

Dear parent/carer,

We are writing to let you know that your child's school is taking part in the evaluation of The North East Maths Project, a programme designed to improve maths provision, teaching and learning in schools in the North East. The project involves a Specialist Maths Teacher supporting class teachers to implement a high-quality mathematics curriculum across schools.

The evaluation will be conducted in four schools in County Durham, involving all pupils in Year 3 and Year 5. It is funded by the Goldsmiths' Company Charity and carried out by us, the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen).

What does the evaluation mean for my child?

NatCen's evaluation will include three key activities that affect your child:

1. **Maths test.** Your child's class will complete a maths attainment test (provided by GL Assessment) at the end of October/beginning of November. The test assesses key aspects of maths appropriate to the age of the pupils. Your child's test results will be shared with their school and may form part of their termly maths assessment.
2. **Pupil questionnaire.** Pupils will complete a 10-minute questionnaire about their attitudes towards maths. These will be completed on the same day as the maths test.
3. **Focus groups.** A small number of pupils will be selected to take part in a focus group with a NatCen researcher to ask their views on the support they receive from teachers in maths lessons. These would take place in January 2024.

How will my child's information be used?

Your child's school will share the following information about your child with NatCen:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Unique Pupil number (UPN) (if applicable)
- Gender
- Year group and class

We will treat the information we collect in the strictest confidence under the UK General Data Protection Regulation. The information collected will be used for research purposes only.

NatCen will securely delete all personal information about your child no more than one year after the evaluation is finished (by March 2025 at the latest).

For more information about how we use information, please refer to the privacy notice that you were sent by the school.

What if I don't want my child's information being used in the evaluation?



You have the right to object to your child's information being used in this evaluation. If you object, please complete the opt-out slip at the bottom of this letter and return it to school by **Friday 13th October**. After this date, you can still choose to withdraw your child from the evaluation by contacting NatCen, using the contact details below. If you are happy for your child to participate, you do not need to do anything but please keep this form for your information.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

If you would like more information, please get in touch with the NatCen research team at NEMaths@natcen.ac.uk or by calling 0808 168 0239.

Best wishes,

Natasha Phillips

Senior Researcher

NatCen - Social Research that works for society

OPT OUT SLIP

To opt your child out of research activities, please type the required details below and return to your child's class teacher electronically.

Your child's name.....

Your child's class.....

☐ I do **not** want my child to complete **a maths attainment test and questionnaire** for the North East Maths Project evaluation.

Please note that another opt-out slip will be shared in advance of the **pupil focus groups** where you will have the opportunity to withdraw your child from participating.

Your full name.....

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

North East Maths Project Evaluation

Privacy Notice

In line with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we want to inform you how information will be processed in the evaluation of the North East Maths project. In this privacy notice, we explain the legal basis for data processing, who will have access to participants' personal data, how data will be used, stored and deleted, and who you can contact with a query or a complaint.

Who's who?

This evaluation is being carried out by independent evaluators, the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), commissioned by The Goldsmiths Company Charity.

You can find out more about NatCen at www.natcen.ac.uk.

You can find out more about The Goldsmiths Company Charity at <http://www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk>

Who will access personal data?

NatCen are carrying out this evaluation and named individuals on the NatCen research team will have access to:

- Sample files provided by schools containing the following details for all Year 3 and Year 5 pupils:
 1. Unique Pupil Number (UPN) – for the NPD
 2. Date of birth
 3. First name
 4. Last name
 5. Gender
 6. Year group
 7. Class (if a multi-form-entry school)
- School and teachers'/staff members' names and contact details
- Audio recordings from pupil focus groups and teacher focus groups
- Pupil survey responses

McGowan Transcriptions (www.mcgowantranscriptions.co.uk) is the transcription service NatCen use to transcribe our interview and focus group data. They will have access to recordings and transcripts from all interviews and focus groups. McGowan Transcriptions is on NatCen's approved supplier list, and is compliant with all our information security policies.

Experienced NatCen interviewers will visit schools to supervise pupils completing the assessment and survey.

How will the data be used?

The data collected will be used for research purposes only.

Pupils will complete a maths progress test (provided by GL Assessment). Schools will be able to access pupil-level test results via GL Assessment's results portal. The test results will not be shared with other schools.

Information and opinions gathered from pupil focus groups, teacher focus groups, teacher/staff member interviews and pupil surveys will be used in our evaluation to understand how the programme works in practice and what children and schools think of it.

All evaluation data will be treated with the strictest confidence – no schools, teachers, staff members or pupils will be identified in any report arising from the research.

NatCen will securely delete personal information about participants no more than one year after the evaluation is finished (by March 2025 at the latest).

The legal basis for processing data

For the duration of the evaluation, NatCen is the joint data controller with The Goldsmiths Company Charity. The legal basis for processing data is delivery of a contract. This means we need to process pupils' personal data to comply with our obligations under the contract.

Who can I contact with a query or a complaint?

You have the right to raise any concerns with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) via their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

If you are a parent/carers, you have the right to object to your child's information being used in this evaluation. If you do not want your child's information to be used, please contact the North East Maths project lead at your child's school. You can also email us via NEMaths@natcen.ac.uk or call 0808 168 0239 during office hours.

Contact information

If you have any questions about the evaluation, including how personal information will be processed, please contact the NatCen research team at NEMaths@natcen.ac.uk