

Thinking Doing Talking Science (TDTs) Study INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS

What is the TDTs study?

Your child's school is taking part in the Thinking Doing Talking Science (TDTs) study. This information sheet provides you with details about what the study will involve for you and your child.

The study is being jointly funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Wellcome Trust. They have asked the University of York to carry out research to help understand how Year 5 pupils benefit from being taught science lessons using the TDTs approach. The research is fully supported by your child's school and will be carried out under strict ethical and data protection guidelines.

TDTs trains teachers to develop creative and challenging science lessons by using strategies to engage children in science and help them develop their thinking skills. The programme has been developed by Science Oxford, an independent charity with particular expertise in primary science and running training courses for teachers.

Your child's teacher will attend four and a half separate training days across 2022/23 and receive support from the TDTs trainers. You can ask your child's teacher any questions you may have about TDTs.

How is the study designed?

To find out how well TDTs works, Year 5 teachers in half of the participating schools will receive the TDTs training and the other half will not. Which schools receive the programme is decided randomly by a computer. Science teaching will continue as normal in schools which are not selected to attend the training.

The evaluation team will compare end-of-year science assessments from children in schools where teachers have been trained in TDTs with assessments from children in the schools not receiving training. They will also compare their attitudes to science.

This type of research is called a randomised controlled trial.

What does the study involve for my child?

We will ask your child's school to provide some details about your child, including their first name, surname, date of birth, gender, unique pupil number, and eligibility for Free School Meals/Pupil Premium status. The 'Frequently Asked Questions' section below tells you more about how we will use, store and share the information collected in the study.

Towards the end of Year 5 and again towards the end of Year 6, your child will be asked to complete a 45-minute written science assessment. If, at any point, your child indicates that they do not want to continue then they can stop.



Your child will also be asked to complete a short survey about their science lessons and their attitudes towards science. All these surveys will be filled in anonymously.

So that we can see if the TDTS programme results in any broader changes to education, we will also look at your child's Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment (collected by your child's reception teacher at the end of the first year of school) and (once they have completed Year 6) their Key Stage 2 SATs Maths and English results. We will do this by applying to a government database which stores this information. We explain more about this in the FAQ section.

What do I need to do now?

Your child does not have to take part in the study – you and your child can decide. Your child will be asked to complete a science assessment and survey and to share their data with the research team.

If you are happy for your child to take part:

You do not need to do anything – your child will be included in the study. Please keep this information for future reference. You are free to change your mind about your child's participation later – please see the Frequently Asked Questions below for how to do this.

If you do NOT want your child to take part in the assessment or survey or to share their data with the research team:

Please return the attached withdrawal form to your child's school or communicate your wishes to the school via email, telephone, or in person by the date specified by your child's school. The school will make a note of your child's withdrawal and will ensure their data is not passed to the evaluation team and they are not assessed as part of this study.

All children at schools which are randomly chosen to receive the TDTS programme will be involved in TDTS, because teachers will be using the programme within the school, even if you choose for your child not to take part in the assessment and data sharing elements of the study.

THANK YOU FOR READING THIS INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)? The EEF is an independent charity founded in 2011 with funding from the Department of Education. Its aim is to build the evidence for what works in raising attainment. Ultimately, this means demonstrating the impact of its projects on children's attainment from Early Years through to post-16. For more information visit: educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/.

What is the Wellcome Trust? The Wellcome Trust is a global charity that aims to help everyone benefit from science, and this includes improving science education. For more information visit: <https://wellcome.org/>

Is my child's participation in the study confidential? All participant data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be stored in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. We will not use your child's name or the name of participating schools in any report arising from the study.

I've agreed for my child to take part can I withdraw my child from the study later? You are free to withdraw your child from the study at any time during the course of the study (information already collected about your child will be retained). In this event, please tell your child's school who will communicate this with the Evaluation Team, or you can contact us directly using the contact details provided.

Who will your child's data be shared with and why? For the purposes of this study, your child's school will share information about your child with the Evaluation Team. ~~The Evaluation Team will use your child's name when communicating with their school and class teachers in order to arrange assessments.~~

~~For the purposes of this study, the Evaluation Team will share identifiable information about your child (e.g. full name, date of birth, unique pupil number, gender) with the DfE and the Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service (ONS SRS) who store all mandatory assessments children complete during their time in education within the National Pupil Database (NPD). With the information we provide, the DfE/ONS SRS will 'match' your child's details to their Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment and their Key Stage 2 SATs results, and provide us with this information. This will help us understand if the TDTS programme has broader effects on children's education.~~

