



Department  
for Education

**Five  
to Twelve**

# We need your help!

Information for participants



## What is the study about?

Five to Twelve is a national study of around 8,500 children and their families attending primary school in the 2020s. It is part of an exciting new series of studies about different stages of childhood, from birth through to young adulthood. By following children and their families over time, the study aims to understand how children's early years, school, home life and relationships shape their education and development. We will be interviewing families once each year throughout primary school. We can only run this study with the participation of families like yours.

## Who is carrying out the study?

This study is being carried out by the National Centre for Social Research, the largest independent social research organisation in Britain, in collaboration with the National Children's Bureau (NCB) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). The study is funded by the Department for Education (DfE).



## What does taking part involve?

1. We will ask one parent/carer to take part in an interview about your child and your family life.
2. We would like to ask your child to do a few simple activities, such as naming vocabulary, a memory exercise, and matching pictures. These help us to understand your child's development.
3. The study involves combining information you give in the survey with information already collected about you and your child by the Department for Education, to build a much rounder picture of families' lives. We will also ask your permission to add information held outside DfE by NHS Digital. This will help us better understand the factors that can impact on children's development over time, for instance identifying links between a child's health and their educational outcomes. This information is vital for helping inform policies to support children throughout their lives. You can find more information about this at [www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/fivetotwelve](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/fivetotwelve).

4. If applicable, we would like to invite your child's other parent(s) to take part in the study. We will ask them to complete a short online survey.
5. If you agree, we would also like to invite your child's teacher to complete a questionnaire about your child.

## How long will it take?

This varies from family to family. We expect that the main interview will take around 45 minutes and the activities to measure how your child thinks will take around 15 minutes.

If another parent completes the online survey, that will take around 15 minutes.

## Do I have to take part?

You do not have to take part. Taking part is voluntary and you can change your mind at any time. If you do agree to an interview, you can choose not to answer questions you do not want to talk about.

## Who has approved this research?

The study has been reviewed by the Department for Education and an independent group of people called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been given ethical approval by the NatCen Research Ethics Committee (Reference no. P17183).

## If you'd like more information

You can visit our website at [www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/fivetotwelve](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/fivetotwelve).

You can contact us at [FiveToTwelve@natcen.ac.uk](mailto:FiveToTwelve@natcen.ac.uk) or call us on freephone **0800 652 4568**.

## What will happen to the information I give?

All information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with UK data protection legislation. The data is collected and used for research purposes only. The answers you provide as part of the study will be anonymised and made available securely by DfE to researchers conducting legitimate research on children's education and wellbeing. You can read the study's Privacy Notice here [www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/fivetotwelve/privacy-notice](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/taking-part/studies-in-field/fivetotwelve/privacy-notice).

