



Data Protection Policy

May 2024



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1.0 College Mission Statement

We prepare our students for life in a diverse world by intentionally integrating students of all abilities, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, from all faiths and none.

We provide a caring and inclusive environment to help our students achieve excellence within a culture of acceptance and understanding.

High quality education changes the world, one child at a time.



2.0. Data Protection Principles

GDPR sets out the following principles with which any party handling Personal Information must comply. All Personal Information must be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner;
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes only, and will not be further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes;
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed;
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date and take reasonable steps to ensure that inaccurate Personal Information are deleted or corrected without delay;
- kept in a form which permits identification of individuals for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the information is processed; Personal Information may be stored for longer periods insofar as the data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the individual; and
- processed in a manner than ensures appropriate security of the Personal Information, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.



3.0 Lawful, Fair and Transparent Processing

The School will, before any processing of Personal Information starts for the first time, and then regularly while it continues:

process the Personal Information on at least one of the following bases:

Consent:

- the individual has given their express agreement to the processing of their Personal Information for one or more specific purposes;
- parental consent will be obtained for any child aged under 13 years old;

Contractual:

- the processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the individual is party or in order to take steps at the request of the individual prior to entering into a contract;

Legal Obligation:

- the processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the School is subject;

Vital Interests:

- the processing is necessary for the protection of the vital interests of the individual or another natural person; or

Public Interest:

- the processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or exercise of official authority; or

Legitimate Interests:

- the processing is necessary for the purposes of legitimate interests of the School or a third party, except where those interests are overridden by the interests of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, in particular where the individual is a child.



- except where the processing is based on consent, satisfy ourselves that the processing is necessary for the purpose of the relevant lawful basis (i.e. that there is no other reasonable way to achieve that purpose);
- document our decision as to which lawful basis applies to help demonstrate our compliance with the data protection principles;
- include information about both the purposes of the processing and the lawful basis for it in our relevant privacy notices available from our school office.
- where Special Category Data is processed, identify a lawful special condition for processing that information and document it; and
- where criminal offence information is processed, identify a lawful condition for processing that information and document it.



4.0 Rights of the Individual

The GDPR states that individuals have the following rights in respect of the processing of their Personal Information:

The right to be informed:

- The School will keep individuals informed of its processing activities through its privacy notices available from our school office.

The right of access:

- An individual may make a subject access request ("SAR") at any time to find out more about the Personal Information which the School holds on them. All SARs must be forwarded to the Principal Mr R Massey.
- The School is required to respond to a SAR within one month of receipt but this can be extended by up to two months in the case of complex and/or numerous requests and, in such cases, the individual will be informed of the need for such extension. The School does not charge a fee for the handling of a straightforward SAR.

The right to rectification:

- If an individual informs the School that Personal Information held by the School is inaccurate or incomplete, the individual can request that it is rectified.

The right to erasure:

- An individual is entitled to request that the School ceases to hold Personal Information it holds about them.
- The School is required to comply with a request for erasure unless the School has reasonable grounds to refuse.



The right to restrict processing:

- An individual is entitled to request that the School stops processing the Personal Information it holds about them in certain circumstances.

The right to data portability:

- An individual has the right to receive a copy of their Personal Information and use it for other purposes.

The right to object:

- An individual is entitled to object to the School's processing of their Personal Information.

Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling:

- An individual has the right to challenge any decision that is made about them on an automated basis (subject to certain exceptions).

- The School is also required to comply with certain conditions if it uses Personal Information for profiling purposes.



5.0 Protection Officer

A Data Protection Officer (DPO) is appointed who will monitor adherence to this policy.

The DPO is required to have an appropriate level of knowledge.

6.0 Privacy by Design

The School has adopted the principle of privacy by design and will ensure that the definition and planning of all new or significantly changed systems that collect or process Personal Information will be subject to due consideration of privacy issues, including the completion of one or more data protection impact assessments.

The data protection impact assessment will include:

- Consideration of how Personal Information will be processed and for what purposes;
- Assessment of whether the proposed processing of Personal Information is both necessary and proportionate to the purpose(s);
- Assessment of the risks to individuals in processing the Personal Information;
- What controls are necessary to address the identified risks and demonstrate compliance with legislation.
- A data protection impact assessment is conducted by the Principal:

On every business process periodically, at least once a year and more frequently where the amount and/or sensitivity of Personal Information processed, dictates so;

As part of the project calendar admission requirements checklist;

At every high-impact change, and/or at the request of the Data Protection Officer.

7.0 Data Retention & Disposal

The longer that Personal Information is retained, the higher the likelihood is of accidental disclosure, loss, theft and/or information growing stale.

Any Personal Information kept by the School is managed in accordance with the Department of Education Disposal of Records Schedule (<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/disposal-records-schedule>).



8.0 Data Breach

A data breach is any (potential) unintended loss of control over or loss of Personal Information within the School's environment. Preventing a data breach is the responsibility of all the School staff and its workforce.

Please refer to the School's Data Breach Management Procedure.

9.0 Third-Party and Subcontracting

The School may decide to contract with a third party for the collection, storage or processing of data, including Personal Information.

If the School decides to appoint a third party for the processing of Personal Information, this must be regulated in a written agreement in which the rights and duties of the School and of the subcontractor are specified. A subcontractor shall be selected that will guarantee the technological and organisational security measures required in this Policy, and provide sufficient guarantees with respect to the protection of the personal rights and the exercise of those rights.

The subcontractor is contractually obligated to process Personal Information only within the scope of the contract and the directions issued by the School.

10.0 Complaints

Complaints will be dealt with in line with the School's complaints policy available from the school office.

You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the UK supervisory authority for data protection issues. The ICO's details are as follows:

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland 3rd Floor

14 Cromac Place,

Belfast

BT7 2JB

Telephone: 028 9027 8757 / 0303 123 1114

Email: ni@ico.org.uk



11.0 Definitions

“consent”

is any freely transparently, well-informed indication of the will of the individual, whereby the individual agrees that his or her Personal Information may be processed. Particular requirements about consent can arise from the respective national laws.

"Personal Information"

(sometimes known as “personal means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. An identifiable person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly particular, by reference to an identification number or to one or more factors specific to his or her physical, physiological, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.

“processing”


means obtaining, **recording, organising,** storing, amending, **retrieving, disclosing** and/or destroying information, or using or doing anything with Personal Information.

"Special Category Data"

(sometimes known as “sensitive personal data”) means Personal Information that reveals racial or **ethnic origin, political** opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic and biometric data and the processing of data concerning health or sex life

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