

School Climate Study 2025

Information sheet for parents and guardians

Dear parent/guardian,

Your child's school is taking part in a research project called the **School Climate Study 2025**. This study is conducted by the [National Centre for Social Research](#) (NatCen) and invites headteachers, teachers and pupils to take part in a study about how things are done at their school. This leaflet contains information about the project and what it means for your child. Please read it carefully.

What is the study?

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.

School climate refers to how a school feels, its values or ethos, and the ways people interact with each other. 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 child's school the opportunity to shape new evidence on what really works in creating school climates that support better outcomes for pupils. Insights from headteachers, teachers, and pupils will help policymakers, researchers, and schools better understand how policies and practices influence pupil behaviour, attendance, and learning.

How the study will work

- The study will run from **October 2025 until next year**.
- Your child's class has been selected to complete a short, age-appropriate survey about school practices.
- Pupils who participate in the survey will be asked **about their experiences of the climate at their school**, like support from teachers, behavior management practices, and learning.
- The survey will take about **15-20 minutes** to complete and all information that the pupil provides in the survey will be completely confidential.
- We will not ask for any of your child's personal information in the survey, but we will ask for their **school year, the name of the school, and gender of the pupil.**

Your child's data

- The information from the survey will be used by the researchers to understand school practices in England's schools.

- The information we collect will be used for research purposes only. We will not use the names of schools or staff members when reporting our findings. Names of pupils will not be collected through any of the surveys.
- All information will be treated confidentially. All data will be transferred and stored securely in accordance with UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).
- 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.
- Please read the [Privacy Notice](#) for full details.
- If you have any questions about sharing data, please contact SchoolClimate@natcen.ac.uk

How can I withdraw my child from this study?

If you are happy for your child to participate, you do not need to do anything but please keep this information sheet for your information.

If you **DO NOT** want your child's information to be used in the research, please respond to the email you received stating that you wish to opt out.

Any questions?

For further information about the study, please visit the project webpage at www.natcen.ac.uk/SchoolClimateStudy.

If you would like any further clarification, please get in touch by emailing us at SchoolClimate@natcen.ac.uk or call **0808 168 2790**.

Kind regards,

The NatCen research team