

## **Trials for NTS assessment tests (National Test-Style assessment tests)**

### **Parent/Carer Information Sheet**

September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

During this school year, your school is taking part in a trial of new termly assessments in Maths and Reading for Years 1-6, designed to measure progress and to familiarise children with SATs-style questions, content, format and layout at their own age level so that they are used to these by the time they reach their national tests. After the trial, *RS Assessment from Hodder Education* will publish the assessment papers. Your school is helping by becoming one of our *Research Partner Schools*.

**What is the purpose of the trialling?** *RS Assessment from Hodder Education* will use the test scores from pupils at schools taking part in the trial to create standardised scores that will be made available with the assessment papers after the trial to help schools measure their pupils' progress. In order to create the standardised scores, age-standardised scores, and Maths/Reading age scores, we need a sample of at least 1000 children to sit every paper. Their results are aggregated and analysed to create these scores. If we didn't trial the paper, we wouldn't be able to provide any of the standardisation data.

**Why is my school being asked to take part?** Lots of schools across the country have been asked to take part so that we can be sure of a spread of schools that is representative of schools nationally.

**How frequently will pupils sit the papers?** The papers will be sat once a term for this school year only.

**What about pupils with special needs who cannot access their year group's usual test papers?** We ask that schools make any necessary arrangements for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities, as they would for any tests, at the school's discretion, but not to sit one of the trial tests from a different term or year. Schools may choose for a child not to sit the test if they feel that it would discomfort the child in any way.

**What personal data would be required and for what purpose?** On each test paper, each pupil will be asked to fill in their name, date of birth and gender. This information is required in order to correctly allocate pupil scores and measure individual progress term to term, to standardise and age-standardise the tests, and to provide aggregated gender-specific data. This is in the legitimate interest of providing your school with the results of the trial assessments and undertaking the analysis required to produce the standardised scores that will be available to schools using these tests in the future.

**Who will be handling the data?** Hodder & Stoughton Limited (on behalf of its business division, *RS Assessment from Hodder Education*) will process your child's data solely for the purposes of this project as outlined above. Our research partner is AlphaPlus Consultancy Limited. AlphaPlus will provide us with services in respect of analysing the test scores and data collected during the trial. We will share the data collected from your child with AlphaPlus for the purposes of this project but will not share the data with any other third parties. Hodder & Stoughton Limited and AlphaPlus Consultancy Limited will retain your child's personal data (name, date of birth and gender) for administration purposes after the trial for as long as the new assessment papers are published by us. The data will be deleted by Hodder & Stoughton and AlphaPlus when the assessment papers are no longer available. We will ensure that all the data that is submitted to us remains secure.

**Will pupils' data/school data be published anywhere following the trial?** All data will be aggregated (gathered together as a group) and anonymised (all names and identifying data taken out) so that when information is published about the standardisation process, no school or individual child will be identifiable. The information published will be charts of scores to help schools to measure their pupils' progress.

***We are very grateful to your school and its pupils for helping with this project.***

***If you have any further questions, please discuss these with your child's teacher.***