

## **Privacy Notice (How we use pupil information)**

### **The categories of pupil information that we collect, hold and share include:**

The DfE and government requires us to collect a lot of data by law, so that they can monitor and support schools more widely, as well as checking on individual schools' effectiveness.

- Personal information – e.g. names, pupil numbers and addresses
- Characteristics – e.g. ethnicity, language, nationality, country of birth and free school meal eligibility
- Attendance information – e.g. number of absences and absence reasons
- Assessment information – e.g. national curriculum assessment results
- Relevant medical information
- Information relating to SEND and health needs
- Behavioural information – e.g. number of temporary exclusions

### **Why we collect and use this information**

We use the pupil data to:

- enable good quality, targeted learning for individuals
- provide suitable care and support for pupils
- assess and monitor pupil progress and share this with parents
- monitor our effectiveness as a school
- comply with the law regarding data sharing
- protect and safeguard pupils

### **The lawful basis on which we use this information**

We make sure that information we collect and use about pupils is in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act. This means that we must have a lawful reason to collect the data, and that if we share that with another organisation or individual we must have a legal basis to do so.

The lawful basis for schools to collect information comes from a variety of sources, such as the Education Act 1996, Regulation 5 of The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013, Article 6 and Article 9 of the GDPR.

The Department for Education and Local Authorities require us to collect certain information and report back to them. This is called a 'public task' and is recognised in law as it is necessary to provide the information.

We also have obligations to collect data about children who are at risk of suffering harm, and to share that with other agencies who have a responsibility to safeguard children, such as the police and social care.

We share information about pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan. Medical teams have access to some information about pupils, either by agreement or because the law says we must share that information, for example school nurses may visit the school. Counselling services, careers services, occupational therapists are the type of people we will share information, so long as we have consent or are required by law to do so.

In school/college we also use various third party tools to make sure that pupil's best interests are advanced. This includes financial software to manage school budgets, which may include some pupil data. We use systems to take electronic payments for school meals and other payments. We use software to track progress and attainment, recording evidence as data or as a photograph. We also use systems to monitor any safeguarding concerns, and to hold safeguarding records.

We must keep up to date information about parents and carers for emergency contacts.

We also use contact information to keep pupils, parents and carers up to date about school events.

### **Collecting pupil information**

Whilst the majority of pupil information you provide to us is mandatory, some of it is provided to us on a voluntary basis. In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation, we will inform you whether you are required to provide certain pupil information to us or if you have a choice in this.

### **Storing pupil data**

We hold pupil data according to our Document Retention Policy

### **Who we share pupil information with**

We routinely share pupil information with:

- Educational establishments that the pupil's attend after leaving us
- Essex and other Local Authorities
- The Department for Education (DfE)
- Exam Boards and Awarding Bodies
- School/College Transport Companies – including Travel Training
- Arbor MIS (Management Information System) and Arbor Online Payment System
- NHS
- SEAX Trust
- My Concern safeguarding software
- Tapestry Online Learning Journal
- Earwig Online Assessment Platform
- Class Dojo

### **Why we share pupil information**

We do not share information about our pupils with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so.

We share pupils' data with the Department for Education (DfE) on a statutory basis. This data sharing underpins school funding and educational attainment policy and monitoring.

We are required to share information about our pupils with the (DfE) under regulation 5 of The Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013.

### **Data collection requirements:**

To find out more about the data collection requirements placed on us by the Department for Education (for example; via the school census) go to <https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-censusesfor-schools>.

### **Youth support services Pupils aged 13+**

Once our pupils reach the age of 13, we also pass pupil information to our local authority and / or provider of youth support services as they have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds under section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

This enables them to provide services as follows:

- youth support services
- careers advisers

A parent or guardian can request that **only** their child's name, address and date of birth is passed to their local authority or provider of youth support services by informing us. This right is transferred to the child / pupil once he/she reaches the age 16.

### **Pupils aged 16+**

We will also share certain information about pupils aged 16+ with our local authority and / or provider of youth support services as they have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds under section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

This enables them to provide services as follows:

- post-16 education and training providers
- youth support services
- careers advisers

For more information about services for young people, please visit our local authority website.

## **The National Pupil Database (NPD)**

The NPD is owned and managed by the Department for Education and contains information about pupils in schools in England. It provides invaluable evidence on educational performance to inform independent research, as well as studies commissioned by the Department. It is held in electronic format for statistical purposes. This information is securely collected from a range of sources including schools, local authorities and awarding bodies.

We are required by law, to provide information about our pupils to the DfE as part of statutory data collections such as the school census and early years' census. Some of this information is then stored in the NPD. The law that allows this is the Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013.

To find out more about the NPD, go to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupildatabase-user-guide-and-supporting-information>.

The department may share information about our pupils from the NPD with third parties who promote the education or well-being of children in England by:

- conducting research or analysis
- producing statistics
- providing information, advice or guidance

The Department has robust processes in place to ensure the confidentiality of our data is maintained and there are stringent controls in place regarding access and use of the data. Decisions on whether DfE releases data to third parties are subject to a strict approval process and based on a detailed assessment of:

- who is requesting the data
- the purpose for which it is required
- the level and sensitivity of data requested
- the arrangements in place to store and handle the data

To be granted access to pupil information, organisations must comply with strict terms and conditions covering the confidentiality and handling of the data, security arrangements and retention and use of the data.

For more information about the department's data sharing process, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data>

For information about which organisations the department has provided pupil information, (and for which project), please visit the following website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-requests-received>

To contact DfE: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

**Requesting access to your personal data**

Under data protection legislation, parents and pupils have the right to request access to information about them that we hold. To make a request for your personal information, or be given access to your child's educational record, please contact the Data Manager at Thriftwood College.

You also have the right to:

- object to processing of personal data that is likely to cause, or is causing, damage or distress
- prevent processing for the purpose of direct marketing
- object to decisions being taken by automated means
- in certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed
- claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of the Data Protection regulations

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us in the first instance. Alternatively, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

**Contact**

If you would like to discuss anything in this privacy notice, please contact:

The School Office – 01206 271571 or

The Data Protection Officer for the Trust (SBM Services Ltd) – 01206 671 103