



Millbrook Junior School

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Headteacher: Mrs Danielle Warren



3rd March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are aware, this academic year we have been using IXL in our MILO sessions. They have requested for us to take part in a study evaluating the efficacy of IXL and are asking for your permission for your child's data to be used within this study, which is voluntary. Below you will find information from IXL, which outlines the study.

Please confirm using the 'School Gateway' app that you have read this IXL study information letter by clicking on the consent button. You will need to write in the comment box 'yes' or 'no' for your response to the following question:

Do you give permission for your child's data to be used within the study?

Please complete this by **Friday 24th March 2023** so that we can then inform IXL of the children's data that can be included in the study.

Miss Claypole – MILO lead

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this research is to evaluate whether a popular supplemental Maths and English program (IXL) improves learning among Year 6 pupils. IXL (<https://www.ixl.co.uk/>) is a personalised Maths and English instruction program that adapts to pupils' individual levels of understanding and provides teachers with feedback on individual pupil performance and opportunities for grouping pupils who are learning the same material. Previous research suggests that pupils who use IXL more, perform better on standardised assessments and the current study would allow us to examine the relationship between IXL usage and KS2 SAT performance.

We would like your permission for the school to share your child's KS2 SAT Maths and English test results for the current school year (2022-23) with IXL Learning's research team, which is coordinating this study.

What does participation involve?

Children will not be asked to do anything different from regular instruction. The data that the school would share with IXL Learning would include your child's name, demographics (gender, ethnicity, free school meal eligibility, special education status and English language learner status) and their KS2 SAT Maths and English test results for the current school year. If you give permission for your child's data to be shared, your child's



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demographic information and KS2 SAT Maths and English test results will be shared with IXL Learning using a secure, GDPR-compliant file sharing system.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to pupils taking part in this study, but we hope the information we get from this study helps us learn whether IXL helps pupils perform better in Maths and English.

Are there any possible disadvantages or risks from taking part?

Risks of participating are small. A potential, but unlikely, risk is a breach of confidentiality. Many steps have been taken by the research team to make sure that the confidentiality of all data collected are protected. Pupil names, demographics, and KS2 SAT results would be shared using a secure, GDPR-compliant file sharing system.

How will confidentiality be protected?

After joining test results to information about pupils' IXL usage, all pupil names will be removed, and the original data files will be securely deleted. De-identified data files will then be stored on a password-protected drive that is maintained by IXL Learning's Information Technology department. Access to these files will be restricted such that they are only accessible by members of the research team. Reports from this study will never contain information that could be used to identify individual pupils. The information collected about your child in this study will not be used for future research studies.

Who is the contact person for this study?

If you have questions, complaints, or concerns about this study, you can contact Dr. Bozhidar M. Bashkov, Manager of Research at IXL Learning, at bbashkov@ixl.com.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether you would like your child's information to be shared with IXL Learning for this study. There will be no penalty if you do not participate. Your decision about whether your child's information is shared will have no effect on the way your child is treated at school.

Consent

I have read the information in this parental permission form and had the opportunity to ask questions. I may make a copy of this parental permission form to keep.