



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has been chosen at random to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). As the National Project Manager for the PISA 2022 study in Northern Ireland, I am writing to introduce myself and explain a little more about the study, including the data protection arrangements. By taking part in PISA your child will be providing government with extremely important information to support their actions to deliver an excellent education system for children here.

What is PISA?

PISA is an international study run by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that takes place every three years. It gathers data from over 80 countries and looks at the reading, science and mathematics skills of 15-16-year-olds worldwide. The results are used by our local government and governments from around the world to benchmark our education system with that of other countries internationally. PISA encourages countries to learn from each other, creating fairer and more inclusive school systems.

Your child's school is one of 130 schools in Northern Ireland that have been chosen to participate in PISA 2022. The study will take part within the normal school day and involve a computer-based assessment with multiple choice and open-ended questions on mathematics, science and reading, as well as a short questionnaire. If you or your child would like to see some examples of the type of questions asked, you can do so by visiting www.pisa2022.uk.

What information will be collected and why?

The purpose of the study is to produce statistics on children's learning and development, in order to learn more about how best to support children in mastering key subjects. The Department of Education (DE) has commissioned Pearson UK and their partners at Oxford University to carry out the study in Northern Ireland. The privacy and data security of the young people and schools we work with is very important to us and no individual child, parent, carer or school will be identified or identifiable in any reporting.

We will collect information on what your child has learnt from their answers to the PISA assessment questions. We will also ask them about their attitudes and motivations to help understand how they contribute to pupil performance. All data from the study will be anonymised and combined with responses from other pupils taking part in Northern Ireland and compared with results of pupils around the world. If there are any questions your child does not wish to answer they may leave them blank.

How we will use personal data?

For the purposes of this research, the DE and its approved contractors may link the information to other information DE already holds (such as on the School Census) or that it is lawfully permitted to access from other sources. This is to avoid repeatedly asking participants to give us information that we already hold and to enable analysis of the longer-term benefits of early learning. Please go to www.pisa2022.uk to see a full privacy notice, including your data protection rights.

We would like to thank you for your child's participation in this important project. If you have



any queries on any aspect the study, please do not hesitate to email the **PISA Support Team** at pisa2022@pearson.com or by phone, from Monday to Friday between 8am and 4pm, on **020 7010 2010**.

Yours sincerely,

Associate Professor Grace Grima
National Project Manager, PISA 2022
Director of Research - Pearson UK

www.pisa2022.uk