



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Privacy Notice for the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) Wales 2026

Background

The PIRLS 2026 study is organised by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). Studies such as PIRLS show us how education in Wales compares to that in other countries around the world; what we are good at, and where we can do better. By asking headteachers, teachers, parents and pupils about the school, teaching, attitudes and the 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 [PIRLS Wales 2026 | Pearson UK](#)

We (Welsh Government) (along with IEA) are data controllers for the personal data processed as part of PIRLS 2026 in Wales. We will process it in line with our public task and the official authority vested in us. Pearson UK, along with their subcontractors Oxford University Centre for Educational Assessment (OUCEA) and Page Bros Group, are our data processors.

How we use your data

Headteachers/Teachers

We use headteachers' names to personalise your school study materials, and the headteacher and the school co-ordinator's email address to correspond with you throughout the project. We may also correspond with other school staff in connection with the project e.g. IT support staff

Pupils and Parents

We use the names and date of birth of pupils in your school to randomly select pupils to take part in PIRLS.

We put the information from PIRLS with other information which we already have. This includes information in the national pupil database provided to us by your school such as attendance (please see our main privacy notice for all statutory data collection here: [Data management information: privacy notice | GOV.WALES](#)). Some of the information we ask for, or which we already have and will use in PIRLS is called sensitive personal data. This includes your child's name, date of birth, gender, unique pupil number, the language your child speaks most at home, whether

you/your child was born in the United Kingdom, how old your child was when they came to the country, what language your child spoke before they began school, and the age your child started primary school.

We do not publish the answers of any individuals to any question, and neither children nor the school can be identified from any report or publication.

What do we do with your information?

After you have taken part in the PIRLS study, Pearson UK will anonymise your personal data (i.e. they will remove your name and anything else which could be used to identify you/your child or the school and replace it with a code) and they will send it to organisations in other countries. They will put the anonymised data with that from the other (approximately 60 countries) taking part in PIRLS.

Your information allows us to carry out our public task and in the exercise of our official authority for the following purposes.

- Research Purposes: To understand the reading levels of year 5 learners in Wales and internationally, the ways students learn and how to make schools better for everyone.
- Publication purposes (carried out in a way that ensures individual children and young people cannot be identified): National report published on the gov.wales website, developed by Pearson UK's subcontractors.

We will only use your data for statistics and research purposes at every stage of the process.

Who do we share your information with?

We will not share your personal data with any organisations who are not contracted to process your data on our behalf. We may share your PIRLS responses with trusted Third-party organisations whom we have a data processing agreement with; however this does **not** include your personal data.

Transfer to Countries Outside EEA.

Pearson UK (on our behalf) will anonymise the data and send it to the PIRLS 2026 study to IEA and their contractors. You will not be identifiable from this information.

How long will we keep your information?

Welsh Government will keep PIRLS 2026 study data for a period of 10 years after the end of the contract in 2029. After this point the data will be anonymised in line with best practices and will continue to be used only for statistical and research purposes.

Your rights in relation to your information

You have the right to:

- access to the personal data that WG are processing about you;
- require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data;
- the right (in certain circumstances) to object to processing;
- the right for your data to be 'erased';
- lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

Contact Information

For further information about the information which Welsh Governments holds and its use, or if you wish to exercise your rights under UK GDPR, please see contact details below:

Standards, Improvement & Information Team:

Education Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Email SIID.Correspondence@gov.wales
address [es](mailto:SIID.Correspondence@gov.wales)

s:

Please quote "PIRLS 2026" in your email to be directed to the correct team

Data Protection Officer:

Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CN10 3NQ

Email DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales
address [es](mailto:DataProtectionOfficer@gov.wales)
ss:

To contact the Information Commissioner's Office, please see details below:

Address

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone Helpline:

029 2067 8400 (Wales
helpline) or: 0303 123 1113
(UK helpline)

Website:

[Information
Commissioner's
Office](https://ico.org.uk/information-commissioner)