

**DATA PROTECTION DECLARATION
TIMSS 2027 HOME QUESTIONNAIRE**

The information provided below applies to TIMSS 2027 data

Identity and contact details of controllers:

Educational Research Centre (hereinafter “ERC”)

DCU St Patrick’s Campus

Drumcondra Road Upper

Dublin 9

D09 AN2F

Ireland

Telephone: +353 1 837 3789

Email: timss.ireland@erc.ie

and

Stichting I.E.A. Secretariaat Nederland (hereinafter “IEA”)

Keizersgracht 311

1016 EE Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 20 625 3625

Email: secretariat@iea.nl

The ERC and IEA have concluded a joint controller agreement, which regulates their respective roles and responsibilities in the processing of personal data.

Data Protection Officer

The ERC’s Data Protection Officer can be reached at data.protection@erc.ie

IEA’s Data Protection Officer can be reached at: dataprotection@iea.nl

For which purpose are data collected and processed?

The data collected during the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) 2027 will be used exclusively for scientific research purposes. TIMSS is an educational research project sponsored by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).

The ERC is administering TIMSS in Ireland at the request of, and on behalf of, the Department of Education and Youth. 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 legal guardians of the students in the participating TIMSS classes at Fourth Class and Second Year are invited to complete the TIMSS 2027 Home Questionnaire in order

to provide the study with information about early learning activities and language at home, occupation of the parents/guardians, country of birth of parents/guardians, educational background of the parents/guardians, home resources, and opinions regarding the child's school.

The parents/guardian(s) of students in the participating schools are asked to complete the TIMSS 2027 Home Questionnaire in order to provide the study with information about students' gender, age, country of birth, home resources, language(s) spoken at home (Fourth Class only), and opinions regarding the school environment and their child's education.

- In order to ensure that TIMSS is based on scientifically selected samples of students and schools, schools are expected to co-operate with the administration of TIMSS in their school where requested to do so (Department of Education Circular 0025/2025).
- Parents/guardians and students will not be disadvantaged in any way by non-completion of the questionnaire, 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 agreeing to the collection and processing of their data within the questionnaire.
- Withdrawal of agreement 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 ERC (at +353 1 837 3789 or timss.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 related 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 asked of parents or legal guardians of students participating in TIMSS classes at Fourth Class and Second Year are collected and stored by the Country when offline administration is used. This is in the form of numbers representing selections (for example, a multiple-choice question), or values (for example, a figure for number of students in the target grade). Data are saved electronically in the format of raw data.

As this survey is administered online, there is information stored regarding login time and device information (for each login), answers and answer history for each question including timestamps and whether the questionnaire has been submitted. In addition, the following log data are captured: all navigation events; each click on a checkbox/radio button; each selection in a drop-down; focus (putting the cursor into the box) and blur (putting the cursor outside the box).

This information cannot, in and of itself, be used to identify individual respondents by name. A numeric unique identifier (ID) is recorded to uniquely identify each data record. The relationship between this ID and the student's name is known to the school coordinator, test administrator, and the team at the ERC conducting the study. It is not, however, shared with IEA or any third parties.

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

TIMSS 2027 data are stored securely 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 is kept separately and subject to technical and organisational measures to ensure that the personal data are not attributed to an identified or identifiable natural person). These data cannot be accessed by any external persons or systems. Moreover, any ERC or IEA employees who access 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 they remain available for analyses. These responses eventually result in a database that allows researchers to compare education systems worldwide (see public accessibility below).

Questionnaire data (IEA) are collected and stored (including backups) on an AWS server hosted in the EU. The IEA SharePoint server where Within School-Sampling (WinW3S) data and data from paper instruments is uploaded by the ERC is hosted by Microsoft within the EU.

All data are submitted without names—only the student ID numbers are shared with IEA.

With whom and how are data from TIMSS shared?

IEA subcontracts the international implementation of TIMSS 2027 to the International Study Center (ISC) based at Boston College, USA. IEA shares the pseudonymised data with the ISC via a secure SharePoint server. The ISC analyses the collected TIMSS 2027 data and produces the International Report. Employees of the ISC who access the data for analyses have signed a confidentiality agreement.

IEA has performed the required Data Transfer Impact Assessment for transfer of personal data outside of the European Economic Area. IEA relies on EC Standard Contractual Clauses (Module II: Controller to Processor) for transferring pseudonymised personal data to the USA.

The ISC shares the pseudonymised data with RTI for the purpose of school sampling. RTI is an authorised sub-processor in the USA. IEA transfers the data using a secure SharePoint server. Employees of RTI who access the data for analyses have signed a confidentiality agreement.

IEA also shares the pseudonymised data with the National Research Center of all other participating countries using a secure SharePoint server.

Related data

Along with the TIMSS 2027 Home Questionnaire, principals, students, and teachers are also asked to complete a context questionnaire. Students are asked to complete achievement tests. Information collected from all of these sources is linked to information collected from parents, and this linked information is in the final version of the international research database.

Public accessibility

The final international research database will be accessible to the public from the following sites:

<https://www.iea.nl/data-tools/repository/timss> (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

<https://timssandgirls.bc.edu/index.html> (Boston, USA)

All data in the database are pseudonymous and, as such, cannot be linked to individuals without the use of additional information, which is kept separately, and its security is ensured by using appropriate technical and organizational measures.

Automated decision-making and profiling

We do not conduct any automated decision-making, including profiling, as referred to in Article 22 GDPR.

Rights of Data Subjects

The GDPR grants the following rights to you as a data subject:

- Right to Withdraw Consent, if processing is based on consent—Article 7 GDPR
- Right to Information—Articles 13 and 14 GDPR
- Right of Access—Article 15 GDPR
- Right to Rectification—Article 16 GDPR
- Right to Erasure—Article 17 GDPR
- Right to Restriction of Processing—Article 18 GDPR
- Right to Data Portability—Article 20 GDPR
- Right to Object—Article 21 GDPR
- The right not to be subjected to decisions only based on automated decision making or profiling—Article 22 GDPR
- Right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority—Article 77 GDPR

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 Commission

6 Pembroke Row

Dublin 2

D02 X963

Ireland

Website: www.dataprotection.ie