

The OTTO CLUB Evaluation

Parent/Carer Information Sheet

Dear parent/carers,

Over the 2025-26 school year, your school is taking part in a research project called The OTTO Club. This letter contains information about the project and what it means for your child. Please read it carefully.

What is The OTTO Club?

- The OTTO Club programme was developed by a team of occupational therapists to improve pupils' handwriting postural stability and fine motor skills.
- It is a 10-week programme which is delivered by the class teacher and/or teaching assistant to the whole class.
- Sessions are delivered as part of the literacy lesson (45 minutes – 1 hour) and are followed by daily follow-up activities (10-15 minutes).

Who is running the study?

This is a major study and several different organisations are collaborating on it. They are:

- **The National Centre for Social Research ([NatCen](#))** - *Responsible for evaluating the programme.* NatCen is Britain's largest and oldest social research organisation. They have delivered several school-based studies for charities and the government about what works in education, and are experts at research that involves pupils, young people and teachers.
- **The OTTO Club** – *Responsible for developing the intervention, recruitment for the evaluation, and delivery of the training.*
- **Education Endowment Foundation ([EEF](#))** – *Responsible for funding the study and overall management of programme delivery and evaluation.* The EEF is an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement. They run projects to test the effectiveness of education programmes to improve outcomes for children across the UK.

How the study will work

- It will run between September 2025 and May 2026.
- The project involves one Year 1 class per school. Some schools will be randomly selected to receive the programme while others will continue teaching handwriting as usual.
- To understand if the programme is effective, pupils in the selected Year 1 class will complete an assessment which focuses on their handwriting, fine motor skills, postural control, and attitudes towards handwriting. This will take place in September/October 2025 and again in January/February 2026.
- This will involve trained assessors visiting the school and carrying out the assessment. A teacher will be present during the assessment. It will take no longer than 20 minutes per pupil on each occasion. Teachers will also share participating pupils' end-of-year writing attainment scores with the evaluators. The evaluation team will then be able to compare results from pupils who received the intervention and those who didn't, to see whether it was effective.

- There will be separate evaluation activities for some teachers taking part in the study, including taking part in an interview to discuss their thoughts on the programme, and having a handwriting lesson observed by a researcher from NatCen.

Your child's data

- To run the programme, your school will be required to securely share information about pupils taking part in the study (e.g., their first name and surname, date of birth, Unique Pupil Number (UPN), and whether they receive free school meals) with NatCen.
- We take data security very seriously, and the study will comply fully with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- A report about the study will be published in the 2026-2027 school year. No individual pupil or school will be identifiable in this report - all details will be fully anonymised.
- Please read the [Privacy Notice](#) for full details.
- If you have any questions about your school sharing data with the organisations' running the study, please contact Miss Plume or Mrs Margerison at school.

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 on the next page, sign and return the attached form to your school by **Friday 19th September**. They may still be taught using The OTTO Club resources and activities, but they will NOT take part in any of the evaluation assessments, and their information will NOT be shared with the evaluation team and used in the study results. Please be aware that if your child's school participates in a lesson observation, your child will not be opted out of this lesson. However, the focus of the observations is on the delivery of the lesson and not individual children, so your child will not be identified. If you have any questions about the study, please contact:

- ottoevaluation@natcen.ac.uk for questions about the evaluation, the way we will use data, or if you decide at any time that you don't want your child's data to be used.
- Info@ottoclub.co.uk for questions about The OTTO Club programme 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 participate in this project.

Tick here

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name of your child: _____

School: _____

Date: _____