

## Thinking Doing Talking Science (TDTs) Study INFORMATION FOR PARENT/CARERS

### What is the TDTs study?

Your child's school is taking part in the Thinking Doing Talking Science (TDTs) study. This information sheet provides you with details about what the study will involve for you and your child.

The study is being jointly funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the Wellcome Trust. They have asked the University of York to carry out research to help understand how Year 5 pupils benefit from being taught science lessons using the TDTs approach. The research is fully supported by your child's school and will be carried out under strict ethical and data protection guidelines.

TDTs trains teachers to develop creative and challenging science lessons by using strategies to engage children in science and help them develop their thinking skills. The programme has been developed by Science Oxford, an independent charity with particular expertise in primary science and running training courses for teachers.

### How is the study designed?

To find out how well TDTs works, last year (school academic year 2022/23) TDTs training was delivered to half of the participating schools, whilst the other half of schools did not receive this training (which schools received the training was decided randomly by a computer). In the schools who received the TDTs training, Year 5 teachers attended training days across 2022/23 and received support from the TDTs trainers to use TDTs within their science lessons. Science teaching continued as normal in the schools not selected to attend the training. This type of research is called a randomised controlled trial.

The Evaluation Team will compare end-of-year science assessments from Year 5 and 6 children in these schools with assessments from children in the schools where no teachers received any training; this is in order to understand the effect of your child's teacher having received TDTs training or not. They will also compare children's attitudes to science.

If you have any questions about what TDTs involves, you can ask your child's teacher or contact the TDTs Team using the details at the end of this information sheet.

### What does the study involve for my child?

We will ask your child's school to provide some details about your child, including their first name, surname, date of birth, gender, and unique pupil number. The 'Frequently Asked Questions' section below tells you more about how we will use, store and share the information collected in the study.

Towards the end of Year 5 your child, along with all the other children in their class who are participating in the study, will be asked to complete a 45-minute written science assessment in school. If, at any point, your child indicates that they do not want to continue with the assessment, then they can stop. Invigilators, recruited and trained by the Evaluation Team, will administer the assessments within schools. All Invigilators will have completed safeguarding and data protection training and will have undergone a recent Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate check.

Your child will also be asked to complete a short survey about their science lessons and their attitudes towards science. This will be completed in-class supervised by class teachers.

So that we can see if the TDTS programme results in any broader changes to education, we will also look at your child's Early Years Foundation Stage Profile assessment (completed by your child's reception teacher at the end of the first year of school). We will do this by applying to a government database (National Pupil Database) which stores this information. We will also request information on your child's free school meal eligibility from the National Pupil Database. We explain more about this in the [Privacy Notice \(https://tinyurl.com/tdts-privacynotice\)](https://tinyurl.com/tdts-privacynotice).

## What do I need to do now?

**Your child does not have to take part in the study – you and your child can decide.**

**If you are happy for your child to take part:** You do not need to do anything – your child will be included in the study. Your child will be asked to complete the science assessments and survey and their data will be shared with the Evaluation Team. Please keep this information sheet for future reference. You are free to change your mind about your child's participation later – please see the Frequently Asked Questions below for how to do this.

**If you do NOT want your child to take part** in the science assessments or survey or to share their data with the Evaluation Team:

Please return the attached withdrawal form to your child's school or communicate your wishes to the school via email, telephone, or in person by the date specified by your child's school. The school will make a note of your child's withdrawal and will ensure their data is not passed to the Evaluation Team and they are not assessed as part of this study.

### Questions about the TDTS programme?

Please contact the TDTS Team:

TDTS Team  
Science Oxford  
Stansfeld Park  
Quarry Road  
Oxford  
OX3 8SB

Email: [tdts@scienceoxford.com](mailto:tdts@scienceoxford.com)  
Tel: 01865 810000

### Questions about the study?

Please contact the Evaluation Team:

TDTS Evaluation Team  
York Trials Unit  
1st Floor, ARRC Building  
University Of York  
YORK  
YO10 5DD

Email: [ytu-tdts@york.ac.uk](mailto:ytu-tdts@york.ac.uk)  
Tel: 01904 326842

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF)?** The EEF is an independent charity founded in 2011 with funding from the Department of Education. Its aim is to build the evidence for what works in

raising attainment. Ultimately, this means demonstrating the impact of its projects on children's attainment from Early Years through to post-16. For more information visit: [educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/).

**What is the Wellcome Trust?** The Wellcome Trust is a global charity that aims to help everyone benefit from science, and this includes improving science education. For more information visit: <https://wellcome.org/>

**Is my child's participation in the study confidential?** All participant data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be stored in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. We will not use your child's name or the name of participating schools in any report arising from the study.

**I've agreed for my child to take part, can I withdraw my child from the study later?** You are free to withdraw your child from the study at any time during the course of the study (information already collected about your child will be retained). In this event, please tell your child's school who will communicate this to the Evaluation Team, or you can contact us directly using the contact details provided.

**Who will your child's data be shared with and why?** For the purposes of this study, your child's school will share information about your child with the Evaluation Team. At the end of the study, pupil data, individually identifiable solely by the Department for Education, will be submitted to the EEF data archive. Please see the [Privacy Notice](https://tinyurl.com/tfts-privacynotice) for full details (<https://tinyurl.com/tfts-privacynotice>).

**Questions or concerns:** If you have any questions about this information sheet or concerns about your child taking part, please contact the Evaluation Team at [ytu-tfts@york.ac.uk](mailto:ytu-tfts@york.ac.uk). If you have any complaints about the study, please contact the Chair of the Research Governance Committee ([stephen.holland@york.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.holland@york.ac.uk)). If you are unhappy with the way the University has handled your data or your child's personal data, you have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. For information on reporting a concern to the Information Commissioner's Office, see [ico.org.uk/concerns](https://ico.org.uk/concerns).

**Where can I find out the results of the evaluation?** The Evaluation Team have to produce a final evaluation report. This is due in July 2025 and will be published by the EEF on their website (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>); this final report will not name any schools or individual children.

**THANK YOU FOR READING THIS INFORMATION**

## TDTS STUDY

# PARENT/CARER CHILD WITHDRAWAL FORM

Your school is taking part in the Thinking Doing Talking Science study.

If you **DO NOT** want your child to take part in any assessments/surveys as part of the evaluation of Thinking Doing Talking Science, and you **DO NOT** want their data to be processed as outlined in the Information for Parents/Carers, please complete, sign and return this form **to your child's school OR contact your school in person, or via email or telephone.**

If you are happy for your child to complete the assessments and surveys and their data to be processed as outlined in the Information for Parents/Carers, please do not complete this form - you do not need to do anything.

Your child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child's date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of parent/carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_