – Kerry Martin, Sarah Tang or Emma Simpson will carry out the interviews with your child. These researchers are experienced at working with children and young people and have the relevant background checks in place.

What will we ask your child to do?

We will visit the school and ask your child about:

- their experiences of the support they have received from school
- their understanding of why the school recommended it for them
- whether they found it helpful (and if so, how)
- what else the school could do to support them
- their aspirations and plans for the future.

We will work closely with the school to ensure we are operating in line with their policies for engaging with students. We plan to interview students individually, for example, in the corner of classroom or library with a member of school staff nearby. The interview will last around 30 minutes and will take place during the school day.

How will we record the information?

We plan to audio record our interviews. We will use the audio recording to create a written record of our discussion with your child, which will be anonymised and held securely. The audio recording will then be deleted.

How will we use this data?

The information we collect will be used to write a report which will be published in Autumn 2025. This report will be freely available on the EEF and NFER websites. We may quote some of the things your child tells us in our report. **We will not use your child's name in the report** or include any other information that might mean someone else could identify them. The interviews will be conducted in confidence. The only reason we will share anything your child tells us is if they say something that makes us think that they or another child might be at risk of harm. If this happens, we will let your child's school know.

It is important to us that we keep your child's data safe and secure, and we have robust procedures in place to ensure we comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more details about how we will use and look after your child's data, please refer to the study [Privacy Notice for students](#).

What are the benefits and risks of my child taking part?

We do not anticipate any risks or harm to children taking part in this study. This evaluation has been checked to ensure that it abides by [NFER's Code of Practice](#) which outlines our commitment to ethical research, data security and caring for research participants. NFER has robust safeguarding protocols in place to protect children during the evaluation activities.

By participating in this evaluation, your child will be helping us to:

- find out how successful their school has been at improving attendance and/or engagement with education.
- understand how school support can be improved, which may benefit other children in the future.

To thank your child for taking part we will provide the school with £30 contribute to an activity or resource for them.

Does my child have to take part?

It is up to you to decide if you are happy for your child to take part in the interview.

Your child can decide that they do not want to take part even if you have said they can. They can also choose not to answer the questions we ask them. If this happens, they will be able to return to their normal lesson.

What if I still have questions?

If you have any questions about the interview or the research more broadly, please contact Kerry Martin at k.martin@nfer.ac.uk or call 01753 574123 (NFER head office).



I give my permission for my child to take part in the research interview.

Child's name.....

Child's year group/class name.....

School name:.....

Your full name (block capitals).....

Your signature.....Date:.....