

Evaluation of the Thinking Mathematically Pilot

Privacy notice

In line with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), there are certain things that we need to let you, as a research participant, know about how your information will be processed. In this privacy notice, we explain what personal data is being collected for the evaluation of the Thinking Mathematically pilot, who will have access to your personal data, how your data will be used, stored, processed and deleted, the legal basis for data processing, and who you can contact in case of a query or a complaint.

Background

Thinking Mathematically (TM) is a maths programme that explicitly teaches Year 7 pupils how to tackle unfamiliar mathematical problems by developing a consistent approach to problem-solving to increase their enjoyment of maths and improve maths learning.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is funding Blackpool Research School (BRS), to pilot (try out) TM with 35 schools between September 2024 and April 2025. In each school, two Year 7 maths teachers will be trained to deliver TM. The lead teachers will cascade training to all Year 7 maths teachers in the school who will deliver TM to all Year 7 pupils.

The EEF has asked Oxford MeasurEd to evaluate the pilot. The evaluation will investigate:

- whether there is evidence that TM can achieve what it aims to achieve
- whether TM can be delivered as intended in schools.

Results of the evaluation will inform a decision about whether TM could be used to support pupils in more schools.

Detailed plans for the pilot and evaluation – including the activities that participants will be asked to take part in – are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for schools and the parent/carer and school information sheets.

Participants' personal data will be collected as part of BRS's delivery of TM and for Oxford MeasurEd's evaluation. **This privacy notice covers data that will be collected for the evaluation.** You can find BRS's privacy notice about data collected during delivery of TM [here](#).

What personal data is being collected for this evaluation?

The evaluation will involve collecting personal data from or about school staff (participating teachers and senior leadership team members), delivery team staff (people employed by BRS involved in delivering TM) and participating pupils.

Table 1 and Table 2 below set out the personal data that will be collected from or about school and delivery team staff and participating pupils. If your child's school is chosen as a case study school for data collection activities, you will receive more information about this in December 2024 or January 2025.

Table 1 Personal data collected about school and delivery team staff

| | Data collected |
|--|---|
| Contact details | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First name • Last name • Email address • Phone number (only for lead teachers and SLT members) • School name |
| Demographic and background information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job title (only school staff) • Qualifications (only school staff) • Years of experience (only school staff) • Age (only school staff) |
| Research data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview recordings • Survey responses • Notes from training observations • Focus group discussion recordings |

Table 2 Personal data collected about participating pupils

| | Data collected |
|--|--|
| Name | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First and last name (only those pupils participating in paired interviews) |
| Demographic and background information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender (only those pupils participating in paired interviews) |
| Research data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview recordings |

Who will have access to my personal data?

During the evaluation, only the evaluation team at Oxford MeasurEd and the delivery team at BRS will have access to personal data.

Table 3 and Table 4 set out how personal data will be collected. No data will be transferred outside of the evaluation team by Oxford MeasurEd during the evaluation.

Table 3 How personal data about staff will be collected and transferred during the evaluation

| | How data will be collected |
|--|--|
| Contact details | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRS will share MOUs which include contact details for lead teachers and a member of SLT from participating schools with Oxford MeasurEd through a secure cloud server that can only be accessed by named researchers. • Participating schools will provide contact details of participating staff to Oxford MeasurEd via a password-protected spreadsheet • BRS will share contact details for members of the delivery team through a secure cloud sever that can only be accessed by named researchers. |
| Demographic and background information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff will enter these as part of survey responses into a secure online survey platform using personalised pseudo-anonymous ID. |

Research data

- Researchers will record individual and paired interviews using video conferencing software or encrypted digital recorders.
- Researchers will record what teachers say in focus group discussions using encrypted digital recorders.
- School staff will enter survey responses into a secure online survey platform using personalised pseudo-anonymous ID.
- Researchers will record notes from training observations in secure cloud storage that can only be accessed by named researchers.

Table 4 How personal data about pupils will be collected and transferred

| | How data will be collected |
|--|--|
| Name | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will be asked to enter their first name and surname on an age-appropriate consent form which will be provided on the day of the paired interview (only those pupils participating in paired interviews). Providing their name and surname will be optional. |
| Demographic and background information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will be asked to enter their gender on an age-appropriate consent form which will be provided on the day of the paired interview (only those pupils participating in paired interviews). Providing information about their gender will be optional. |
| Research data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researchers will record paired interviews using encrypted digital recorders. |

How will the data be used?

Data use

The evaluation team at Oxford MeasurEd will only use the data collected for research purposes. The team will:

- use **staff names and contact details** to organise observations, interviews, focus group discussions and surveys for the evaluation
- **only** use pupil names in the case of safeguarding concerns – to refer concerns to relevant authorities if appropriate
- use **demographic and background information about staff and pupils** to describe who took part in the research and explore whether experiences of TM are different for different groups of people
- analyse **research data** from observations, focus groups, interviews and surveys to answer the evaluation questions

All data will be treated with the strictest confidence – the Oxford MeasurEd team will remove names and contact details from this research data before analysing it and will not identify any individuals in evaluation reports or presentations.

No personal information will be transferred outside of the European Economic Area (EEA).

Participants can withdraw their data from being used for research purposes until July 2025 (when data analysis begins) by contacting the Oxford MeasurEd evaluation team at TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk.

Data storage

Oxford MeasurEd will securely store personal information about participants until the end of the evaluation. All data will be stored electronically in a folder in Oxford MeasurEd's secure cloud system that can only be accessed by named researchers.

Oxford MeasurEd will minimise use of non-electronic (i.e., paper) documents containing personal data. Where these are needed – for example, paper copies of the school staff contact details – documents will be kept on the individual's person and securely destroyed (shredded) the same day.

Oxford MeasurEd will securely delete all personal information about participants no more than six months after the submission of the final report of the pilot (by June 2026 at the latest).

What is the legal basis for processing my data?

For this evaluation, Oxford MeasurEd is a data controller who also processes data. This means that we are responsible for deciding the purpose and legal basis for processing data.

Our legal basis for processing data for the evaluation is "legitimate interest". This means that we believe that there is a genuine reason for us to process this data (to evaluate the pilot), that this data is needed to fulfil this purpose (we couldn't evaluate the pilot without this information), and that using this data won't interfere with individuals' interests, rights, or freedoms.

What should I do if I don't want my/my child's personal data to be used for the evaluation?

You can withdraw from your/your child's data being processed for the evaluation at any time, by emailing TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk or filling out the parent/carer opt-out form. These will be shared in December 2024 or January 2025 only in schools where evaluation activities will take place, i.e., case study schools selected for in-person visits. We will not use any identifying information about you/your child from the moment you withdraw. We will not use research data (survey, interview, or discussion responses) that we have collected from you/your child up until that point unless it has already been anonymised for analysis.

We will also handle your or your child/children's personal data in accordance with the other rights given to individuals under UK GDPR. In certain circumstances, data subjects have the right to restrict processing, to rectification or erasure and to make a subject access request to see all the information held about them. To enquire about exercising any of your rights as a data subject, please contact Oxford MeasurEd's Data Protection Officer at michael.annoh@oxfordmeasured.co.uk.

Who can I contact with a query or a complaint?

If you have any questions about how this information will be processed, or about the evaluation, please contact us (the Oxford MeasurEd evaluation team) at TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk.

To enquire about exercising any of your rights as a data subject, please contact Oxford MeasurEd's Data Protection Officer at michael.annoh@oxfordmeasured.co.uk.

Under UK GDPR, you have the right to raise any concerns with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) via their website at www.ico.org.uk/concerns.