



DATA PROTECTION POLICY

Last review:	March 2023
Next review:	March 2025
Revised by:	Robert Draper, DPO
Approved by:	Governing Body

The College collects and uses certain types of personal information about staff, pupils, parents and other individuals who come into contact with the College in order to provide education and associated functions.

The College may be required by law to collect and use certain types of information to comply with statutory obligations related to employment, education and safeguarding, and this policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with properly and securely and in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other related legislation.

The UK GDPR applies to all computerised data and manual files if they come within the definition of a filing system. Broadly speaking, a filing system is one where the data is structured in some way so that it is searchable on the basis of specific criteria (so you would be able to use something like the individual's name to find their information), and if this is the case, it does not matter where the information is physically located.

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice, or amendments made to data protection legislation, and shall be reviewed every 2 years.

Personal Data

'Personal data' is information that identifies an individual, and includes information that would identify an individual to the person to whom it is disclosed because of any special knowledge that they have or can obtain.

A sub-set of personal data is known as 'special category personal data'. This special category data is information that relates to:

- race or ethnic origin;
- political opinions;
- religious or philosophical beliefs;
- trade union membership;
- physical or mental health;
- an individual's sex life or sexual orientation;
- genetic or biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person.

Special Category information is given special protection, and additional safeguards apply if this information is to be collected and used.

Information relating to criminal convictions shall only be held and processed where there is legal authority to do so.

The College does not intend to seek or hold sensitive personal data about staff or pupils except where the College has been notified of the information, or it comes to the College's attention via legitimate means (e.g. a grievance) or needs to be sought and held in compliance with a legal obligation or as a matter of good practice.

Staff or pupils are under no obligation to disclose to the College their race or ethnic origin, political or religious beliefs, whether or not they are a trade union member or details of their sexual life (save to the extent that details of marital status and / or parenthood are needed for other purposes, e.g. pension entitlements).

The Data Protection Principles

The six data protection principles as laid down in the UK GDPR are followed at all times:

- personal data shall be processed fairly, lawfully and in a transparent manner, and processing shall not be lawful unless one of the processing conditions can be met;
- personal data shall be collected for specific, explicit, and legitimate purposes, and shall not be further processed in a manner incompatible with those purposes;
- personal data shall be adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for the purpose(s) for which it is being processed;
- personal data shall be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
- personal data processed for any purpose(s) shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose / those purposes;
- personal data shall be processed in such a way that ensures appropriate security of the data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction, or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

In addition to this, the College is committed to ensuring that at all times, anyone dealing with personal data shall be mindful of the individual's rights under the law.

The College is committed to complying with these principles at all times. This means that the College will:

- inform individuals as to the purpose of collecting any information from them, as and when we ask for it;
- be responsible for checking the quality and accuracy of the information;
- regularly review the records held to ensure that information is not held longer than is necessary, and that it has been held in accordance with the data retention policy;
- ensure that when information is authorised for disposal it is done appropriately;
- ensure appropriate security measures to safeguard personal information whether it is held in paper files or on our computer system, and follow the relevant security policy requirements at all times;
- share personal information with others only when it is necessary and legally appropriate to do so;
- set out clear procedures for responding to requests for access to personal information known as subject access requests;
- report any breaches of the UK GDPR in accordance with the procedure

Conditions for Processing

- The individual has given consent that is specific to the particular type of processing activity, and that consent is informed, unambiguous and freely given.
- The processing is necessary for the performance of a contract, to which the individual is a party, or is necessary for the purpose of taking steps with regards to entering into a contract with the individual, at their request.
- The processing is necessary for the performance of a legal obligation to which we are subject.
- The processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the individual or another.
- The processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest, or in the exercise of official authority vested in us.
- The processing is necessary for a legitimate interest of the College or that of a

third party, except where this interest is overridden by the rights and freedoms of the individual concerned.

Use of Personal Data by the College

The College holds personal data on pupils, staff and other individuals such as visitors. In each case, the personal data must be treated in accordance with the data protection principles as outlined above.

Pupils

- The personal data held regarding pupils includes contact details, assessment/examination results, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs, family circumstances, court orders or criminal petitions which might affect your child's welfare or happiness any relevant medical information, and photographs.
- We will process financial information about you in relation to the payment of fees. In some cases we get information about you from third parties such as credit reference agencies or from your child's previous school(s).
- We may hold information about bankruptcy petitions and statutory demands.
- We use a third party organisation called Double First to assist us with various administrative processes and to provide the parent portal. We hold information about you and your child within this programme.
- The data is used in order to support the education of the pupils, to monitor and report on their progress, to provide appropriate pastoral care, and to assess how well the College as a whole is doing, together with any other uses normally associated with this provision in a school environment.
- The College may make use of limited personal data (such as contact details) relating to pupils, and their parents or guardians for fundraising, marketing or promotional purposes and to maintain relationships with pupils of the academy, but only where consent has been provided to this.

