

10 March 2023



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child's class has been selected to participate in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2023. I am writing to you as the National Research Coordinator for the TIMSS 2023 study in England to explain a little more about the study, including the data protection arrangements.

What is TIMSS?

TIMSS is an international study run by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) that takes place every four years. It provides a unique insight into how well pupils from all over the world can apply knowledge and skills in mathematics and science at years 5 and 9. The results are used by our government and governments around the world to improve their education systems.

Your child's school is one of 300 schools in England that have been selected to participate in TIMSS 2023. The study will take place within the normal school day and involves answering questions on mathematics and science, as well as a short questionnaire. If you or your child would like to see some examples of the type of questions asked, you can do so by visiting this website www.pearson.com/uk/web/timss/for-pupils.html. Your child doesn't need to do anything to prepare, and participation will not affect your child's results or progress in school. To thank them for participating in this important study, they will receive a certificate from the Department for Education.

What information will be collected and why?

The purpose of the study is to produce statistics on children's learning and development, to learn more about how best to support children with their mathematics and science education. The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned Pearson UK and their partners at University College London to carry out the TIMSS 2023 study. The privacy and data security of the pupils and schools we work with is very important to us and no individual or school will be identified or identifiable in any reporting.

We will collect information on what your child has learnt about mathematics and science from their answers to the TIMSS assessment questions. We will also ask them for some contextual information, such as questions about their home life and interest in mathematics and science. All data from the study will be pseudonymised i.e. your child's name and anything else which could be used to identify them or their school will be removed and replaced with a code. This data will be combined with responses from other pupils taking part in England and compared with results of pupils around the world. If there are any questions your child does not wish to answer they may leave them blank. For the purposes of this research, the DfE and its approved contractors will link the information to other information DfE already holds (such as on the National Pupil Database) or that it is lawfully permitted to access from other sources. This is to avoid repeatedly asking participants to give us information that we already hold. We may also share your child's

pseudonymised data with other people and organisations who want to use it for research. A full privacy notice, which sets out how the information collected in this study will be used, is available at www.pearson.com/uk/web/timss/data-protection.html

Participation in the study We would like to thank you and your child for their participation in TIMSS. Your child's participation in this project is very important as we are only able to approach schools in the sample drawn by IEA and without the engagement of pupils in selected schools, our data is unlikely to be considered good enough to analyse or to provide valid evidence. Please note that your child's participation in this project is voluntary: if you have any questions about the study or would not like your child to take part, please get in touch with the TIMSS Support Team before the study date by emailing timss2023@pearson.com

Yours sincerely,



Associate Professor Grace Grima
National Research Coordinator, TIMSS 2023
Director of Research - Pearson UK

www.pearson.com/uk/web/timss.html

