

## **DATA PROTECTION DECLARATION – PIRLS 2021 TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE FOR FOURTH CLASS TEACHER FROM 2020-21**

### **Identity and contact details of controllers:**

Educational Research Centre  
DCU St Patrick's Campus  
Drumcondra Road Upper  
Dublin 9  
Ireland  
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Email: [pirls.ireland@erc.ie](mailto:pirls.ireland@erc.ie)

### **For which purpose are data collected and processed?**

The data collected during the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS 2021) will be used exclusively for scientific purposes. PIRLS is an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). The Educational Research Centre (ERC) is administering PIRLS in Ireland at the request of, and on behalf of, the Department of Education. This is in accordance with one of the functions (“carrying out national and international assessments of the attainment levels and academic achievement of students and reporting on such assessments to the Minister”) set out in the ERC’s Establishment Order as a statutory body (which can be viewed in full at: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/si/392/made/en/print>). The ERC’s legal basis for processing personal data as per GDPR (Article 6) is “the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller”.

### **Which information is requested?**

Teachers who have previously taught participating PIRLS pupils in the last academic year (2020-2021) are invited to complete this questionnaire in order to provide the study with information about the participating pupils, about classroom resources, teaching practices, homework given, topics taught, lesson-related attitudes, and experiences of teaching literacy while in remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In order to ensure that PIRLS is based on scientifically selected samples of pupils and schools, schools are expected to cooperate with the administration of PIRLS in their school where requested to do so (Department of Education Circular 0056/2011).
- Teachers will not be disadvantaged in any way by non-completion of the questionnaire, and respondents are permitted to skip individual questions or to discontinue answering the questions at any time.
- By filling in and returning a completed questionnaire, a study participant is permitting to the collection and processing of their data within the questionnaire.
- Withdrawal of permission to the processing of data without stating any reason can be made by any participant up to 4 weeks after the tests have been administered.
- Any participant who wants to remove or amend their information can contact the Educational Research Centre (at [pirls.ireland@erc.ie](mailto:pirls.ireland@erc.ie)). If an individual withdraws from the study, no additional data will be collected from that individual. Some information on

withdrawals and exclusions is retained to validate the sample and to inform future administrations (e.g., to see if males are more likely to withdraw from participation in the study).

- Queries related to how personal information is protected can be directed to the ERC's Data Protection Officer ([data.protection@erc.ie](mailto:data.protection@erc.ie)).

### **What kind of data are collected?**

Data from answers to the questions from every completed PIRLS 4<sup>th</sup> Class Teacher Questionnaire are collected and stored. This is in the form of numbers representing selections (for example, a multiple choice question), or values (for example, a figure for number of students in the target grade). If teachers choose to complete the survey online rather than on paper, there is further logging information stored regarding whether or not the questionnaire has been submitted and the IP address used in completing the questionnaire. Online information gathered on Microsoft forms, e.g. IP addresses, will not be shared with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties or organisations outside of the ERC, and the online survey instrument, along with associated logging information, will be deleted once data has been anonymised.

This information cannot, in and of itself, be used to identify individual respondents by name, however an ID is recorded to uniquely identify each teacher. A roll number is also collected when the questionnaire is completed online, to ensure that IDs can be matched to the correct schools. The relationship between this ID and the teacher name or class name is known to the school coordinator and to the Educational Research Centre. It is not, however, shared with the IEA or any third parties.

### **Where, how and for how long are data from PIRLS stored?**

PIRLS data are stored securely in a pseudonymous form, that is: processed in such a manner that the personal data can no longer be attributed to a specific data subject without the use of additional information (any such additional information being kept separately and subject to technical and organisational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person). These data cannot be accessed by any external persons or systems. Moreover, any ERC or Kefron employees who access the data for processing have been suitably briefed on what constitutes an acceptable treatment of data and have signed a confidentiality agreement.

The data are stored as follows:

Response data are stored indefinitely so that they remain available for analyses.

### **At the ERC, the data are stored as follows:**

Data linked to 4<sup>th</sup> class teachers are stored until the international database is released (expected to be December 2022 for this cycle of PIRLS). At that point (or earlier in the cycle where possible), all data are anonymised so that there is no possibility of an individual study participant being identifiable.

Anonymised response data are stored indefinitely so that they remain available for analyses. Response data from paper questionnaires are processed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party processor and the ERC has a GDPR-compliant agreement in place with the third party for this processing work.. Response data from online questionnaires are stored initially on web servers provided by Microsoft, (an ISO-27001 certified company), and then processed centrally in the European Union, Germany. All data are submitted without names – only the 4<sup>th</sup> class teacher ID numbers, and (for online questionnaires) school roll number.

**With whom and how are data from PIRLS shared?**

As part of initial processing, the ERC shares some data from PIRLS with its subcontractors (e.g. for data entry). All subcontractors have signed a Data Processing Agreement and confidentiality agreement with the ERC.

The questionnaire for Fourth class teachers from 2020-21 is an additional, national questionnaire that will not form part of the international PIRLS database. Its purpose is to help researchers examining Ireland's data understand the experiences of sampled pupils during 2020-21. Therefore, data from this questionnaire are not shared with the IEA or its subcontractors.

**Related data**

Along with the Fourth class teachers, Fifth class teachers, pupils and principals are also asked to complete a questionnaire. Pupils' parents or legal guardians are also asked to complete an Early Learning Survey. Information coming from these sources is linked to that from Fourth class teachers from 2020-21 in the final national database held by the ERC.

**Automated decision-making and profiling**

No automated decision-making, including profiling, referred to in Article 22 GDPR is conducted.

**Rights of Data Subjects**

Data Subjects are entitled to the rights set out in Articles 15-20 GDPR.

Data Subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority. The relevant authority in Ireland is:

Data Protection Commission  
21 Fitzwilliam Square South  
Dublin 2  
D02 RD28  
Website: [www.dataprotection.ie](http://www.dataprotection.ie)