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
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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 2022. The project will continue until Summer 2024, 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. We will also ask your child to complete a short maths test at the end of Year 8. The maths test will be marked by the test organisation and the marks shared with the research team. 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 in Years 7 and 8.

We will ask the school for your child's name, date of birth, maths class and the name of their maths teacher. We will also ask the school for 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). We will access your child's Key Stage 2 attainment data, gender, free school meal status and ethnicity from the NPD, but children's names and schools will not be available to us at that stage. Data will be analysed in an anonymous form so your child cannot be identified during analysis. For the purposes of research, your child's data will be 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 the National Pupil Database and other administrative data may take place during subsequent research.

No information that can identify individual children will be made available to anyone outside the project team, UCL's survey and testing contractors, the Department for Education and your child's school. Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be kept behind secure firewalls. 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.

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. We expect that your child will enjoy their involvement in the project and they will be free to withdraw at any time. If you would prefer your child **NOT** to take part in any project surveys or testing, or their data not to be processed as above, please complete the enclosed form and return it to your child's school by Monday 12 December 2022.

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

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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.

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 data about my child to be collected as part of this research.

Child's name	Date of birth
Child's maths teacher	
School	
Parent/carer's name (BLOCK CAPITALS)	
Parent/carer's signature	
Date	