Evidence Based Practice Unit

A partnership of

Anna Freud UCL

Learning Together for Mental Health: Evaluation

Privacy notice- what are the researchers allowed to do with information about your child?

This note is to say what we do with the information about your child as part of this evaluation and your rights about our use of that information. These rights are set out in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (2018), which is designed to protect and support the personal data rights for everyone in the UK.

1. **What is Learning Together for Mental Health?**

Learning Together for Mental Health (LTMH) is a whole-school programme that aims to improve feelings of school belonging, engagement and safety for pupils, as well as reduce bullying, improve mental health and help pupils to do better in school (attainment). The programme and the evaluation is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The LTMH programme is being delivered by an organisation called Place-2-Be. Your child's school may be taking part in this programme.

The LTMH evaluation is a randomised controlled trial (RCT). This means that half of the schools taking part in the evaluation will be randomly assigned by a computer programme to receive LTMH and half of the schools will be randomly assigned to continue with their usual practice.

2. **Who are we?**

We are a team of researchers from Anna Freud, a children's mental health charity. We are working with Ipsos, University College London (UCL) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine carrying out a research trial to find out whether LTMH helps to improve pupils' mental health and pupils to do better in school. Anna Freud (the Data Controller) will collect and be responsible for your child's personal data.

If you have any questions about the content of this notice, then you can contact us at:

- Professor Jessica Deighton: Jessica.Deighton@annafreud.org
- Write to us: Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, 4-8 Rodney Street, London N1 9JH
- Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) is Rachel Hart: DPO@annafreud.org

3. What information about your child will be collected (processed)?

The LTMH trial will include the following types of information about your child:

i. **Child-reported surveys**: This is to understand how children and young people feel about their school, friends, and themselves. It will include questions about their mental health and wellbeing, experiences of bullying, eating behaviours, substance misuse, self-harm and healthcare utilisation. It will also include a question about self-identified gender.

ii. **Administrative information about pupils**: Unique Pupil Number (UPN), name, year group, form group, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, special educational needs (SEN) and whether or not they are eligible to receive free school meals (both now and in the last 6 years). This information will be obtained from your child's school or from the National Pupil Database (NPD). Other NPD data we will collect includes whether your child speaks English as an additional language, your child's rate of attendance at school, whether they have been suspended or excluded from school and their academic achievement (e.g. GCSE scores when they reach Year 11).

iii. **Names**: The researchers will receive the names of pupils at your child's school from the school, to ensure each pupil receives the correct unique link

to the survey and to match survey responses to the right information from the school about each young pupil.

4. What are we using the information for (purpose of data processing)?

Information about your child may be used for three purposes:

A. To find out whether LTMH helps to improve pupils' mental health and pupils to do better in school. Data from pupils in all schools will be used for this purpose.
B. To help schools understand the kinds of difficulties their pupils are experiencing (a 'needs assessment'), which will help schools decide what kind of support should be put in place. Only data from pupils in schools randomly allocated to LTMH will be used for this purpose, and information used to provide the needs assessment is aggregated and anonymised, providing a summary of strengths and needs across the pupil population within each participating school.
C. To inform a health evaluation, which is designed to find out whether LTMH helps to improve pupils' health outcomes (e.g. levels of anxiety and depression, eating behaviours, self-harming behaviours and substance misuse) and reduce the use of relevant health services. Data from pupils in all schools will be used for this purpose.

Your child's school may be in the groups of schools involved in purposes A, B and C.

5. Why can we process your child's data (lawful basis for processing)?

The lawful basis for processing personal data is Legitimate interest, Article 6(1)(f). This means that, legally, we are able to process information about your child because there is **legitimate interest** and value in learning more about how best to support young people's mental health, helping them to feel like they belong in school and do better there.

The lawful basis for processing sensitive information such as mental health and ethnicity (Special Category data) is Public Interest, Article 9(2)(j). This means that the important aims of this trial are in the **public interest**.

6. Who we share data with

For purposes B and C (the needs assessment and health evaluation; see section 4, above) we may share pseudonymised information about your child with another team of researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who have been commissioned to carry out those aspects of the research. This will include child-reported survey data matched with information provided by your school such as ethnicity, free school meal eligibility and SEND. We will not share identifiable information such as pupil names for these purposes.

