

How We Use Your Information

Privacy Notice for Parents & Guardians

Godstowe Preparatory School

September 2023



Parents & Guardians - Privacy Notice

This privacy notice advises parents and guardians of the School's data protection responsibilities on the collection and processing of pupil's personal information.

You are being provided with this notice because you can exercise your child's data protection rights on their behalf.

This notice provides details about:

- The personal information we collect on pupils.
- How we collect that personal information.
- What we do with the personal information.
- Your rights in relation to any personal information held and processed by the School.

Our Data Protection Officer is the person who is responsible for ensuring that parent/guardian's personal information is held and processed in the correct way. Questions about this policy, or requests for further information, should be sent to the Data Protection Officer at: HR@Godstowe.org

What is personal information and what does processing mean?

Personal information is any information that relates to your child that can be used directly or indirectly to identify your child.

This includes information such as their name, date of birth and address as well as information relating to their exam results, medical details and behaviour records. This may also include sensitive personal information such as their religion or ethnic group, photos and video recordings.

Personal information and processing are defined as follows:

- Personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (data subject). An identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person (GDPR article 4).
- Special categories of personal data means information about an individual's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sex life or sexual orientation and biometric/genetic data (GDPR article 9).
- Processing means any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction (GDPR article 4).

Data protection principles

We process personal data about pupils in accordance with the following data protection principles:

- We process personal data lawfully, fairly and in a transparent way.
- We collect personal data only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes.
- We process personal data only where it is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purposes of processing.

- We keep accurate personal data and take all reasonable steps to ensure that inaccurate personal data is rectified or deleted without delay.
- We keep personal data in a form which permits identification from personal data for no longer than is necessary for the purpose of the processing or, if for longer periods, for such reasons as permitted by the GDPR.
- We adopt appropriate measures to make sure that personal data is secure, and protected against unauthorised or unlawful processing, and accidental loss, destruction or damage.

In our privacy notices, we tell individuals the reasons for processing their personal data, how we use such data and the legal basis for processing. We will not process personal data of individuals for reasons other than the stated purpose or purposes.

Where we process special categories of personal data or criminal records data to perform obligations, this is done in accordance with a policy, or for legal reasons. We will update personal data promptly if an individual advises that his/her information has changed or is inaccurate.

Our legal basis (grounds) for using pupils' personal data

There are several reasons why we hold, process and share pupils' personal data. Under data protection laws, the lawful reasons for processing personal data include:

- Consent.
- For the performance of a contract.
- To comply with a legal obligation.
- To protect the vital interests of the pupil or another person.
- For a task carried out in the public interest.
- For a legitimate interest of the School or one of the organisations it shares data with (e.g. legal adviser) except where those rights are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection, particularly in the case of a child.

Sometimes the handling of pupils' personal data falls within several of the above lawful grounds.

Consent

We may ask for your consent to use your child's information in certain ways. If we ask for your consent to use your child's personal data, you can take back this consent at any time. Any use of your child's information before you withdraw your consent remains valid.

Performance of a contract

On some occasions, the School will process pupils' personal data for the performance of a contract.

Legal obligation

This is where we need to use pupils' personal data to comply with a legal obligation.

Statutory reporting requirements to the Department for Education (DfE) are included within this section. As is disclosing information to third parties such as the courts or the police where we are legally obliged to do so.

Extract from DfE Data Protection Toolkit regarding safeguarding:

'GDPR does not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Lawful and secure information sharing between schools, Children's Social Care, and other local agencies, is essential for keeping children safe and ensuring they get the support they need.'

The Data Protection Act 2018 introduced 'safeguarding' as a reason to be able to process sensitive, personal information, even without consent (DPA, Part 2, 18; Schedule 8,4).

When designated safeguarding leads in schools are considering whether, or not, to share safeguarding information (especially with other agencies) it is considered best practice for them to record who they are sharing that information with and for what reason. If they have taken a decision not to seek consent from the data subject and/or parent/carer that should also be recorded within the safeguarding file.

All relevant information can be shared without consent if to gain consent would place a child at risk. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of promoting the welfare and protecting the safety of children. As with all data sharing, appropriate organisational and technical safeguards should still be in place.'

Vital interests

This legal basis can be used where, for example, we need to disclose information about pupils to prevent them or someone else from being seriously harmed or killed. An example can include providing information to a medical professional about a pupil in circumstances where they are unable to provide the information themselves or you are unable to. It may cover an emergency situation.

Public interest

We consider that we are acting in the public interest when providing education.

Specifically, we have a public interest in:

- Providing an education.
- Fulfilling our safeguarding obligations and investigating complaints that may be directly connected with you or may require access to your personal data when investigating complaints by others.
- Promoting the interests of the School.
- Managing the School efficiently.

Legitimate interests

We have many legitimate interests for which we hold, retain, process and share pupils' personal data. This ground is therefore used for a large number of reasons. The GDPR states that the exception to using this ground is where it is detrimental to a pupil's rights.

Why do we collect and process pupils' personal data?

We use pupils' personal data to:

- Support pupil learning.
- Monitor and report on pupil progress.
- Provide appropriate pastoral care.
- Assess the quality of our services.
- Comply with the law regarding data sharing.

How do we obtain personal data?

