

**Opportunity North East  
Participant Information Sheet**



Dear parent/guardian,

You are receiving this Participant Information Sheet because your child's school is involved in the Opportunity North East Challenge 1 programme, which is a set of projects funded by the Department of Education to improve pupils' outcomes during the transition from primary to secondary school in the North East of England. King's College London is evaluating these projects.

To understand the impact the projects have had, we need to see your child's academic record and to give them a short reading test. If you want to, you can opt out (request to not participate) of your child's data being used. It is completely up to you if you want to do this. It is important for you to understand the project, what accessing your child's data (information) means, and how to opt out if you want to – either now or in the future. All this information is included in this information sheet. Please read it carefully.

If there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information, you can contact us via the email address at the end of this document.

**What does this project mean for your child?**

Your child will be asked to take a short online test called the New Group Reading Test as part of our evaluation of the project. The test takes about 30 minutes to complete and will test how well they can read and understand things. The test will be conducted in school. Your child's school will receive a copy of their results, and we will also see their results.

**What other data will be collected?**

We will also access other information about your child that is held by your child's school to help our evaluation. This data includes:

- Unique Pupil Number, which is a unique number your school uses to identify your child
- Date of birth
- Gender

We will also access the following information about your child from the National Pupil Database, a database which holds records for all pupils in England. This involves us sharing data with the Department for Education, who manage the National Pupil Database. If it is not possible to get this information from the National Pupil Database, we may ask your child's school to provide it instead:

- Ethnicity
- The primary school your child attended
- Whether your child speaks English as an additional language
- Whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals
- Your child's care status on the last census day

- Whether your child is currently or has previously been in care
- Your child's attainment in Key Stage 1
- The number of authorised and unauthorised absences your child had in Year 4 and Year 7
- Your child's GCSE scores (when they are in Year 11 in 2026)

We will link this data up for the sole purpose of testing whether Opportunity North East makes pupils' results better, and if so, if it works better or worse for different groups of pupils (for example, for male or female pupils). Your child's data will not be used for any other reason.

### **How is the data protected?**

Your child's data will be processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)/Data Protection Act 2018. The data will be held on a King's College London server. The data will be held securely, meaning that only staff working directly on the project will be able to access it.

In doing this project we must follow the UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018, which is the law that says how personal data can be used in England. Your child's data will be processed in accordance with Article 6(1)(e) of UK GDPR. UK GDPR says we must have a good reason (lawful basis) for handling data – in this case, the lawful basis for processing your child's personally identifiable data for research purposes, under UK GDPR, is a 'task in the public interest'. We will use Article 9(2)(j) for processing special category data, such as whether your child is male or female.

The research will end on 30 October 2022. All personal data will be kept until GCSE results are published for students who are currently in Year 7 and destroyed by 31 December 2026.

### **Data Protection Statement**

Your child's data will be processed in accordance with the UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018. If you would like more information about how your child's data will be processed in accordance with UK GDPR/Data Protection Act 2018 please visit the link below:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

You and your child have rights in relation to their personal data. If you wish to exercise your rights, please contact King's College London's Data Protection Officer: [info-compliance@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:info-compliance@kcl.ac.uk).

If you are unhappy with how your child's personal data has been used, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

### **Does my child have to take part?**

You may remove your child from the research by completing and returning the Opt-Out Form. Opting out will **not** disadvantage your child in any way. If you are unsure, you can speak to your school or email us at the email address below.

If you choose to opt-out, your child will not take the New Group Reading Test at school and we will not access their records in our research. If you wish to opt-out you must tick the relevant box on the Opt-Out Form, complete your details and send it to [edit@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:edit@kcl.ac.uk) within one week of your school sending you the form.

If you consent now but change your mind later you can withdraw your child's data at any time before 31 July 2022 and email us and we will delete your child's data from the study. After this date all participants' data will be combined and we will report on findings from the combined data so it will no longer be practical to take your child's results out of the data.

### **What will happen at the end of the project?**

Once we've collected all the data we've mentioned, we will analyse it and write a report on whether Opportunity North East Challenge 1 makes pupils' results better. The report will go to the Department of Education. We will not present any results in a way that could identify your child.

Our findings may be published by the Department of Education and may be used in other publications.

### **Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or want more information about this study, please contact Susannah Hume using the following contact details:

Email: [edit@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:edit@kcl.ac.uk)

Address: The Policy Institute, King's College London, Virginia Woolf Building, 22 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6LE