

Causation



A 'cause and effect' relationship between two things, where the occurrence, existence or change of one thing actually causes the other.

Control group



In a randomised controlled trial, the group of participants who do not receive an intervention. They are used to provide a point of comparison for the intervention group.

Correlation



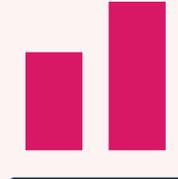
A relationship between two things; positive correlation means that as one rises, so does the other, whilst negative correlation means one falls as the other rises. Correlation does not necessarily mean that one thing is caused by the other.

Data



In research, information gathered together and used for analysis; this can be quantitative (numerical) or qualitative (non-numerical, for example responses from open survey questions and interviews).

Effect size



A standardised way of quantifying the difference between two groups (e.g. a control group and an intervention group), widely used to express the size of the effect of an intervention.

Empirical research



Research that involves collecting data through direct observation and experience. This could be experimental research, where an intervention is introduced and measured, or could simply involve observation and measurement of the current situation.

Ethics



In research, the principles that govern how research should be carried out, including ensuring that it does not cause risk or harm to participant and that data is anonymised.

Evidence-informed practice



Using a combination of evidence from academic research, professional expertise, and evaluation in context to inform decision-making and enable effective practice.

Hawthorne effect



The phenomenon where participants in research change their behaviour simply because they know they are being studied.

Intervention



In education research, a change to, or introduction of, a new approach; in an RCT, the 'intervention group' is the group with whom a new approach is trialled, with outcomes being compared with a 'control group' who do not receive the intervention.

Literature review



A review of research related to a particular area, where the research literature is described, synthesised and evaluated. This is typically the first stage of a research project.

Peer review



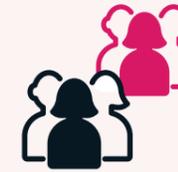
A process where a research paper is evaluated by a group of experts in the field to ensure its quality and suitability for publication; if a journal is 'peer reviewed' it means all the research articles it contains have been peer reviewed.

Practitioner research



Research conducted by people working actively within the field as opposed to full time academics, for example a teacher carrying out research in their own setting.

Randomised controlled trial



A research approach where participants are randomly assigned to either an 'intervention group', who receive the intervention, or a 'control group', who do not, so that their outcomes can be compared to see if the intervention has an effect. Often referred to as an RCT.

Sample size



In education research, the number of participants in a research study, usually expressed as 'n'. A larger sample size means greater confidence in the results seen.

Teacher journal clubs



An approach to professional development where groups of teachers meet regularly to discuss a piece of research and consider how it can inform their practice.