



**Evidence for
Excellence in
Education**



INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Best practice in grouping students

Invitation

We would like your child to participate in this research study. The study is being led by King's College London with the help of Queen's University Belfast and University of Nottingham, independently evaluated by the National Foundation for Educational Research, and funded by the Education Endowment Foundation.

Participation is voluntary. Choosing not to take part will not disadvantage your child in any way. Before you decide whether you want them to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what their participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask the research director using the contact details below if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the impact of different groupings on students' experiences and learning outcomes. Schools group pupils in different ways; for example in groups based on their prior attainment, or in mixed attainment groups. We want to find out how the grouping arrangements in your school affect pupils' experiences and attainment. The study seeks to draw conclusions about which types of student grouping best improve students' learning outcomes and experiences.

Why is my child taking part?

The study requires a large sample of schools so that the various types of school in England are represented in the research. This will make it possible for us to generalise from the results for the schools in the sample to all of the schools in England. All Year 7 students in your child's school and the other schools participating in the study are being invited to take part in the research.

Does my child have to take part?

Your child does not have to take part. You should read this information sheet and if you have any questions you should ask the director of the study, whose contact details are given below. If you are happy for your child to take part, please keep this information sheet. If you decide that you do not want your child to take part, please complete the enclosed form and ask your child to return it to their teacher. If the teacher does not receive a completed form from you, we will assume that you are happy for your child to take part.

What will happen to my child if they take part?

The following information will be shared between King's College London, Queen's University Belfast, National Foundation for Educational Research, Education Endowment Foundation, their data contractor FFT Education and in an anonymised form, to the UK Data Archive.

- Information provided by your child's school (including your child's name, date of birth and unique pupil number) will be linked with information about your child from the National Pupil Database (held by the Department for Education).
- National Foundation for Educational Research may administer a GL Assessment standardised test in English and/or mathematics to your child towards the end of Year 8. In this case, your child's name, date of birth and gender will be provided to GL Assessment, who will report results confidential to your child's school for educational purposes.
- King's College London will ask your child to complete a short online questionnaire about their experiences of learning English and mathematics, once in Year 7 and once in Year 8. Their teacher will give them an opportunity to complete the questionnaire during school time. It will take your child about 30 minutes to complete the questionnaire. The online questionnaire ensures that their responses are confidential.

Possible benefits

The study is intended to inform education policies and practices in England – and ultimately to benefit students in schools across the country.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no foreseeable risks of taking part in the study.

Will taking part be kept confidential?

Data from the tests, questionnaires and interviews is regarded as strictly confidential and will be held securely until the research is finished, at which point it will be deleted. Your child's participation is entirely voluntary. If you change your mind, you are free to stop their participation. All data for analysis will be anonymised. In reporting on the research findings, we will not reveal the names of any participants or your school. There will be no possibility of any individual being linked with the data.

The UK Data Protection Act 1998 will apply to all data gathered from the tests, questionnaire and interviews. This data will be held securely within the organisations listed above. No data will be accessed by anyone other than the research team or the evaluation team. It will not be possible to link any data back to any individual participating in the research.

You may withdraw your child's data from the project at any time during the project, specifically until 31 August 2017. If you ask us to withdraw your child's data at any time before then, we will remove all traces from the records.

How is the study being funded?

The Education Endowment Foundation is funding this study. For further information about the organisation, visit: <http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk>. The study has been approved by the King's College London Research Ethics Committee.

What will happen to the results of the study?

We plan to make our research findings publicly available through events such as seminars, conferences and meetings, and through publications such as reports, articles and books.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact the director of the study, Professor Becky Francis, by email at Becky.Francis@kcl.ac.uk or by telephone on 020 7848 3095.

If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

The Chair, Social Science and Public Policy, Humanities and Law, Research Ethics Subcommittee: rec@kcl.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.

OPT-OUT FORM FOR PARENTS/CARERS



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*Please note that you need only return this form to your child's school if you do **not** want your child to participate in the research project.*

I do **not** want my child to take part in the King's College London research project:

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Your Name

Name of child

Signed.....(parent/guardian)

Date