



Evaluation of Trauma-Informed Schools UK

Trauma Informed Schools UK Randomised Controlled Trial

This leaflet is for parents of students in schools across West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Cheshire participating in the Randomised Control Trial of Trauma-Informed Schools UK programme.

The school your child attends is invited to participate in this study. This will involve your child completing an online questionnaire in Term 1 2023/24 and Term 2 2024/25. The survey questionnaire asks young people across West Midlands, Greater Manchester and Cheshire about wellbeing, sense of connectedness, behaviours and general health.

Your child's involvement in this project will help to ensure the study is informed by a large sample that provides robust evidence on the benefits of trauma-informed practices in schools. I hope you have no objections to them taking part. If you have any queries about how the survey will be run in class or would like to withdraw your child from participating in this study, please contact their form tutor as soon as possible.

Who is conducting the evaluation?

Ipsos, an independent research organisation, and TONIC, a social research consultancy, have been commissioned by the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) to conduct the Randomised Controlled Trial of Trauma Informed Schools UK.

Who is Trauma Informed Schools UK?

Trauma-Informed Schools UK are an international training provider to schools and communities, working to date with over 5000 organisations. They support school leadership and staff to create a mentally healthy culture for the whole school community through policy and practice, improving outcomes for all.

What is a 'trauma-informed' school?

What is a randomised controlled trial (RCT)?

An RCT is a scientific study design where participants are randomly assigned to different groups to evaluate the effects of a specific intervention or treatment.

In October 2023, eligible schools will be **randomly assigned to either 'control' or 'intervention' (akin to a 'coin flip')**. Being an 'intervention' school means the TISUK programme will be implemented and delivered in that school through 2024. Schools allocated into the 'control' group will not receive the TISUK programme, meaning there will be no changes within the school during the study period.

This means that each school has a 50:50 chance of being in the intervention condition, but the comparison between pupils in intervention and control schools makes the study possible and worthwhile.

Why is this evaluation taking place?

The introduction of 'trauma-informed practice' has become very popular across different sectors to support services to recognise and respond to these effects of trauma in staff and young people. This study intends to provide evidence of trauma-informed practice on child-level outcomes, addressing the existing lack of evaluation in this area to inform future programming.

What will be asked your child?

The study involves pupils completing an online questionnaire administered under 'examination conditions' and supervised by a teacher or non-teaching staff during one class or tutor period. Instructions about how to complete the online survey are provided to pupils. Pupils are also given leaflets with more information about the study, a privacy policy illustrating their rights, and sources of advice if they have any concerns.

We will ask your child questions about their wellbeing, sense of connectedness, behaviours and general health. The survey combines several validated questionnaires tested and proven through statistical analyses and comparisons against established standards or criteria. We will not ask your child to reflect on their experiences of trauma, distress or other hard times.

All students will be asked to complete a 'baseline' survey in Term 1 2023/24 and a second survey in Term 2 2024/25.

Does your child need to take part?

No, participation in this case study is completely voluntary. When given the questionnaires, it will be clear to all students that they do not have to answer any questions they do not want to, and they do not have to take part if they do not want to. Your child is free to stop taking part at any time without giving a reason.

How will the information be used?

All data gathered during the trial will be stored for the long term, enabling the assessment of impacts that might not be captured within the funding period of the research. (until September 2025). The data is held in the Data Archive, which the Office manages for National Statistics (ONS). All personal data such as names, genders, and dates of birth are removed from the dataset and replaced with a unique Pupil Matching Reference number. This prevents direct identification. YEF will only allow information in the archive to be accessed and used for the following research purposes only:

- quality assurance, reanalysis and methodological exploration of this work and other YEF-funded studies
- future research and data analysis to explore 'what works' in different geographic areas and over the longer term.

YEF will only keep data for as long as needed to carry out future research. If YEF expects this to be for a long period, they will conduct a review every five years to assess whether there is a continued benefit to storing the personal data in the archive based on its potential use in future research. For more information on YEFs Data Archive, please visit <https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/evaluation-data-archive/>

All participants have a right to opt out of the study until its conclusion (in September 2025). Parents and students may request their personal data be removed from the Data Archive after this point. However, this is up to the discretion of the Youth Endowment Foundation.

Please note that all data will be collected, stored, and processed in accordance with Data Regulations. You can read more about how we will use your data and your data protection rights in the Privacy Notice.

Any questions?

If you have any questions about the case studies, please contact Peter Sakis (Peter.Sakis@ipsos.com) or Facundo Herrera (Facundo.Herrera@ipsos.com).

Opt-out form

Evaluation of Trauma-Informed Schools UK

Please complete and return this form to your child's school as soon as possible, if you do not want your child to take part.

Your child's name

Your name.....

Your Signature.....

Date.....