

DATA PROTECTION DECLARATION – PISA PISA 2022 Parent and Student Questionnaires

Identity and contact details of controller:

Educational Research Centre
DCU St Patrick's Campus
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Note: This declaration refers to the collection of data from students and the parents and guardians of students.

For which purpose are data collected and processed?

The data collected during the Programme for International Student Assessment study (PISA 2022) will be used exclusively for scientific purposes. PISA is an educational research project sponsored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Educational Research Centre (ERC) is administering PISA 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?

The parents or guardians of participating students are asked to complete the PISA 2022 Parent Questionnaire in order to provide the study with information about parents’ view on their child’s education and to understand the resources available to students at home and outside of school. The questionnaire also asks questions relating to students’ families and their home.

As part of PISA, students are asked to complete a Student Questionnaire. The questionnaire asks about the student’s family and home backgrounds, pre-school education and childhood activities, attitudes and interests in mathematics. Students are also asked about their parents (including parental occupation), their physical and emotional health and well-being, as well as their experience of negative behaviours in school. Students are also asked to complete a Test-taking Behaviour Questionnaire, which asks them questions about how they found different elements of the PISA test.

- In order to ensure that PISA is based on scientifically selected samples of pupils and schools, schools are expected to co-operate with the administration of PISA in their school where requested to do so (DES Circular 0056; 2011).

- Students will not be disadvantaged in any way by non-completion of the student, test-taking behaviour or parent questionnaires, 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 consenting to the collection and processing of their data within the questionnaire.
- Withdrawal of consent 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 01 8065234 or PISA.Ireland@erc.ie). If an individual withdraws from the study, no additional data will be collected for that individual. Some information on withdrawals and exclusions is retained to validate the sample and to inform future administrations (e.g., to see if girls are more likely to withdraw from participation in the study).
- Queries relating to how personal information is protected can be directed to the ERC's Data Protection Officer Data.Protection@erc.ie

What kind of data are collected?

Data from answers to the questions from students and their parents or guardians who participate in PISA are collected and stored. This is in the form of numbers representing selections (for example, a multiple choice question, or yes/no selection).

This information cannot, in and of itself, be used to identify individual respondents by name, however a student ID is recorded to uniquely identify each student and their parent or guardian. It allows us to link the questionnaire information to the student's test data.

Where, how and for how long are data from PISA stored?

PISA data are stored securely in the ERC and cannot be accessed by any external persons or systems. Moreover, any ERC employees who accesses 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 it remains available for analysis. These responses eventually result in a database that allows researchers to compare education systems worldwide (see *Public accessibility* below).

Data (with the exception of data from the Test-taking behaviour questionnaire) are processed by PISA Contractors in the USA, and the OECD in Paris. The PISA 2022 Contractors include Educational Testing Service, ETS Corporate Headquarters 660 Rosedale Road, Princeton, NJ 08541 USA; Westat, 1600 Research Blvd, Rockville, MD 20850, USA; and ACER, 19 Prospect Hill Rd, Camberwell VIC 3124, Australia. All data arriving for data processing are submitted without names – only the student ID numbers are visible. The OECD is subject to data protection guidelines as outlined on their website <https://www.oecd.org/privacy/>

With whom and how are data from PISA shared?

Data from the test-taking behaviour and parent questionnaires are entered into a database by Kefron, 53 Park Road West, Park West Industrial Park, Dublin 12, D12 F8RK. The transfer of data from the ERC to Kefron is safeguarded by a Data Processing Agreement.

We use Microsoft Office 365 (programmes such as Outlook, Sharepoint) in our work, using strict privacy measures at each stage of the study. In addition, Irish Security Shredding (Irish Security Shredding, Skellys Yard, The Ward, Co. Dublin) have access to some records during the destruction process. The transfer of materials from the ERC to Kefron is safeguarded by a Data Processing Agreement.

Response data (with the exception of data from the Test-taking Behaviour Questionnaire) are sent from national research centres to the PISA contractors, via a secure FTP server, 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 organizational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person).

The transfer of the data to the USA and Australia, as a third country, and to the OECD is carried out using a derogation in the public interest.

The data are also shared back, again over a secure FTP server, with the national research centres running PISA in each participating country.

Related data

Along with the students and parents, teachers and principals are also asked to complete a questionnaire.

Information coming from students (with the exception of data from the Test-taking Behaviour Questionnaire) is linked to that from principals in the final international research database (IDB).

Public accessibility

The final international research database (with the exception of data from the Test-taking Behaviour Questionnaire) will be accessible to the public from the following sites:

<https://www.oecd.org/pisa/data/>

All data in the public database are anonymous, and cannot be linked to individuals.

Automated decision-making and profiling

No automated decision-making, including profiling, referred to in Article 22 GDPR (see <https://gdpr-info.eu/art-22-gdpr/> for more) 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 Commissioner,
Data Protection Commission,
21 Fitzwilliam Square South,
Dublin 2,
D02 Rd28,
Ireland.
Telephone +353 1 7650100
Lo Call Number 1800 437 737
E-mail info@dataprotection.ie