At the end of the study, pupil data, only individually identifiable solely by the Department for Education, will be submitted to ONS SRS for archiving in the EEF data archive. Please see the Privacy Notice for full details (<https://tinyurl.com/tdts-privacy>). ~~(managed by the EEF's archive manager). The data will be linked with information about the pupils from the National Pupil Database (NPD) and shared with the Department for Education, the EEF, the EEF's archive manager, the Office for National Statistics and potentially other research teams. Anonymous data may be kept indefinitely by the Evaluation Team, and potentially shared with other research teams. Further matching to the NPD and other datasets or administrative data may take place during subsequent research and/or after archiving.~~

Commented [IF1]: We have left these here as we feel they are important to read even if they don't click through to the privacy notice, which some of them may not.

Commented [CC2]: Please link to privacy notice, see my comments on data processing/sharing from the MOU docs. I think you can just provide high level detail on what data will be shared and with who (without details on matching) and then refer to details in the privacy notice, but if you prefer to keep details about matching that's also fine.

Commented [IF3]: ADD THE URL

Commented [HP4]: Louise – does this read ok (mostly Katie's wording)

Who is the Data Controller? For the purposes of this project, the University of York is the data controller as defined in the GDPR. Once the data has been submitted to the ONS SRS for archiving in the EEF data archive and passed quality checks, the EEF holds data controller responsibility for the data.

How do we keep your child's data secure? We will provide detailed instructions to schools, so they can securely transfer information about your child to us. The University of York takes information security extremely seriously and has implemented appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect data. Access to information is restricted on a need-to-know basis and security arrangements are regularly reviewed to ensure their continued suitability. Further information about how we will use the information provided about your child can be found at: york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/trials/trials-gdpr/

Under what legal basis do we process your child's personal data? Personal data will be processed under Article 6 (1) (e) (Processing necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest) and Special Category data under Article 9 (2) (j) (Processing necessary for ... scientific ... research purposes) of the General Data Protection Regulation (2018).

How long will we keep your child's data? All individually identifiable data held by the evaluation team will be destroyed 5 years after the end of the study (2029). Data in the EEF's archive in the ONS SRS will include data only individually identifiable to the Department for Education (DfE), which is a government department responsible for children's services and education, and is kept indefinitely for the purposes of future research.

What rights do you have in relation to your data and your child's data? Under the GDPR, you have a right of access to your data and your child's data, a right to rectification, erasure (in certain circumstances), restriction, objection or portability (in certain circumstances). Further information can be found at: york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/trials/trials-gdpr/research-participants/

Questions or concerns: If you have any questions about this information sheet or concerns about your child taking part in the survey, please contact the project team at ytu-tdts@york.ac.uk. If you have any complaints about the study, please contact the Chair of the Research Governance Committee (stephen.holland@york.ac.uk). If you are unhappy with the way the University has handled your data or your child's personal data, you have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. For information on reporting a concern to the Information Commissioner's Office, see ico.org.uk/concerns.

Has the evaluation received ethical approval? The project has received ethical approval from the University of York Health Sciences Research Governance Committee (15/05/2020: HSRGC/2020/391/C) for the aspects of the research detailed in this information sheet.

Where can I find out the results of the evaluation? The evaluation team have to produce a final evaluation report. This is due in July 2025 and will be published by the EEF on their website (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk>); this final report will not name any schools or individual children.



Questions about the TDTS programme?

Please contact the TDTS Team:

TDTS Team
Science Oxford
Stansfeld Park
Quarry Road
Oxford
OX3 8SB

Email: tdts@scienceoxford.com
Tel: 01865 810000

Questions about the study?

Please contact the Evaluation Team:

TDTS Evaluation Team
York Trials Unit
1st Floor, ARRC Building
University Of York
YORK
YO10 5DD

Email: ytu-tdts@york.ac.uk
Tel: 01904 326842

TDTS Study PARENT/CARER CHILD WITHDRAWAL FORM

Your school is taking part in the Thinking Doing Talking Science study which provides teachers with training to deliver creative and challenging science lessons.

If you **DO NOT** want your child to take part in any assessments/surveys as part of the study, and you **DO NOT** want their data to be processed as outlined in the Information for Parents/Carers, please complete, sign and return this form to your child's school OR contact your school in person, or via email or telephone. Please respond by **[DATE]**.

If you are happy for your child to complete the assessments and surveys and their data to be processed as outlined, you don't need to do anything.

☐

I **DO NOT** want my child to take part in the evaluation of Thinking Doing Talking Science.

Your child's name: _____

Your child's date of birth: _____

Name of parent/carer: _____

Signature of parent/carer: _____

Date: _____