

White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw Trial 2025-2026

Parents and carers' information letter and withdrawal form

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing to you because the school your child will be joining in September has chosen to take part in a research study - the **White Rose Maths (WRM) Reception Jigsaw trial (2025/26)**.

This letter is being sent to parents and carers of children that will be in Reception from September 2025 (academic year 2025/26), in all schools that have signed up to participate. It provides more information about the trial and what it will involve for your child. The school is sending you this letter on our behalf.

What is the White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw programme?

The WRM Reception Jigsaw is a teacher training programme with a focus on improving the teaching of maths within Early Years. The programme aims to improve Reception teachers' understanding and subject knowledge so that they can better support children's early mathematical development. Previous research has found this programme can help improve children's progress in maths.

The training programme will last for the whole of the Reception year. Teachers will take part in training sessions and be visited by an Early Years maths expert who will help them to apply what they have learned during their training. You can find more information about the WRM Reception Jigsaw programme here: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/professional-development/early-years/reception-jigsaw>

About the trial

The trial aims to measure the impact of the WRM Reception Jigsaw programme on pupils' early mathematical understanding. The results will be used to inform future guidance for school leaders. Your child's participation will help to strengthen the evidence on the impact the WRM Reception Jigsaw can have on pupils' attainment.

- White Rose Education (WRE) will run the training and provide support to the schools.
- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is funding the trial.
- The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is the independent evaluator which means that we will collect and analyse the information, including administrative and assessment data so that we can understand whether the training is making a difference.

This research uses a randomised controlled trial (RCT) design. This means we will randomly select some schools to use the WRM Reception Jigsaw programme in the 2025-26 academic year, while others will continue with their usual practice. By comparing these two groups of schools, we can see if the WRM Reception Jigsaw programme makes a difference to children's learning. This method is considered a fair and effective way to test new educational programmes.

Your child's school will be randomly allocated to one of the two following groups:

- 1) The Intervention group, which will use the WRM Reception Jigsaw programme; or
- 2) The Control group, which will continue with their usual practice.

What will the research involve for my child?

To see if the WRM Reception Jigsaw programme has helped improve children's progress in maths, schools will be asked to complete the following activities:

- Securely share your child's full name, date of birth and Free School Meal (FSM) status with NFER.
- Answer observational questions about some Reception children (randomly sampled from each school to be assessed as part of the trial) in autumn 2025.
- Securely share your child's Unique Pupil Number (UPN) if they are one of the pupils selected to be involved in the assessments.
- Allow an NFER Researcher to complete a case-study visit in 8 participating intervention schools, and up to 4 control schools. The visit will involve the researcher observing the Reception children working with the Reception Jigsaw resources in intervention schools or with their usual maths sessions in control schools, and they may take photos of the classroom equipment/provision (photos **will not** include children).
- Allow an NFER Test Administrator to complete a short (5-10 mins), age-appropriate maths test with Reception children selected to take part in the assessments in summer 2026.

In addition, NFER will also collect additional data about the pupils selected for the assessments from the Department for Education's (DfE) National Pupil Database (NPD). This will include Early Years Foundation Stage Profile outcomes, sex and eligibility for Free School Meals (FSM). The evaluation will end in summer 2026. Further information about the trial is available here:

What are the benefits and risks of my child taking part?

We do not anticipate any risks or harm to the school, teachers or children participating in this study. This study has been approved by NFER's research ethics committee. NFER has safeguarding protocols in place to protect children during the research activities and schools will know what these procedures are.

By participating in this study, your child will be helping us to:

- find out if the WRM Reception Jigsaw programme can help improve mathematical progress for Reception pupils, and
- improve how the programme is delivered, which will benefit other children in the future.

How will NFER use and protect the data collected?

NFER has robust procedures in place to make sure that we comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which sets out how data can be collected and stored securely. We have summarised how we will collect, use, and protect personal data collected during this trial in the privacy notice available here: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/the-white-rose-education-reception-jigsaw-trial-2025-26/>

How will the findings be used?

The findings from this study will be published so that schools can read about it. NFER's independent research evaluation report will be published in May 2027, and will be available on the Education Endowment Foundation's website www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk

No schools, teachers or pupils will be named in the report, and we will not include any other information that may mean someone else could identify them. No identifiable pupil data will be made public. The pupils' assessment scores from the maths test they will take as part of the trial will be shared with their school.

For the purpose of research, the pupils' attainment data will be matched with background data (such as FSM status) from the National Pupil Database (NPD). Three months after the publication of the evaluation report, all pseudonymised¹ matched pupil data will be added to the EEF archive, which is managed by the Fischer Family Trust on behalf of EEF and hosted by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). This will enable other research teams to use the pseudonymised data as part of subsequent research through the ONS Approved Researcher Scheme.

What happens if I want to withdraw my child from the trial?

You may remove your child's data from being shared for use in the research at any time before data is linked with the National Pupil Database (summer 2026). To do so, please complete the 'Parent/Carer Withdrawal Form' below and return it to your child's school. The school will then ensure that your child's data is not shared as part of the trial. Withdrawing from the trial will not impact your child's involvement in the programme should the school be allocated to the intervention group, just their inclusion in the trial. If you ask to withdraw your child's data once the trial has begun, we will use any data we have collected up to that point unless you ask us to delete it. Please inform us of any withdrawals as soon as possible, before the end of the

¹ Pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information (like names or other meaningful identifiers) in a dataset that identifies an individual

summer term 2026. After this point we may not be able to remove your child's data from the analysis.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions about this evaluation, please contact: jigsawRCT@nfer.ac.uk

Yours sincerely,

Kathryn Hurd
Evaluation and Survey Operations Lead
National Foundation for Educational Research

White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw Trial (2025-26) **Parent/Carer Withdrawal Form**

You only need to complete this form IF YOU DO NOT WISH your child's data to be shared, stored, and used for this research.

I **DO NOT** give permission for data about my child that is collected as part of the **White Rose Maths Reception Jigsaw trial (2025-26)** to be shared, stored, or used for research purposes.

Your child's name.....Child's class:.....

Name of school.....

Your full name.....

Your telephone number (optional).....

Your signature..... Date.....