

4th October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

ICCAMS Maths Independent Evaluation Research Study

I am writing to let you know about a national research study which is taking place in your child's school over two years (2016/2017 and 2017/18). Your child has joined the school since the project began and so you may not have received the below information. If your child joined the school at the start of the 2017/18 school year, please disregard information relating to the 2016/17 school year.

As part of the study, your child will be asked to complete a questionnaire about their attitudes to maths and their maths teaching during their normal classroom lessons at two time points. They will also be asked to complete a maths assessment at the end of Year 8. They will be free to choose not to participate in the study. Completing these aspects will take around 10 minutes (in 2016/17) and 50 minutes (in 2017/18). Data about your child will also be passed from the school to the research team to help us complete the research. The information provided will be used to look at whether the ICCAMS Maths programme improves maths attainment. We expect the findings to benefit teaching and learning in the future.

If you agree to your child taking part in the study, then you do not need to do anything. If you would prefer your child was not part of the study or have any questions, you should contact Jess Hugill, Project Research Assistant, Durham University, in the first instance on 0191 334 4668, or email ICCAMS@cem.dur.ac.uk or inform your child's school.

We provide more information about the project below. Please read this information before deciding whether your child should take part.

What is the ICCAMS Research Study and why are we doing it?

Your school has signed up to be involved with the ICCAMS programme along with more than 100 other schools across England. This will involve teachers in the schools delivering the ICCAMS programme in some maths lessons to all Year 7 pupils in 2016/17 and Year 8 pupils in 2017/18. The ICCAMS programme supports teachers in teaching algebra and multiplicative reasoning and fits within the National Curriculum.

Who is doing the research?

Durham University is working with the University of Nottingham and University of Manchester to do this project. This study is funded by the Educational Endowment Foundation (EEF) and involves Year 7 pupils in 109 schools around England. The project is led by Vic Menzies at Durham University, Maria Pampaka at the University of Manchester and Jeremy Hodgen at the University of Nottingham.

What exactly does the research involve for my child?

The head teacher of the school has given permission for the school to take part. The University of Manchester team will be asking pupils to complete a questionnaire about their attitudes to maths at the beginning of the project in September 2016 and again at the end of the project in summer 2018. They will also be asking pupils to complete a maths assessment at the end of the study in summer 2018. The research project team will analyse the assessment data, and will also pass the results to the school to inform teaching.

Results from the group of schools delivering the ICCAMS lessons will be compared to results from schools where maths teaching is being done as normal to see whether ICCAMS helps pupils. The funder, the EEF, will also look at the longer

term impact of ICCAMS and will continue to look at pupil academic outcomes (e.g. GCSE and A-Level results) beyond the end of the ICCAMS programme in July 2018.

How will my child's data be used?

To help us with this research the school will pass on some background information about pupils (name, date of birth, Key Stage 2 results, Free School Meals Status, gender, and Unique Pupil Number) to Durham University who will share this with the other university teams. This information will enable the research team to match up the information from the maths assessment and questionnaires with past attainment as well as other contextual information (such as Free School Meal status) from the National Pupil Database (NPD). All data collected will be treated with the strictest confidence and will only be used for research purposes. The data for your child's school will be analysed together with data from other schools, and no individual pupils or schools will be named or identified in any report.

For the purpose of the research, data collected as part of this project will be shared between the three universities involved (Durham University, University of Manchester and University of Nottingham). The University of Manchester will also share pupil data (name, date of birth, school, year group, UPN) with the Department for Education in order to link to the NPD. The project data will be shared with the EEF and the EEF's data managers (FFT) to allow the longer-term impact of the ICCAMS programme to be investigated. In addition, pupil data will be shared anonymously with the UK Data Archive for future research purposes.

Does my child need to take part in the research?

Taking part in the research is optional. If you are happy for your child to take part and for your child's data to be used as described you do not need to do anything. **If you would prefer we did not use your child's data in this research study you can opt-out by contacting the school office who will pass details onto the school's project lead.** You can also opt-out by contacting the research team directly using the project administrator contact details below. You can opt out at any point during the project until September 2018.

Does the research have ethical approval?

The research study has received ethical approval from the Ethics Committees at Durham University (date: 14/12/15), the University of Manchester (16/09/16) and the University of Nottingham (08/10/15).

Who should I contact about questions or concerns?

If you have any questions, requests or concerns about the study please contact Jess Hugill, Project Research Assistant, Durham University, in the first instance on 0191 334 4668, or email Jessica.hugill@cem.dur.ac.uk. These will then be passed on to the best person to answer them.

Any formal concerns about this study should be addressed to the School of Education Ethics Sub-Committee, Durham University via email to ed.ethics@durham.ac.uk and/or to the Research Governance and Integrity Manager, University of Manchester via email to research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk or phone 0161 275 2674.

Yours faithfully,



Victoria Menzies, Research Trial Lead,
Durham University



Maria Pampaka, Evaluation Lead,
University of Manchester



Jeremy Hodgen, ICCAMS Developer Lead