

School Climate Study 2025

Information sheet for the Headteacher

Dear Headteacher,

As part of the **School Climate Study 2025**, the [National Centre for Social Research](#) (NatCen) is inviting headteachers and their Year 7-9 teachers and pupils to take part in a survey on school practices. This leaflet sets out more information to help you decide whether to take part.

Background to the research

The [Education Endowment Foundation](#) (EEF) and the [Youth Endowment Fund](#) (YEF) have funded NatCen to investigate how school policies and practices influence school climates and pupil outcomes. NatCen is working collaboratively with educational psychologists from University College London.

As there is limited research in this area, our study aims to address this gap by exploring how particular policies and practices shape a school's climate. We are also interested in whether specific climates reduce exclusions and improve attendance among secondary school pupils in England.

Why take part?

Taking part gives your school the opportunity to shape new evidence on what really works in creating school climates that support better outcomes for pupils. Your insights will directly contribute to national research funded by the EEF and YEF, helping policymakers, researchers, and schools better understand how policies and practices influence pupil behaviour, attendance, and learning.

By participating, your school will:

- Ensure the perspectives of headteachers, teachers, and pupils from your school are represented in national findings.
- Contribute to research that could inform future guidance, funding, and support for schools across England.
- Help build a stronger evidence base on how to reduce exclusions and improve attendance.

To say thank you for taking part, each headteacher and teacher that completes a survey will receive a **£10** Love2Shop e-voucher.

What does the school's participation involve?

We are inviting headteachers and their Year 7-9 teachers and pupils to complete a short survey on school practices.

We ask that you nominate a staff member to be the school's **key contact** via an online form. This could be you or another member of staff at the school. After you complete the online form, the research team may call to follow up about this research.

We will send the key contact a study pack which will include a set of instructions on how to distribute the surveys to Year 7-9 teachers and pupils in your school. All Year 7-9 teachers will be invited to complete a survey. We will ask the key contact to select three classes across Year 7-9 to take part and arrange for information sheets (drafted by us) to be distributed to the pupils and their parents/carers.

What does the headteacher survey involve?

The survey is for headteachers (or another member of the school leadership team) and asks about your school's practices in areas such as behaviour management, student support, academic expectations, and pupil engagement. Your responses will help us build a clear picture of how schools across England approach these areas.

The surveys typically take around **15-20 minutes** to complete.

How would the information provided be used?

The information from the survey will be used by the researchers to understand school practices in England's schools. The information we collect (including contact details and role, and names of schools) will be used for research purposes only. We will not use the names of schools or staff members when reporting our findings. All information will be treated confidentially. All data will be transferred and stored securely in accordance with UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and personal information and any other data held on the project will be stored for research purposes and then securely deleted once the project is complete.

Survey data will be archived for research purposes in line with EEF policies. If the study progresses, the NatCen research team will access pupil-level National Pupil Database (NPD) data on attendance, exclusions and school/pupil characteristics and link pupil data to survey data collected from school staff.

You can view the study's privacy statement here: [Privacy Notice](#)

Any questions?

For further information about the study including the information sheet and privacy notice, please visit the project webpage at www.natcen.ac.uk/SchoolClimateStudy. If you have any questions, please get in touch by emailing us at SchoolClimate@natcen.ac.uk or call **0808 168 2790**.

Kind regards,

The NatCen research team