

Geography research visit information form

Who are we?

Ofsted is responsible for inspecting a range of educational institutions, including state schools and some independent schools. We also undertake research and write reports on a range of issues in education and social care.

What are we doing and why?

- We are writing to you to inform you that we will be visiting your child's school to conduct research about the quality of geography in schools.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has left many schools wanting to find out how to prioritise curriculum content and help their pupils catch up.
- We have noticed a growing demand for reliable and trustworthy information about how to enhance school expertise in national curriculum subjects.
- We are well-placed to carry out this research and share our findings.
- We think it is important to talk to children and young people to understand their experiences. As part of the project, we wish to observe pupils participating in their geography lessons and talk to a small group of pupils about their learning.

What will happen on the day?

- We will be visiting your child's school for a one-day research visit. Your child may be observed in their lesson and we may ask them to participate in a 30–45 minute group discussion about geography with their peers.
- We will work with teachers to try and schedule these discussions outside of lesson time. The purpose of the research and your child's rights as a research participant will be explained by the headteacher.
- If you do not wish for your child to take part, please inform your headteacher at least 24 hours before the visit that you wish to 'opt out'. Once we have this information, we will not include them in any research visit activities.
- If you decide not to take part this will not affect you, your child or your child's school adversely in any way in the future.

How do we get information?

- Where you agree that your child can take part in this research, the only information we will use will be provided to us directly by them and the school. We are not using any other parties to get information about them.
- Researchers involved in this project have all had training on what information about your child they should and should not record in their notes. They will not write down their name or connect their name to their notes.

What will we do with what you tell us?

We will be visiting a number of schools to complete our research. After that, we will publish a report on the quality of the curriculum in geography based on what we have found out.

- We will only use the information provided by your child/school for this research.
- We will not name your child in the information we record in the research and we will keep as little information about them as possible.
- We will not share their information with anyone outside of Ofsted.
- No one outside Ofsted will have access to their information unless the law requires it. If we receive information that makes us concerned about the immediate safety of a child, young person or adult, inspectors will follow procedures in line with our safeguarding policy.

How long we keep your personal information

- We will keep the information we record for at least two years after the project has finished.
- We will ensure that your child cannot be identified from any information we publish in the report.

What are your rights?

- The legal basis we rely on to process personal information for this project is Article 6(1)(a) of the GDPR. This is where we have your consent to process your child's personal information.
- You have the right to choose for your child not to take part in this research.
- You can change your mind and decide you do not want your child to take part even during the visit to the school.
- If you wish your child to withdraw at any time before, or during the visit please contact either your headteacher or Ofsted at curriculumunit@ofsted.gov.uk.
- For more about your rights and how to get in touch with us about the information we hold, view the Ofsted personal information charter¹
- Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) is Neil Greenwood, Director, Digital and Information. The DPO is responsible for the teams that provide independent advice and monitor how Ofsted uses personal information. He can be contacted using the email address above.

¹ Ofsted personal information charter; [Personal information charter - Ofsted - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612222/Personal-information-charter-Ofsted-2019.pdf)