For purpose B (the needs assessment, see section 4 above) anonymised information about your child will be shared with another team of researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who have been commissioned to carry out this aspect of the programme. Data for the Needs Assessment will be anonymised so no child can be identified. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will also have access to pseudonymised information about your child for the health evaluation (pseudonymised information means that individual pupils won't be readily identifiable and can only be linked back to the individual by a small number of people who have access to a linking number).

Data summaries displaying average scores of the pupils in your child's year group at their school, compared to the average for all schools taking part in the project nationally, will be shared with their school and the organisation supporting them to carry out LTMH, Place2Be. The London School of Hygiene and Topical Medicine will share these summaries with Place2Be for distribution. These data summaries do not contain any personal data and your child cannot be identified from this information.

If completing the survey makes pupils feel like they need some help but not immediately, they can say so by ticking a box in the online survey. If a pupil indicates that they would like some help this way, the research team at Anna Freud will contact a named person at your school to pass on this information

(including pupil name) so that this can be explored and help provided if needed. Once notified, schools will follow their own safeguarding procedures.
From time-to-time we may be required by law to disclose your child's personal data with third party organisations (for example if a court ordered us to disclose certain information), however, this is very rare.

7. Where will we store your child's data?

Data will be safely stored on secure IT systems at UCL and deposited within the Office for National Statistics Secure Research Environment. Anonymous data will also be held by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for the 'Needs Assessment'. We will be taking appropriate measures to ensure that data about your child always remains secure. We will not transfer any identifiable information outside the European Economic Area (EEA).

8. How long will we keep (retain) your child's data?

Any identifiable data relating to your child (e.g., your child's name) will be held securely until all evaluation activity is complete, 31st December 2031, after which it will be securely disposed of. Any data that Anna Freud or London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine do keep (for a maximum of 10 years for further research) will not include your child's name or any other information that could identify your child.

At the end of the project we will archive the information in 3(i) and 3(ii) above, from/about all pupils in participating schools in the EEF data archive, hosted within the Office for National Statistics' Secure Research Service. Once archived, the evaluation data is retained to allow other, specially approved researchers to use this dataset for specified research purposes. We will not include any pupil names in the archived dataset, instead pupil data is pseudonymised through the use of a unique ID and cannot be re-identified by researchers. The EEF, the funders of the research, becomes data controller for the data once it has been archived and has passed the required quality and data protection checks. This means that the EEF will become responsible for the proper handling of your child's information. You can find out more information by accessing the privacy notice for the EEF's data archive here.

9. Your data rights

Under data protection law, you and your child have rights in relation to the information that we hold about them. The rights available to you depend on our reason for processing your information and may only apply in certain circumstances. You can check the Information Commissioner's website for more information [https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/]. Your rights are:

- The right to be informed
- The right of access
- The right to correct data
- The right to be forgotten
- The right to restrict processing
- The right to data portability
- The right to object to our processing

Please contact us at DPO@annafreud.org if you wish to make a request with regard to any of your rights. You are not required to pay a charge for exercising your rights. We generally have one month within which to respond to your request.

10. Withdrawal from the evaluation

If your child no longer wants to take part in the LTMH evaluation, then they can withdraw at any time until 31st March 2031. You don't have to tell us why your child wants to withdraw and there is no disadvantage to you or to them. If you or your child chooses to withdraw from the study after initially taking part, they will be withdrawn from that point forward. Any data collected up to the point of withdrawal will remain in the study records and continue to be used unless you explicitly request for it to be deleted (known as the 'right to be forgotten').

Your child or you can ask us to delete your personal data (e.g. answers to individual survey questions). However, please note that once your personal data has been processed for the purposes of that study phase (at the point analysis has begun), we cannot amend, restrict or delete it. Doing so would compromise the integrity of the study and its results.

If your child does not complete the survey at school, we will still use information about your child that is collected from their school or obtained from the National Pupil Database unless you as their parent/carer have opted them out. For requests to opt out, please contact LTMH@annafreud.org

11. Making a complaint

If you feel that we may not be handling your or your child's data appropriately or if you have any queries or concerns about this, you can contact us at DPO@annafreud.org.

You can also, at any time, make a complaint about our processing of your child's data to the Information Commissioner: https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us. If you want to take a concern further, then you can also contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee: ethics@ucl.ac.uk.