We obtain personal data in a variety of ways. Some of the information comes from the admissions forms and acceptance forms which you supply to us. This can contain information about you as well as your child and the same principles contained in this notice apply regarding your personal data. We also receive information about pupils from other schools and agencies, such as healthcare professionals. Data is also obtained from your child, their teachers and other pupils.

With whom do we share pupils' personal data?

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

Pupils' data, where it is reasonable to do so, may be shared with professionals contracted by the School such as legal and professional advisers or insurers. In addition, a data security contract with a third-party IT services provider or as part of cloud-based storage may also process your personal data for the purpose of securely holding and protecting your data.

Further examples of why we collect, hold and share pupils' personal data

Here are some further examples of why we collect, hold and share pupils' personal data. If you would like more information about any of these, please contact our Data Protection Officer.

- We may need to share information about your child's health and wellbeing with those who have responsibility for pupil welfare.
- We need to tell all appropriate members of staff if your child has specific medical needs.
- We need to tell all appropriate members of staff if your child might need extra help with some tasks.
- We may need to provide information containing your child's personal data to other schools. We may need to pass on information which they need to look after your child. For example, how well your child has behaved at other schools and their test results.
- We may need to share data with external examination boards.
- Where we have the right to do so, we may share your child's academic and behaviour records with you or their guardian.
- We will only share your child's information with other people and organisations when we have a legitimate reason to do so.
- Sometimes we need to share information with the police or our legal advisers to help with an inquiry. For example, safeguarding issues or injuries.
- We might need to share pupils' information with consultants, experts and other advisers who assist us in the running of the School, if this is relevant to their work.
- On occasions external consultants/contractors may have temporary access to personal data held by the School. For example, IT consultants might be granted temporary access to pupils' personal data in order to fulfil their contract(s). Access will only be granted to consultants who have demonstrated compliance with the School's data protection standards.
- The School uses various IT systems. This may include using cloud-based storage systems to hold pupil data. Before use, the School ensures that adequate security measures are in place.
- We may need to share some information with our insurance provider to ensure we maintain cover or to process any claims.

- We may need information about any court proceedings or judgements concerning your child. This is so that we can safeguard your child's welfare and the welfare of other pupils at the School.
- We may monitor your child's use of the School's email, internet and other electronic devices provided by the School e.g., iPads. We monitor in order to ensure appropriate use of these technologies and to confirm your child is not putting themselves at risk of harm.
- We have CCTV in operation to make sure the School's site is safe. CCTV is not used in private areas such as changing rooms.
- We may use photographs or videos of your child on our website, social media sites, newsletters and publications as part of our advertising of the School.
- We publish our exam results and other news on the website. We also send articles, photographs and videos to local and national news outlets to celebrate the School's successes.
- Sometimes we use photographs and videos to support curriculum activities, for example, to provide feedback on a presentation your child has given.

Automated decision-making and profiling

We do not make automatic decisions or undertake automated decisions regarding individuals to evaluate certain information about an individual (profiling).

Special categories of personal data

We must also comply with an additional condition where we process special categories of personal data. These special categories include: personal information revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, genetic information, biometric information, health information, and information about sex life or orientation.

Some of the reasons we process such data on pupils include:

- Legal claims. The processing is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims. This allows us to share information with our legal advisers and insurers.
- Medical purposes. This includes medical treatment and the management of healthcare service.
- For compiling census data as required by law.

How do we protect pupils' personal data?

We take the security of pupils' personal data very seriously. We have internal policies and controls in place to try to ensure that data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused or disclosed, and is not accessed except by its employees in the performance of their duties.

Where we engage third parties to process personal data on our behalf they are under a duty of confidentiality and are obliged to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of data.

Sending information to other countries

With cloud-based storage and some other services sometimes being supplied outside the UK, personal data can be sent to other jurisdictions.

Our servers and storage systems are based inside and outside the EU and we have ensured that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect your personal data.

How long do we keep pupils' personal data?

We keep pupils' personal data for the time they are at our School. We will also keep certain information after pupils have left the School.

What rights do you have in relation to your child's information?

You will have the following rights in relation to your child's personal data:

- The right of access to the personal data and supplementary information. This right is to enable you to be aware of and verify the lawfulness of the personal data we are processing.
- The right to rectification. This right allows you to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.
- The right to erasure. This is also known as the 'right to be forgotten'. This is not an absolute right and applies in specific circumstances.
- The right to restrict processing. This right applies in circumstances where, for example, the data subject contests the accuracy of the data or challenges the public interest or legitimate interest basis.
- The right to data portability. This allows individuals to obtain and reuse their personal data for their own purposes.
- The right to object. Individuals have the right to object to:
 - Processing based on legitimate interests or the performance of a task in the public interest/exercise of official authority.
 - Direct marketing.
 - Processing for scientific/historical research and statistics.
- Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

There are specific rights in relation to a child's personal data. Further guidance and advice on the above rights can be obtained from the ICO's website: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/individual-rights/individual-rights/>

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your child's personal data, we ask that you raise your concern with us in the first instance by contacting the Data Protection Officer. If you would like to exercise any of the above rights, please contact the Data Protection Officer.

Alternatively, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (at: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>) to raise any issues you have.