



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child has been selected to participate in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Study. I am writing to you as the National Programme Manager for PISA 2025 to explain a little more about the study, including the data protection arrangements.

### What is PISA?

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is the world's largest international study of education systems, developed by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Every three years, PISA measures 15-year-olds' ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges. Your child's school has been selected to participate, alongside other schools in Wales. The PISA 2025 study makes it possible to evaluate education systems worldwide, by measuring the knowledge and skills of pupils close to the end of compulsory education.

### What is involved?

The study will take place within the normal school day and involves your child completing a computer-based assessment with multiple choice and open-ended questions in the subjects of reading, mathematics and science, as well as a short questionnaire about their home life, school and interest in subjects, to help us understand how they contribute to academic outcomes. Part of the questionnaire will ask your child about the main job/occupation and education level of any parents/guardians and to write a brief explanation of what the job/occupation involves, so you may want to discuss this with them ahead of time.

Your child doesn't need to do anything to prepare and participation will not affect your child's results or progress in school. If there are any questions they do not wish to answer, they may leave them blank. However, if you or your child would like to see some examples of the type of questions asked, you can do so by visiting [this website](#).

### What are the benefits?

As a thank you for participating in this important study your child will also receive:

- A personalised certificate from the Welsh Government.
- An exam wellbeing guide for their upcoming exam season.
- 8 Tempo Time Credits – these credits will be provided after the study as an acknowledgement of their time and effort in participating in PISA. They can be exchanged for a range of activities at local venues across Wales. Examples include a visit to a Cadw or a National Trust site, a tour of the Principality Stadium, local fitness classes, cinema/theatre tickets or an online fitness class. You can see the full list of opportunities [here](#). There may be some changes in what opportunities there are on this website over time. Please see pages 4 – 7 for more information on Tempo and your child's data protection rights.

### What information will be collected in PISA and why?





The privacy and data security of the pupils and schools we work with is very important to us and no individual or school will be identified or identifiable in any reporting. All data from the study will be pseudonymised i.e. your child's name and anything else which could be used to identify them or their school will be removed and replaced with a code. This data will be combined with responses from other pupils taking part and compared with results of pupils around the world.

The purpose of the study is to produce statistics on children's learning and development, to learn more about how best to support children with their science, reading and mathematics education. The Welsh Government has commissioned Pearson UK and their partners at the Oxford University Centre for Educational Assessment (OUCEA) and University College London (UCL) to carry out the PISA 2025 study.

For the purposes of this research, The Welsh Government and its approved contractors will link the information to other information The Welsh Government already holds (such as on the National Student Database) or that it is lawfully permitted to access from other sources. This is to avoid repeatedly asking participants to give us information that we already hold. We may also share your child's pseudonymised data with other people and organisations who want to use it for research. A full privacy notice, which sets out how the information collected in this study will be used, is available [here](#).

## Participation

We would like to thank you and your child for their participation in PISA, their contribution is highly valued. Your child will also have received a letter about PISA. If you or they have any questions or concerns about the study or what is involved, please get in touch with the PISA School Coordinator at your school, this is usually the Examinations Officer.

Alternatively, if you are unable to reach the PISA School Coordinator at your child's school, you can contact the PISA Support Team via email: [pisacymru@pearson.com](mailto:pisacymru@pearson.com), who will be able to direct you to the appropriate person. Please include the school's name and your child's name in any correspondence. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**Associate Professor Grace Grima**  
**National Programme Manager, PISA 2025** <https://pisa25.pearson.com/>  
**Director of International Assessments – Pearson Assessment Services**



Your child has been selected to take part in the Programme for International Pupil Assessment (PISA Study 2025).



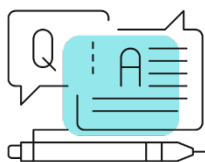
PISA is the world's largest educational assessment study and pupils from over 90 countries participate. Your child will participate alongside other schools from around the world.



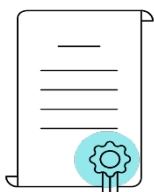
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Welsh Government



In their school, your child is one of a group of pupils in year 11 who have been randomly selected to complete a computer-based assessment and questionnaire.



