



Education  
Endowment  
Foundation



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## **The Focus4TAPS trial**

### *Information for parents and guardians*

Your school has agreed to participate within the trial of Focus4TAPS.

The Focus4TAPS programme aims to support teaching, learning, and assessment in primary science. Bath Spa University have developed and will deliver the Focus4TAPS programme, which draws together research from the Teacher Assessment in Primary Science (TAPS) project, which was funded by the Primary Science Teaching Trust. The Focus4TAPS programme provides a package of training for teachers, with resources and activities to support the teaching of 'Working Scientifically' and the delivery of science content within the curriculum.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Wellcome Trust are funding the UCL Institute of Education to compare Focus4TAPS against other teaching across many primary schools in the country.

We hope that you can discuss the trial with your child and that your child can take part. If you or your child would prefer not to take part, please complete the form at the end of this letter.

If you and your child are happy to take part, you do not need to do anything. You or your child can still opt-out at any time during the trial and for any reason.

### **What happens in the trial?**

The trial considers children in Year 5, during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Schools are randomly assigned to either receive the Focus4TAPS programme or to carry on as normal during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Children will complete a short questionnaire and a science test in the summer of 2021. The questionnaires will ask for the children's names so that their responses can be matched against the National Pupil Database. The questionnaires will ask about experiences of science at school, such as whether practical work in science is enjoyable or interesting.

Your child's school will also securely share information about your child (including their name and date of birth) with the UCL Institute of Education so that information can be linked with the National Pupil Database (which is held by the Department for Education and shared with the Department for Education, EEF, EEF's data contractor FFT Education, and in an anonymised form to the UK Data Archive). Once your child's information is included in the data set, the data will be anonymised and no one will be able to identify individual children.

Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence. All information about your child, including their responses to the questionnaires and test, will only be used within the trial, and will not be used by your child's school or teacher in their assessment of your child's progress. All information will be held securely and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The results of the trial will not identify any children or schools.

If schools are closed during the time in which your child is to complete the survey or test, we will organise through the school for your child to complete these at your home address or electronically. We will ensure that material is kept secure and confidential throughout.

### **Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The data controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Office provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk). UCL's Data Protection Officer can also be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found here:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice>

The legal basis that would be used to process your child's personal data will be performance of a task in the public interest. The legal basis used to process special category personal data will be for scientific and historical research or statistical purposes/explicit consent.

Your child's personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will try to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).

### **If I have some questions or need more information, what should I do?**

If you have any questions or need any more information about the trial, please contact: [primary.science@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:primary.science@bathspa.ac.uk) or [ioe.focus4taps@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ioe.focus4taps@ucl.ac.uk)

You or your child can still opt-out at any time during the trial and for any reason by contacting us.

## The Focus4TAPS trial

### *Opt-out form for parents and guardians*

We hope that you can discuss the trial with your child and that your child can take part. If you and your child are happy to take part, you do not need to do anything. You or your child can still opt-out at any time during the trial and for any reason.

If you or your child would prefer **not to take part in the research**, please complete this form. Your child will still experience the Focus4TAPS teaching as part of their science classes if the school receives the Focus4TAPS programme.

I do not wish for data about my child to be collected as part of this research.

Child's name:

Child's date of birth:

Child's teacher:

School:

Parent / guardian name:

Parent / guardian signature:

Date:

Please return the completed form to your child's teacher.