

# Privacy Notice for pupils: Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study

## Who we are

The TIMSS 2027 study is a maths and science study organised by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). In Scotland, it is being carried out by Pearson UK, who have been asked by the Scottish Government to run the project.

For this study, the Scottish Government and the IEA are called joint data controllers. This means they are in charge of making sure that any personal information collected about you is handled properly. Pearson UK, and the companies they work with, are called data processors. They help collect and use the information but must follow the rules set by the data controllers.

Everyone involved must follow a law called the Data Protection Act 2018. This law makes sure your personal information is kept safe and used only in the right way.

## How we will use your information

Pearson UK collect your personal information (like your name, age, and school details) and use it for the Scottish Government and IEA to help with TIMSS 2027 study.

TIMSS is a maths and science study that shows how education in Scotland compares to other countries around the world, what we are doing well and what we can make even better. By asking pupils questions about their home, school, and what they think about the subjects they learn and their lessons, we can understand more about how people learn and find ways to make schools better for everyone.

## The nature of the personal data we will be using

We used your name and birthday to randomly choose pupils from your school to take part in the TIMSS 2027 study.

We will ask you questions about what you have learned in maths and science, and also about your home and school. This helps us understand how different things affect the way people learn. We never share your answers or tell anyone which answers belong to you or your school.

We will combine your answers and test results with other information we already have. Some of the information we ask for, like your name and birthday, is called sensitive personal data. We promise to be very careful with this information and keep it safe.

## Why our use of your personal data is lawful

To use your personal information, we have to follow special **data protection laws**. These laws say we must have a good reason for collecting and using your data. For the TIMSS 2027 study, the reason we are allowed to use your information 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 we can collect and use your information because it helps us do something important for everyone, like making better decisions or improving services. The law allows us to do this as part of our job to help the public.

### **Who we will make your personal data available to**

Sometimes we need to share personal information with other organisations. This could include companies like Pearson UK, who help us with the project, and other groups that Pearson UK work with. We might also need to share it if it's needed to keep you or someone else safe from harm.

When we share your information, we always make sure this follows the Data Protection Act 2018. For this project, the Scottish Government is employing Pearson UK to look after your personal data for us.

After you have taken part in TIMSS, Pearson UK will pseudonymise your personal data. This means they will remove your name and anything else that could be used to identify you or your school, and replace it with a code. They will then send this coded information to organisations in other countries. Your coded data will be combined with information from pupils in about 60 other countries that are also taking part in TIMSS.

### **Transfer to Countries Outside EEA**

Pearson UK (working for the Scottish Government) will send the data from your answers to the IEA and the companies that help them.

They will not share your personal data, like your name or anything else that could show who you are. Before sending the information, Pearson UK will pseudonymise it. This means they will remove your name and anything else that could identify you or your school and replace it with a code.

This keeps your information safe while still allowing it to be used for the study.

### **How long we will keep your personal data**

We will keep your personal information only for as long as we need it for this study. After that, we will safely get rid of it. Sometimes, we might keep the data for a longer time if it's used for important research or to help with future projects that are good for everyone.

### **Your data protection rights**

Under data protection laws, you have the right:

- ask to see what information we have about you
- correct any information that is wrong or missing
- ask us to delete your information if we don't need it anymore
- ask us to limit how we use your information (for example, we can keep it but not use it for new purposes)
- say no to getting ads or marketing, and to using your data for research
- not be affected by decisions made only by computers that could be very important for you

## Contact information

If you want to contact us about any of the rights or information above, please contact the Scottish Government first.

You or your parent or carer can email the Data Protection Officer at [DataProtectionOfficer@gov.scot](mailto:DataProtectionOfficer@gov.scot) or write to:

### Data Protection Officer

Victoria Quay  
Commercial Street  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ

If you are still not happy, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). They are the people who make sure the rules about keeping personal information safe are followed. You can find them at: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

## Last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice from time to time. It's a good idea to check it again now and then at <https://www.pearson.com/timss27scotland>.

This version was last updated on 23 September 2025.