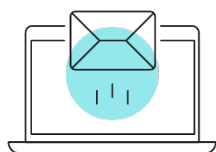
No revision is required, we just ask pupils to try their best and answer what they can.



As a thank you for participating, on completion of the assessment, your child will receive a PISA certificate, 8 Tempo Time Credits, and an exam wellbeing guide.



All PISA results are pseudonymised, meaning your child's name and school will not be identifiable in published findings. Your child's school also won't receive their individual results back.



Please contact the school's PISA School Coordinator with any questions about the study, if you are unable to reach them, let us know via email: [pisacymru@pearson.com](mailto:pisacymru@pearson.com).



For more information, visit our PISA 2025 website: <https://pisa25.pearson.com/> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

## Giving you a **thank you** for your time with Tempo Time Credits!

Welsh Government is expanding its partnership with Tempo Time Credits to recognise and thank all students for the time they give when participating in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2025.

### Who is Tempo?

Tempo is a charity serving communities in Wales & England engaging, encouraging, and enabling community participation and supporting pathways to volunteering. We are the thread that connects people, communities, services, and businesses.

You can visit <https://wearetempo.org/> to find out more about us and our work. When your child has completed PISA, they can earn Tempo Time Credits as a thank you for participating.

### What are Tempo Time Credits?

Tempo Time Credits are a way to value volunteering, participation and skill sharing. People receive Time Credits as a 'thank you' for the time that they give to get involved, share their skills and volunteer. They can then exchange these Time Credits to access various activities and experiences across our wide range of recognition partners in Wales and England – on things such as theatre/cinema tickets, entry to visitor attractions, heritage sites, or leisure facilities and much more!

Visit <https://tempotimecredits.org/activities> to see all the places where you can currently use Time Credits.

### How do Time Credits Work?

We use a **digital Time Credit system**, which works very simply.

Your child will be provided with a link/QR code to set up an online Tempo Time Credit account so that they can receive, track and use their Time Credits. This is very easy to do (it just requires their name, email address, postcode and a password).

**Your child will then receive 8 Time Credits for the time that they have given to participate in PISA 2025.**

Your child will be able search for activities that they can use their Time Credits on and see all the relevant information about that activity. They will then be given clear step by step instructions on how to use their Time Credits for that activity/experience.

Your child can also gift Tempo Time Credits to others or use their Time Credits so someone can accompany them on their chosen activity/experience.

There is no expiry date for Time Credits, nor tax implications and they are not counted as income, so they don't affect any benefits that someone may be receiving.

### **TEMPO TIME CREDITS PRIVACY POLICY**

**Hi, we'd like to tell you a bit more about our Privacy and Data Policies. This is important, please read through this.**

We're committed to protecting the user's privacy and being clear about how we use information we hold. This Policy explains when and why we collect personal information about Time Credits members, and how we use it.

Sometimes, we might need to change this policy so please check the privacy policy page online occasionally to ensure that you're happy with any changes. This Policy was last updated in April 2024. It is accessible at: <https://wearetempo.org/privacy-policy/>

### **Who are we?**

We're Tempo and we operate Time Credits across the UK. We're registered as an England and Wales Charity with the Charity Number 1135143. Our registered address is The Maltings, East Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF24 5EA.

### **How do we collect information from the user?**

To operate our Time Credit Network, we ask the user for personal information in a number of ways.

- through our Membership form when the user signs up to earn Time Credits
- when the user signs up to our newsletters
- when the user helps us evaluate our Time Credit work.

### **What type of information is collected from the user?**

If the user wants us to send them newsletters and marketing material, we collect their name, address, job title and organisation they work for if relevant, email address, IP address, and information regarding what pages on our website they visit.

If the user registers on our platform, we will collect their name, address, email address and date of birth. We ask for the user's consent to also collect information on their health, income and ethnicity to help us learn who is using our services so we can improve them.

