

White Rose Maths Jigsaw Trial : Reception Children Information for Parents and Carers

Why are you writing to me?

We are writing to you because the school your child will be joining in September has chosen to take part in the White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw trial. We are writing to parents and carers of children that will be in Reception from September 2021 (academic year 2021/22), in all schools that have signed up to participate. The school is sending you this leaflet on our behalf.

What is the White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw?

The Reception Jigsaw is a teacher training programme with a focus on improving the teaching of maths within Early Years. The programme aims to improve Reception teachers' understanding and subject knowledge so that they can better support children's early mathematical development.

The training programme will last for the whole of the Reception year. Teachers will take part in training sessions and be visited by an Early Years maths expert who will help them to apply what they have learned during their training.

You can find more information about the White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw here:

<https://whiterosemaths.com/professional-development/eef-trial/>

Who is conducting this Evaluation?

- White Rose Maths (WRM) will run the training and provide support to the schools.
- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is funding the evaluation.
- The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is the independent evaluator which means that we will collect and analyse the information, including administrative and assessment data. We will do this so that we can understand whether the training is making a difference.

What will the evaluation involve for my child?

This evaluation uses a randomised controlled trial (RCT) design to understand whether implementing the White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw programme has an impact on pupil's maths skills.

This means that schools taking part in this research are randomly placed in one of two groups by a computer:

1. schools that will take part in the Reception Jigsaw
2. or schools that will continue as normal (and do not receive the training at this time).

At the end of the Reception year, NFER will be able to look at the maths ability of pupils in the two groups and compare them. This will help us to understand what difference the Reception Jigsaw makes. To make comparisons between the two groups of schools we will need to collect data about your child: some of this information will be gathered directly from the school office (i.e. name, date of birth), some (including the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile outcomes and statutory

assessment results) from the National Pupil Database (held by the Department for Education), and some through the administration of age-appropriate maths assessments at the end of the Reception year (end of Summer Term 2022), and again at the end of Year 1. The evaluation will end in summer 2023.

Schools will be asked to provide NFER with a list of all children who will be starting Reception in September 2021. This will be sent securely and not shared with anyone outside of the evaluation. NFER will select twenty children from this list who will then take part in the evaluation. This means that they will complete a short, age-appropriate maths assessment at the end of the Reception year.

Why is this evaluation taking place?

The trial aims to provide evidence that will be useful for school leaders and teachers about how to support the teaching of maths in the Reception year. Your child's participation will help to strengthen the evidence on the impact the Reception Jigsaw can have on pupils' attainment.

What happens if I want to withdraw my child from the evaluation?

You may remove your child from the trial at any time. You may request to withdraw your child from participating in the assessments as part of the evaluation, and/or from your child's data being shared for use in the research. To do this, you must complete the enclosed 'Parent/Carer form for Withdrawal from data collection and sharing' and return it to the school office.

How will NFER use and protect the data collected?

All data gathered during the trial will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 and will be treated in the strictest confidence by NFER and White Rose Maths.

All personal data will be shared securely (e.g. via an online secure data portal or via secure courier). Personal data gathered during the trial will only be used for the purposes of this research.

The findings from this study will be published so that schools can read about it. NFER's independent research evaluation report will be published in 2023 and will be available on the Education Endowment Foundation's website: www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk

No school, teacher or pupil will be named in any reports written from this work.

For the purpose of research, the responses will be linked with information about the pupils from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and shared with the Department for Education, the EEF's archive manager and, in an anonymised form, with the Office for National Statistics and potentially other research teams. Further matching to NPD and other administrative data may take place during subsequent research.

For further details on how the parties involved in this research will gather, use and protect data, please refer to the **Privacy Notice** for the project, available at:

<https://www.nfer.ac.uk/eejy-pupils-privacy-notice>

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions about this evaluation please contact:

Alison Hale NFER	For questions about the trial and providing data	jigsawRCT@nfer.ac.uk
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