



Secondary Cohort Study: Head of Mathematics Information Sheet

We are inviting you to complete a survey to tell us about your role as Head of Mathematics in your school.

Before you agree to take part in this study it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

Who is conducting the study and why?

The Observatory for Mathematical Education is based in the School of Education at the University of Nottingham. It identifies trends in mathematics learning, experiences and attitudes from Reception to university mathematics. The secondary cohort study will follow one cohort of pupils from Year 7 throughout their secondary education. The research seeks to understand how mathematics is taught, what shapes this and how pupils experience learning mathematics.

You may have already completed one or more of our surveys previously (about your career or practice if you teach Year 7 or Year 12 classes). This survey has a different focus and is about your subject leader role for mathematics in your school.

Why are we doing the study?

In education, we appreciate the importance of pupils succeeding in mathematics at school. It lays important foundations for their future success in further education, employment and in life in general. Knowing about pupils' enjoyment, attitudes, experiences and attainment in mathematics as well as when changes in these tend to occur and for which pupils, will provide crucial evidence for educators, leaders and policy makers about how we can best support all pupils to be successful in mathematics. To do this, we need to take a long view so the secondary cohort study will run for the whole of their time in secondary school, collecting data in every school year for one cohort of pupils. Subject leadership plays an important role in the pupils' experiences of mathematics so is an important part of the research.

How does the study work?

Your school is one of the 150 schools in the research which includes the views of pupils, teachers, parents/guardians, and subject leaders.

In this first year, we are collecting data from mathematics department heads on their views and experiences of how mathematics is taught and organised. We will be able to use this information to build a comprehensive understanding of mathematics teaching and learning experiences across England. The Head of Maths survey is an online questionnaire which will take **around 10 minutes** to complete. As the head of department, your insights into curriculum, exam board, assessment and professional development choices will be incredibly valuable in understanding how mathematics is currently taught in England and



how approaches differ between schools. Having data from a large number of schools will help us give clear messages to leaders and policy makers about mathematics education in England.

What information is being collected about me?

When you complete the survey, you will be asked for your name and your school name so that we know who has completed it. We will anonymise your data and assign it a unique number so that it is anonymous but we can trace it should you wish to withdraw from the study. This means that we will retain your name and school name but in a confidential file rather than with your survey responses.

You can choose not to participate in the research and this will not affect you in any way. You can also withdraw from the study at any time, even after the research has started, by emailing mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk. When you withdraw no further information will be collected about you and we will delete any information that we have. However, your anonymous data may still be included in any publications, reports or presentations that are already in progress and where we are not able to practically remove it.

What happens to the information collected for the study?

We store the data securely in a SharePoint site that is only accessible to the research team. The data will be stored for a minimum of 14 years. Extracts of your data may be disclosed in published works that are posted online for use by the scientific community. Your data may also be stored indefinitely on external data repositories (e.g., the UK Data Archive) and be further processed for archiving purposes in the public interest, or for historical, scientific or statistical purposes.

How are we ensuring GDPR compliance?

We are processing personal data based on Article 6(1)(e) of UK GDPR in which processing is legal as it has a basis in public interest. Further details of how we ensure compliance with GDPR are provided in the [Privacy Notice](#).

Where will the research be published?

We will publish the research in reports, articles and presentations. No pupil, teacher or school names will be included in these publications.

Where can I find out more information?

If you have questions about the research, contact mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk
If you have concerns or a complaint, contact educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk