

The Student Grouping Study: Investigating the impact of setting and mixed-attainment grouping

Information for Parents/Carers

Research Ethics Committee Approval Number: REC 1139

Data protection reference: Z6364106/2018/11/03 social research

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What is this about?

UCL Institute of Education is carrying out a project funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) which aims to improve our understanding about the most effective ways to group students for teaching. This research has been reviewed and approved by the research ethics committee of UCL Institute of Education. The headteacher of your child's school has agreed that the school will take part in the research programme.

What will the project look like?

The project investigates the effect of different approaches to grouping students in maths. We are comparing schools that group students in sets with schools that use mixed attainment grouping. We have chosen your child's school because of the approach to grouping that it already uses. We are not asking schools to make any changes to what they already do.

We plan to work with around 120 schools, and the Year 7 students who start secondary school in September 2019. The project will continue until Summer 2021, when students finish Year 8.

What does this mean for me as a parent?

As part of measuring the effect of your school's approach to grouping in maths, your child will be asked to complete a short survey at the start of Year 7, and another survey towards the end of Year 8. The short survey will take about 15 minutes and the longer one will take about half an hour. Your child's name and other data held by the school, alongside their KS2 maths test score, will be collected by the project team. We will also ask your child to complete a short maths test at the end of Year 8. We are collecting this information for the purposes of the research project, to help us understand which type of grouping in mathematics is most helpful for children like yours. No information that can identify individual children will be made available to anyone outside the project team and your child's school. Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be kept securely under password protection. We will not use your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research, and no information that could otherwise identify your child will be made public.

We will also obtain your child's UPN (Unique Pupil Number) to allow us to link the data with the National Pupil Database (held by the Department for Education, part of the UK Government). This involves us sharing data with the Department for Education, the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF, who are funding the trial), EEF's data contractors Fischer Family Trust Education, Durham University and storing the data in an anonymised form in the UK Data Archive. We link the data with the National Pupil Database for the purpose of research. Further matching to National Pupil Database may take place during subsequent research. All use of data will be compliant with the GDPR and data protection legislation.

Data Protection Privacy Notice

The data controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Office provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk. UCL's Data Protection Officer can also be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice> The legal basis that would be used to process your child's personal data will be performance of a task in the public interest. The legal basis used to process special category personal data will be for scientific and historical research or statistical purposes.

Your child's personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will try to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

If you have any questions you would like to ask, please contact Becky Taylor at the UCL Institute of Education by email at ioe.groupingstudents@ucl.ac.uk

Because we are doing this research to improve understanding about what works in improving students' education, **if you are happy for information about your child to be used in this research project you do not need to do anything**. Thank you for your help with this research, your support is much appreciated.

This is an important project that we think will help improve teaching and learning, but you have the right to ask us not to use your child's data in this way. If you **DO NOT** want information about your child to be used to understand grouping and teaching in maths, please complete the enclosed form and return it to your child's school by Wednesday 20th November 2019. If you do this, then no information about your child will be shared with the project team at any point during the project. In addition, you can ask for your child's data to be withdrawn from the project at any time until 31st July 2021, without giving a reason, by contacting us via email at ioe.groupingstudents@ucl.ac.uk

The Student Grouping Study

(If you are happy for your child to participate in the research on grouping in maths, you DO NOT need to return this form.)

I **DO NOT** wish my data about my child to be collected as part of this research.

Child's name:Date of birth:

Child's maths teacher:

School:.....

Parent name (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Parent signature:

Date

(Please detach and return the completed form to your child's maths teacher by Wednesday 20th November 2019).