

Stop and Think: Learning Counterintuitive Concepts

Letter for parents and carers

Dear parent/carers,

Over the coming school year (2022/2023), your child's school is taking part in a research project called 'Stop and Think'. This letter contains information about the project and what it means for your child. Please read it carefully.

What is Stop and Think?

- Stop and Think is a fun, software-assisted way of helping pupils to learn difficult concepts in maths and science using quizzes and games.
- It will be used at the start of regular maths and science lessons.
- In [previous research](#), Stop and Think was found to increase pupils' attainment in science (+2 months of progress) and maths (+ 1 month of progress).

How the study will work

- It will run between September 2022 and July 2023.
- The project involves Year 3 and Year 5 pupils. One of these year groups will be randomly selected to receive the software while the other will continue as normal.
- Pupil outcomes in maths and science will be measured in Spring and Summer 2023. All Year 3 and Year 5 pupils will take part so that we can compare the impact of Stop and Think on pupils who have used the software compared with those who have not.
- Pupil will complete two short paper tests in either maths or science. The measures are standardised and age-appropriate. They include:
 1. A science or maths progress test by GL Assessment
 2. A science or maths misconception test by NatCen Social Research and Oxford MeasurEd
- Schools will be able to access the results for pupils' science and maths progress tests via GL Assessment's results portal. Schools will not receive the misconception test results.
- Some pupils taking part in the study might also be invited to a focus group with other pupils to understand what they think of the Stop and Think software. You would be contacted separately to provide consent for this closer to the time in Spring 2023.

Your child's data

- Your child's school will share the following information for all Year 3 and Year 5 pupils in the school with NatCen who will conduct analysis to find out if the software was effective:
 1. Unique Pupil Number (UPN) for the National Pupil Database
 2. Date of birth
 3. Full name
 4. Free School Meal (FSM) status
 5. Year group and class
- Please see the NatCen [study webpage](#) and read their [Privacy Notice](#) for full details.

- We take data security very seriously, and the study will comply fully with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).
- A report about the study will be published in Spring 2024. No individual pupil or school will be identifiable in this report and all details will be fully anonymised.
- If you have any questions about your child's school sharing data with the organisations running the study, please contact the person from your child's school who gave you this letter.

How can I withdraw my child from this study?

If you are happy for your child to participate, you do **not need to do anything** but please keep this form for your information.

If you DO NOT want your child's information to be used in the research, please tick the box below, sign and return the attached form by email or in-person to the person who gave you this letter or your child's class teacher by **16 September 2022**. Your child may still be taught using the Stop and Think software, but they will NOT have to take any tests and their information will not be used in the study results.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact:

- StopAndThinkEvaluation@natcen.ac.uk for questions about the evaluation, the way we will use data, or if you decide at any time that you do not want your child's data to be used.
- stopandthink@bi.team for questions about the software or how it will work in your child's school.

Tick the box below and fill in the details to confirm you DO NOT want your child to take part in this study.

Tick here

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name of your child: _____

Date: _____