

# Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in Northern Ireland

## Privacy Notice

### What is PISA

The Department of Education (DE) has asked the educational research organisation [Pearson](#) to run a research study called PISA in Northern Ireland in 2022. PISA, the Programme in International Student Assessment, investigates how young people around the world can use what they have learnt about reading, maths and science. PISA also asks questions about you, your family, your home and school. 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 We do not publish your answers to any question, and you and your school cannot be identified from any report or publication. DE is the data controller for the personal data processed for PISA 2022. This means that we are responsible for making sure that the way your data is collected and used meets the requirements of data protection legislation.

DE has partnered with the Department for Education, England and the government of Wales to deliver PISA 2022.

### How we will use your information

[Pearson](#) will collect your personal data from your school and processes these data so that Northern Ireland can join the PISA study in 2022. International studies like PISA show us how education in Northern Ireland compares to that in other countries. They tell us what we are good at, and where we can do better. By asking young people about their home, school and what they think about the subjects they learn and their lessons we can find ways to make schools better for everyone. We will not use your personal data for any other purposes.

More information about PISA in the UK is available on the dedicated Pearson [PISA website](#).

### Your personal data we will use for PISA

We will use the names and dates of birth of pupils in your school to randomly choose up to 40 individuals to take part in PISA.

DE will put the information we collect from you, including your test results and your answers to questions about you and your school, with other information which we already have about you. This includes information from the Northern Ireland School Census provided to us by your school. Doing this helps us to understand different things about the ways that people learn.

## **Our lawful basis for processing your personal data**

For our use of your personal data to be lawful, we need to meet one or more of the conditions in the data protection legislation. For PISA 2022, the relevant condition that we are meeting is Article 6(1) (e) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 because *the collection and processing of the information is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest while exercising a function of a government department*. This means that the law allows us to collect and use your data because the Government has decided that Northern Ireland should take part in the PISA study.

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

We sometimes need to make personal data available to other organisations. These might include organisations we have employed to process your personal data on our behalf or others we need to share it with for a specific purpose. Where we need to share your personal data with others, we ensure that this data sharing complies with data protection legislation. For PISA 2022:

- We are employing Pearson to process your personal data on our behalf.
- After you have taken the PISA study, Pearson will send the data to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) who will put your data with that from all 80 countries taking part in PISA. Before they do this, Pearson will remove your name and anything else which could be used to identify you or your school.
- DE may share your data, including the information we collect in PISA, and the information from the School Census with other people and organisations who want to use it for research. In doing so, DE will ensure that your confidentiality is maintained and no outputs from any research will refer to you or your school by name.

## **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, we can lawfully keep personal data processed purely for research and statistical purposes indefinitely.

## Your data protection rights

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);

If you wish to contact Department in relation to your rights under data protection legislation, you can contact the Department's Data Protection Officer:

Alan Macdonald  
Data Protection Officer  
Department of Education  
Rathgael House  
Balloo Road, Rathgill  
Bangor  
BT19 7PR

Telephone: (028) 9127 9788

Email: [dataprotectionofficier@education-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dataprotectionofficier@education-ni.gov.uk)

Further information about your data protection rights appears on the Information Commissioner's [website](#).

## Your rights to lodge a complaint

PISA is a voluntary study and even if your school agrees to participate you may still decide not to. If you are unhappy with our use of your personal data, please let us know by emailing [Pearson](#) or by telephoning them on **0207 190 4350** Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm. Alternatively you may contact DE's statistician responsible for the PISA study by [email](#) or by telephoning 02891 279616 Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm.

Alternatively, you have the right to raise any concerns with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) via their [website](#).

## **Last updated**

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time. This version was last updated on 23rd September 2020.

## **Contact Information**

If you have any questions about how your personal information will be processed and/or the PISA study in general, please contact:

| <b>RESPONSIBLE STATISTICIAN</b>                     | <b>PISA POLICY LEAD</b>                               |
|---|---|
| <b>Michael Woods</b>                                | <b>Lynne Hackworth</b>                                |
| <b>Department of Education</b>                      | <b>Department of Education</b>                        |
| <b>Analytical Services Unit</b>                     | <b>School Improvement Team</b>                        |
| <b>Rathgael House</b>                               | <b>Rathgael House</b>                                 |
| <b>Balloo Road</b>                                  | <b>Balloo Road</b>                                    |
| <b>Bangor</b>                                       | <b>Bangor</b>   |
| <b>BT19 7PR</b>                                     | <b>BT19 7PR</b>                                       |
| <b>Email:<br/>Michael.Woods@education-ni.gov.uk</b> | <b>Email:<br/>Lynne.hackworth@education-ni.gov.uk</b> |
| <b>Tel: 02891 27 9616</b>                           | <b>Tel 02891 277626</b>                               |