In particular, the College may:

- transfer information to any association society or club set up for the purpose of maintaining contact with pupils or for fundraising, marketing or promotional purposes relating to the College but only where consent has been obtained first;
- make personal data, including sensitive personal data, available to staff for planning curricular or extra-curricular activities;
- keep the pupil's previous school informed of his academic progress and achievements e.g. sending a copy of the school reports for the pupil's first year at the College to their previous school;
- use photographs of pupils in accordance with the Photograph Policy.

Any wish to limit or object to any use of personal data should be notified to us in writing, such notice will be acknowledged by the College in writing. If, in the view of the Data Protection Officer, the objection cannot be maintained, the individual will be given written reasons why the College cannot comply with their request.

Staff

The personal data held about staff will include contact details, employment history, information relating to career progression, information relating to DBS checks, and photographs. The data is used to comply with legal obligations placed on the College in relation to employment, and the education of children in a school environment. The College may pass information to other regulatory authorities where appropriate, and

may use names and photographs of staff in publicity and promotional material. Personal data will also be used when giving references.

Staff should note that information about disciplinary action may be kept for longer than the duration of the sanction. Although treated as “spent” once the period of the sanction has expired, the details of the incident may need to be kept for a longer period.

Any wish to limit or object to the uses to which personal data is to be put should be notified to the Data Protection Officer who will ensure that this is recorded, and adhered to if appropriate. If the Data Protection Officer is of the view that it is not appropriate to limit the use of personal data in the way specified, the individual will be given written reasons why the College cannot comply with their request.

Other Individuals

The College may hold personal information in relation to other individuals who have contact with the school, such as volunteers and guests. Such information shall be held only in accordance with the data protection principles, and shall not be kept longer than necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection.

Security of Personal Data

The College will take reasonable steps to ensure that members of staff will only have access to personal data where it is necessary for them to carry out their duties.

All staff will be made aware of this Policy and their duties under the UK GDPR. The College will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all personal information is held securely and is not accessible to unauthorised persons.

For further details as regards security of IT systems, please refer to the ICT Policy.

Disclosure of Personal Data to Third Parties

The following list includes the most usual reasons that the College will authorise disclosure of personal data to a third party:

- in accordance with our legal obligations, we may share information with local authorities, the Independent Schools Inspectorate and the Department for Education, for example, where we have any safeguarding concerns;
- for the prevention or detection of crime;
- for the purpose of, or in connection with, legal proceedings (including prospective legal proceedings) or for the purpose of obtaining legal advice;
- to consultants, experts and other advisors to assist the College in fulfilling its obligations and to help run the College properly;
- to UK Visas and Immigration to ensure that your child has a right to study in this country;
- with our insurance company, for example, where there is a serious incident at the College;
- with other schools or educational establishments to which you intend to send your child if you have unpaid fees while your child is at the College;
- to provide information to another educational establishment to which a pupil is transferring;
- to give a confidential reference relating to a current or former employee, volunteer or pupil;
- for the assessment of any tax or duty;

- where it is necessary to exercise a right or obligation conferred or imposed by law upon the College (other than an obligation imposed by contract);
- for the purpose of, or in connection with, legal proceedings (including prospective legal proceedings);
- for research, historical and statistical purposes (so long as this neither supports decisions in relation to individuals, nor causes substantial damage or distress);
- to publish the results of public examinations or other achievements of pupils of the College;
- to disclose details of a pupil's medical condition where it is in the pupil's interests to do so, for example for medical advice, insurance purposes or to organisers of school trips;
- to provide information to the Examination Authority as part of the examination process;
- the DfE uses information about pupils for statistical purposes, to evaluate and develop education policy and to monitor the performance of the nation's education service as a whole. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them. On occasion the DfE may share the personal data with other Government Departments or agencies strictly for statistical or research purposes.

The College may receive requests from third parties (i.e. those other than the data subject, the College, and employees of the College) to disclose personal data it holds about pupils, their parents or guardians, staff or other individuals.

This information will not generally be disclosed unless one of the specific exemptions under data protection legislation which allow disclosure applies; or where necessary for the legitimate interests of the individual concerned or the College.

All requests for the disclosure of personal data must be sent to the Data Protection Officer, who will review and decide whether to make the disclosure, ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to verify the identity of that third party before making any disclosure.

Confidentiality of Pupil Concerns

Where a pupil seeks to confidentially raise concerns with a member of staff and expressly withholds their agreement to their personal data being disclosed to their parents or guardian, the College will maintain confidentiality unless it has reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil does not fully understand the consequences of withholding their consent, or where the College believes disclosure will be in the best interests of the pupil or other pupils (please see the [Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy](#)).

Subject Access Requests

Anybody who makes a request to see any personal information held about them by the College is making a subject access request.

All information relating to the individual, including that held in electronic or manual files should be considered for disclosure, provided that they constitute a "filing system".

All requests should be acknowledged by the Data Protection Officer within 3 working

days of receipt, and must be dealt with in full without delay and at the latest within one month of receipt.

