

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Evaluation of the Primary Science Quality Mark

Dear parent/guardian,

We are writing to let you know that your child's school has been selected to participate in a research project. The project is an evaluation of a science professional development programme for school staff called the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM). PSQM is led by the University of Hertfordshire, will be evaluated by Manchester Metropolitan University (Manchester Met) and is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

The aim of the evaluation is to find out if PSQM improves children's science attainment and science engagement. To explore this, some primary schools across England will take part in PSQM and some schools will act as a comparison group. At this stage we do not know whether your child's school will be taking part in PSQM or not. If your child's school takes part in PSQM then it may lead to changes in the ways in which science is taught across your child's school (in every class, not just your child's class). You and/or your child may or may not notice these changes. If your child's school does not take part in PSQM then it will carry on supporting and developing science teaching and learning as before.

The Headteacher has agreed that one Year 4 class (as of September 2024) will take part. The evaluation will follow this class into Year 5. As part of this evaluation, your child:

Will complete a year 5 Science assessment which takes about 45 minutes, and a short survey on their attitudes to science which takes 15 minutes in the Summer term 2026. Note, the test will focus on the taught curriculum, but the school will not know the results and it will not affect your child's grades or other educational experiences.

To evaluate the programme, your child's school will share data about your child with Manchester Met, via FFT Education, and science assessment and survey data via AlphaPlus. Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence, transferred and stored securely in line with the UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. At the end of the project, your child's science assessment and survey data will be held indefinitely in the EEF archive, with a unique code and no other personal data.

You can see all the information about how your child's data will be collected, stored and used in our privacy notice: <http://tinyurl.com/mrce84c>. Please read this privacy notice carefully in addition to the information presented here.

You are under no obligation to agree to your child taking part in the evaluation. It is up to you and your child to decide. Please discuss it with your child before making a decision.

You can ask to withdraw your child from the evaluation at any time without giving a reason. You can request the deletion of data already collected about your child at any time until 31st August 2026. After this date we will begin the process of analysing and deleting the personal data we collect about your child. Requests to delete data already collected after this point may not be possible but will always be considered. Your decision to withdraw your child, either now or later on, will not adversely affect your child's grades or other educational experiences.

Your child's school fully supports participation in this project. We do not anticipate that there is any risk to your child if they participate in the evaluation. The science assessment will be similar to other assessment

activities that the teacher normally asks pupils to do. The attitudes to science survey will ask your child how they feel about learning science at school and if they think it is important for their future and everyday life.

The results of the evaluation of PSQM will be freely available and published in a report by July 2027, on the EEF's website: <https://www.herts.ac.uk/for-business/skills/psqm/psqm-eeef-trial-2024>. Manchester Met may publish articles in academic journals once the main report has been published, or report findings at academic or teacher-focussed events. We will not use your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research.

This project has received ethical approval from Manchester Met.

If you are happy for your child's data to be included in this evaluation, no action is required from you.

If you would prefer your child's data not to be shared, stored and used for this project, complete the form below (page 3) and send it your school no later than Thursday 12th September either by:

- sending a photo or PDF of the signed form via email to sarah.heavens@easthunsburyprimaryschool.org with the subject "Data Withdrawal"
- or returning the signed form to Mrs Sarah Heavens at your child's school.

Who do I contact if I would like more information or have concerns about this project?

If you have any questions or concerns about the evaluation, please contact Professor Cathy Lewin at c.lewin@mmu.ac.uk, or telephone 0161 247 5191, or in writing to: Faculty of Health and Education, Manchester Metropolitan University, Brooks Building, 53 Bonsall Street, Manchester, M15 6GX.

If you have any concerns regarding the ethical procedures adopted during this research, please contact the Faculty Head of Research Ethics and Governance, Dr Claire Fox at FOHE-Ethics@mmu.ac.uk, or in writing to: Faculty of Health and Education, Manchester Metropolitan University, Brooks Building, 53 Bonsall Street, Manchester, M15 6GX.

The PSQM Evaluation Withdrawal Form

Please complete this form if you **do not** wish for your child's data to be shared, stored, and used for the PSQM evaluation.

- I do NOT want data about my child to be collected, stored and used as part of the PSQM Evaluation.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Full name of your child: _____

Date: _____