Privacy Notice for headteachers and teachers: The Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) 2026

Who we are

The PIRLS 2026 study is organised by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) and is being carried out by Pearson UK who have been contracted by the Scottish Government to deliver the project. For the purpose of data protection legislation, the Scottish Government and IEA are the joint data controllers for the personal data processed as part of PIRLS 2026 and Pearson UK, and their subcontractors, are our data processors.

This means that we are responsible for making sure that the way your data is collected and used meets the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018).

How we will use your information

Pearson UK and their subcontractors receive your personal data and are processing it on behalf of Scottish Government and IEA so that Scotland can participate in the PIRLS 2026 study. Studies such as PIRLS show us how education in Scotland compares to that in other countries around the world; what we are good at, and where we can do better. By asking headteachers and teachers about their school, teaching strategies and the school's learning environment, we can understand different things about the factors that affect learning and find ways to make schools better for everyone.

More information about the PIRLS study is available from

https://www.pearson.com/uk/web/pirls26-scotland/about-pirls.html

The nature of the personal data we will be using

We use headteachers' names to personalise your school study materials, and will use the headteacher and nominated school co-ordinator's email address to correspond with you throughout the project.

We will collect contextual information on your school from your answers to the PIRLS school and teacher questionnaires. The answers to these questions help us to understand how the things you tell us about affect the ways that people learn. We do

not publish your answers to any question, and you and your school cannot be identified from any report or publication.

We will put the information we collect from you with other information which we already have e.g. information held in Scottish Government school education statistics.

Why our use of your personal data is lawful

In order for our use of your personal data to be lawful, we need to meet one (or more) conditions in the data protection legislation. For the purpose of this project, the relevant condition that we are meeting is:

- **Article 6(1) (e)** of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018: *To collect and process the information is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest while exercising a function of a Minister of the Crown or a government department.*

This means that the reason we are allowed to collect and use your information is because we are doing something important for the public. In other words, we are gathering and using this data to help improve things for everyone, like making better decisions or providing important services, and this is something the law allows us to do as part of our official responsibilities.

Who we will make your personal data available to

We sometimes need to make personal data available to other organisations. These might include contracted partners, such as Pearson UK and others who we have employed to process your personal data on our behalf, and/or other organisations with whom we need to share your personal data for specific purposes.

Where we need to share your personal data with others, we ensure that this data sharing complies with DPA 2018. For the purpose of this project:

- We are employing Pearson UK and their subcontractors to process your personal data on our behalf. After you have taken the PIRLS study, Pearson UK will pseudonymise your personal data (i.e. they will remove your name and anything else which could be used to identify you or your school and replace it with a code) and they will send it to organisations in other countries. They will put the pseudonymised data with that from the other (approximately 60 countries) taking part in PIRLS.

Transfer to Countries Outside EEA

Pearson UK (on our behalf) will send the data from your responses to the PIRLS 2026 study questionnaires to IEA and their contractors. Your answers will be merged with the data from other countries at the IEA's processing centre in Hamburg, Germany, and from there will be sent to the IEA study centre at Boston College, in the United States, for analysis.

Pearson will not share your personal data with them; they will pseudonymise it by removing names and anything else which could be used to identify you or your school and replace this with a code prior to release.

How long we will keep your personal data

We will only keep your personal data for as long as we need it for the purpose(s) of this piece of work, after which point it will be securely destroyed. Please note that, under Data Protection legislation, and in compliance with the relevant data processing conditions, personal data can be kept for longer periods of time when processed purely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research, and statistical purposes.

Your data protection rights

Under certain circumstances, you have the right:

- to ask us for access to information about you that we hold
- to have your personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing
- to restrict our processing of your personal data (i.e. permitting its storage but no further processing)
- to object to direct marketing (including profiling) and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics
- not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you

Contact information

For general inquiries:

- **Telephone**:
  - From the UK: 0300 244 4000 (0300 numbers are geographically neutral)
  - International callers: +44 131 244 4000
  - Text relay service: 18001 + 0300 244 4000 (for the hard of hearing)
- **Email**: ceu@gov.scot
- **Post**: Scottish Government
  St. Andrew's House
  Regent Road
  Edinburgh
  EH1 3DG

For data protection matters, contact our Data Protection Officer:

- **Email**: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.scot
- **Post**: Please mark the envelope ‘Data Protection Officer’ and send it to the address above.

Complaints

If you have concerns about our handling of your personal data, please contact our Data Protection Officer at DataProtectionOfficer@gov.scot. If you are not satisfied with our response, you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO):

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 08456 30 60 60

For more information, visit ICO's complaints webpage.

Last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically, so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time at https://www.pearson.com/uk/web/pirls26-scotland/data-protection.html

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