

# Evaluation of the Thinking Mathematically Pilot

## *Parent and Carer Information Sheet*

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are writing to you because your child's school is taking part in a maths programme at school called Thinking Mathematically. We want to give you more information about the programme and some research that will be done about it.

### What is Thinking Mathematically?

Thinking Mathematically is a whole-class teaching programme for pupils in Year 7 which aims to improve their ability to solve mathematical problems and their resilience when faced with challenge. It has been designed by Blackpool Research School.

Blackpool Research School is piloting (trying out) Thinking Mathematically in 35 schools this year. Your child's school is one of those schools.

Your child's maths class will be using the Thinking Mathematically programme as part of their timetabled maths lessons. They will do this once a week for 20 weeks across this term and next term.

Blackpool Research School hope that during the programme your child will:

- gain the ability to solve unfamiliar mathematical problems, supported by modelling from their usual maths teacher
- become more resilient when solving unfamiliar problems, developing an understanding of strategies to support them when they get 'stuck'
- get used to enjoying talking about mathematical problems with their teacher and peers

The programme will take place in normal maths lessons and you and your child won't need to do anything differently at home.

### What is the evaluation?

The Education Endowment Foundation ([www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk](http://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)) have asked our team at Oxford MeasurEd to evaluate Thinking Mathematically. That means carrying out research to understand how well the programme works.

Our team will talk to school staff and pupils to find out:

- how much the training provided to teachers helps them to run the programme in schools
- how much the programme helps pupils to solve unfamiliar mathematical problems

The research will help the Education Endowment Foundation decide whether the programme should be expanded to more schools.

## What will the evaluation involve for my child?

Only pupils at some schools will take part in research activities. A researcher from the evaluation team will visit some schools to observe the programme in action in maths lessons. We will invite two pupils at the schools we visit to take part in a **short interview** to talk about the Thinking Mathematically programme. If we have selected your child's school for research activities, we will write to you in advance to give you more information and make sure you are happy for your child to take part.

## How will you use data about my child?

If your child takes part in an interview with our researcher, we will ask them to share their name, surname and gender on a consent form. The [evaluation privacy notice](#) includes more detail about what data will be collected, who will have access to the data, and how it will be used. It also explains how we will meet the requirements of data protection laws including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

## Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions about the **Thinking Mathematically programme**, please contact the delivery team at **Blackpool Research School**:

Simon Cox (Director)

[simon.cox.blackpool@researchschool.org.uk](mailto:simon.cox.blackpool@researchschool.org.uk)

If you have questions about the **evaluation**, please contact the evaluation team at **Oxford MeasurEd**:

[TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk](mailto:TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk)

## What next?

You don't have to do anything for your child to take part in the Thinking Mathematically programme. It will happen as a normal school activity during the school day.

If we select your child's school for a visit, we will give you more information about the observations and pupil interviews. You will then have the opportunity to withdraw from your/your child's data being processed for the evaluation at any time by emailing [TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk](mailto:TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk) or filling out the parent/carer opt-out form. If you have any queries, please email us at [TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk](mailto:TM-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Lydia Marshall  
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