Where a child or young person does not have sufficient understanding to make his or her own request (usually those under the age of 12, or over 12 but with a special educational need which makes understanding their information rights more difficult), a person with parental responsibility can make a request on their behalf. The Data Protection Officer must, however, be satisfied that:

- the child or young person lacks sufficient understanding; and
- the request made on behalf of the child or young person is in their interests.

Any individual, including a child or young person with ownership of their own information rights, may appoint another person to request access to their records.

In such circumstances the College must have written evidence that the individual has authorised the person to make the application and the Data Protection Officer must be confident of the identity of the individual making the request and of the authorisation of the individual to whom the request relates.

Access to records will be refused in instances where an exemption applies, for example, information sharing may place the individual at risk of significant harm or jeopardise police investigations into any alleged offence(s).

A subject access request can be made verbally or in writing.

The College may ask for written confirmation of the request and for any further information reasonably required to locate the information.

An individual only has the automatic right to access information about themselves, and care needs to be taken not to disclose the personal data of third parties where consent has not been given, or where seeking consent would not be reasonable, and it would not be appropriate to release the information. Particular care must be taken in the case of any complaint or dispute to ensure confidentiality is protected.

All files must be reviewed by the Data Protection Officer before any disclosure takes place. Access will not be granted before this review has taken place.

Where all the data in a document cannot be disclosed a permanent copy should be made and the data obscured or retyped if this is more sensible. A copy of the full document and the altered document should be retained, with the reason why the document was altered.

Exemptions to Access by Data Subjects

Where a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, the information is likely to be exempt from disclosure unless the privilege is waived.

There are other exemptions from the right of subject access. If we intend to apply any of them to a request then we will usually explain which exemption is being applied and why.

Other Rights of Individuals

The College has an obligation to comply with the rights of individuals under the law, and takes these rights seriously. The following section sets out how the College will comply with the rights to:

- object to processing;
- rectification;
- restrict processing;
- erasure;
- data portability.

Right to Object to Processing

- An individual has the right to object to the processing of their personal data on the grounds of pursuit of a public interest or legitimate interest where they do not believe that those grounds are made out.
- Where such an objection is made, it must be acknowledged by the Data Protection Officer within 2 working days of receipt, and the Data Protection Officer will assess whether there are compelling legitimate grounds to continue processing which override the interests, rights and freedoms of the individuals, or whether the information is required for the establishment, exercise or defense of legal proceedings.
- The Data Protection Officer shall be responsible for notifying the individual of the outcome of their assessment within 20 working days of receipt of the objection.

Right to Rectification

- An individual has the right to request the rectification of inaccurate data without undue delay. Where any request for rectification is received, it must be acknowledged by the Data Protection Officer within 2 working days of receipt, and where adequate proof of inaccuracy is given, the data shall be amended as soon as reasonably practicable, and the individual notified.
- Where there is a dispute as to the accuracy of the data, the request and reasons for refusal shall be noted alongside the data, and communicated to the individual. The individual shall be given the option of a review under the data protection complaints procedure, or an appeal direct to the Information Commissioner.
- An individual also has a right to have incomplete information completed by providing the missing data, and any information submitted in this way shall be updated without undue delay.

Right to Restrict Processing

In the following circumstances, processing of an individual's personal data may be restricted:

- where the accuracy of data has been contested, during the period when the College is attempting to verify the accuracy of the data;
- where processing has been found to be unlawful, and the individual has asked that there be a restriction on processing rather than erasure;
- where data would normally be deleted, but the individual has requested that their information be kept for the purpose of the establishment, exercise or defense of a legal claim;
- where there has been an objection made.

Right to Erasure

Individuals have a right, in certain circumstances, to have data permanently erased without undue delay. This right arises in the following circumstances:

- where the personal data is no longer necessary for the purpose or purposes for which it was collected and processed;
- where consent is withdrawn and there is no other legal basis for the processing;
- where an objection has been raised under the right to object, and found to be legitimate;
- where personal data is being unlawfully processed (usually where one of the conditions for processing cannot be met);
- where there is a legal obligation on the College to delete.

The Data Protection Officer will make a decision regarding any application for erasure of personal data, and will balance the request against the exemptions provided for in the law. Where a decision is made to erase the data, and this data has been passed to other data controllers, and/or has been made public, reasonable attempts to inform those controllers of the request shall be made.

Right to Portability

If an individual wants to send their personal data to another organisation they have a right to request that the College provides their information in a structured, commonly used, and machine readable format.

As this right is limited to situations where the College is processing the information on the basis of consent or performance of a contract, the situations in which this right can be exercised will be quite limited. If a request for this is made, it must be acknowledged by the Data Protection Officer within 2 working days of receipt, and the Data Protection Officer will review and revert as necessary.

Breach of Any Requirement of the UK GDPR

Any and all breaches of the GDPR, including a breach of any of the data protection principles shall be dealt with in accordance with the Information Incident Policy.