### **How is the user's information used?**

We may use the user's information to:

- to deliver services as part of your Time Credits membership such as sharing Time Credit earning and recognition opportunities, and recording the user's Time Credit earning opportunities.
- to record the user's Time Credit balances and transactions in future.
- to provide newsletters and marketing about our services that the user has chosen to receive. These may include information about buying Time Credits services, new services we offer or opportunities to earn or use Time Credits.
- to carry out our obligations arising from any contracts entered into by the user and us;
- to help evaluate our services so we can improve them.

- to seek the user's views or comments on the services we provide.
- to notify the user of changes to our services.
- to process a grant or job application.

### **Who has access to the user's information?**

If the user provided their information to receive newsletters or marketing material, Tempo never shares or sells access to their information to anyone else. Only Tempo will use this information.

If we've collected the user's personal information to join the Time Credit Network, their information will be shared and accessible to Tempo, the groups or voluntary organisations they earn Time Credits with and our independent evaluation partner. We ask the user's permission to share their information with these organisations when they join the Network, and need to do this so we can provide the Time Credits service to them. If the user has agreed for us to do so, we may share their information with the funder of their local Time Credit Network, for example, if your local Council is taking over running your Time Credit Network.

Third Party Service Providers working on our behalf also help us deliver the Time Credits Network. When we use third party service providers, we only share the personal information that is necessary to deliver the service and we have a contract in place that requires them to keep your information secure and not to use it for their own direct marketing purposes.

There may be times when we are required to share the user's information by law, for example, by a court order or for the purposes of prevention of fraud or other crime.

### **How long do we keep the user's information?**

If the user is registered on our platform, we'll keep their information for the duration of their membership, and remove your data securely within 18 months of when we're notified they have left the Network. If the user has signed up to our newsletters, we'll keep their information until they choose to unsubscribe from the service. Sometimes, we're required to keep the user's information longer than this to meet UK law.

### **How can the user ask us to update the information we hold on them, or ask to be removed from our records?**

The user can contact us to change the information we hold on them, how they'd like us to contact them or to have their information safely removed from our records at any time:

### **If the user does not want to receive newsletters or marketing materials, they can opt out by:**

- clicking the 'unsubscribe' link at the bottom of newsletters
- contact [dataprotectionofficer@wearetempo.org](mailto:dataprotectionofficer@wearetempo.org)
- Phone us on 029 2056 6132

### **If the user is registered on our platform and wants to change the information we hold**

**on them, or end your registration they can:**

- Contact the group or organisation the user is earning Time Credits with and ask them to update the information we hold on the user or remove the user from the Network.
- Email [hello@wearetempo.org](mailto:hello@wearetempo.org)
- Phone us on 029 2056 6132

**Online services and privacy**

Tempo uses a number of online services to deliver Time Credits.

When the user gives us personal information over the internet, we take steps to ensure that it's treated securely. Any sensitive information is encrypted and protected with the following software: 128 Bit encryption on SSL.

Non-sensitive details (the user's email address etc.) are transmitted normally over the Internet, and this can never be guaranteed to be 100% secure. As a result, while we strive to protect the user's personal information, we cannot guarantee the security of any information they transmit to us, and the user does so at their own risk. Once we receive the user's information, we make our best effort to ensure its security on our systems.

**Where do we store the user's information on the internet?**

We ensure that all the services we use to store the user's information are held on servers within the European Union ("EU"). However, sometimes we may use third party services that are located outside of the EU. These countries may not have similar data protection laws to the UK.

By submitting their personal data to us, the user is agreeing to this transfer, storing or processing. If we transfer the user's information outside of the EU in this way, we will take steps to ensure that appropriate security measures are taken with the aim of ensuring that the user's privacy rights continue to be protected as outlined in this Policy.

**Use of 'cookies'**

Like many other websites, our websites uses cookies. 'Cookies' are small amounts information stored on the user's computer, tablet or smart phone and help us provide a better experience for you online. They collect statistical data about the user's browsing actions and patterns and do not identify the user as an individual.

If the user does not want us to use cookies, they can turn off cookie use in their internet browser.