

**OLDCASTLE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

INSPIRE - MOTIVATE - EDUCATE

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DATA PROTECTION POLICY

November 2025

General Principles

Schools have increasing access to a wide range of personal data about pupils, parents and staff, some of which we are legally required to gather and process in order to carry out our duties as a public authority, but also to support the development of pupils (educationally, socially and emotionally), to protect the pupils in our care and to facilitate the efficient running of the school. Data and records provide evidence for protecting the legal rights and interests of the school, as well as for demonstrating performance and accountability.

Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) there are strict legal guidelines in place as to how data should be both 'controlled' and 'processed', which the school is fully aware of and complies with. These regulations apply to 'personal data', 'special categories of personal data' and personal data relating to 'criminal convictions and offences'.

This policy applies to all data and records created, received or maintained by staff of the school in the course of carrying out its functions. This policy and associated Privacy Notices will be made available in accessible formats and languages as needed to meet the needs of our diverse school community, including parents with English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Key Definitions

Records are defined as all those documents that facilitate the business carried out by the school and are thereafter retained (for a set period) to provide evidence of its transactions or activities. These records may be created or maintained in hard copy and/or electronically.

Personal data is defined as any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified, including by reference to a unique indicator. Special categories of personal data specifically refer to information held about an individual in the following categories:

- race
- ethnic origin
- politics / religion
- trade union membership
- genetics
- biometrics
- health and, as this data, by its very nature could create more significant risks to a person's fundamental rights and freedoms, there are additional safeguards in place.

Data controllers determine the purposes and means of processing personal data.

Data processors are responsible for processing personal data on behalf of a controller.

Data protection impact assessments are required when introducing new technology for the handling and processing of personal data and when data is processed on a large scale. They assess the level of risk involved and the security measures that need to be put in place to protect individuals. The school will conduct Data Protection Impact Assessments for new projects or technologies involving personal or special category data to identify and mitigate privacy risks before implementation.

Personal data breaches are defined as security incidents that affect the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of personal data. They occur whenever personal data is lost, destroyed, corrupted, or

disclosed, if someone accesses the data or passes it on without proper authorisation, or if the data is made unavailable, and this unavailability has a significant negative effect on individuals.

Subject Access Requests (SAR) give individuals the right to see a copy of the information an organisation holds about them. SARS must be made in writing to the school, who will respond within the timeframe suggested by the ICO.

Data Protection Principles

Under the GDPR, the data protection principles (Article 5) set out the main responsibilities for organisations which require that personal data shall be:

- Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Personal data can only be collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Personal data must be adequate, relevant and not excessive
- Personal data must be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- Personal data must be kept for no longer than necessary
- Personal data must be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security

There is an overarching principle of accountability which means that the school must be seen to complying with the principles in the public face

Responsibilities

Oldcastle Primary School:

has a corporate responsibility to maintain its records and record-keeping systems in accordance with the regulatory environment and the person with overall responsibility for this policy is the Headteacher.

is required to appoint a Data Protection Officer to oversee the collection, processing and security of data and the person responsible at this school is Sara Peters and they can be contacted by email admin@oldcastleps.bridgend.cymru

as both a controller and processor of personal data, has a responsibility to register with the 'Information Commissioner's Office' and to renew the registration annually

must inform pupils, parents, staff and governors (through the issuing of Privacy Notices – see section below) what data they are required to collect and retain and the lawful basis for processing personal data as defined by Article 6 of the GDPR

must, through the same Privacy Notices also inform pupils, parents, staff, and governors of any special category data and/or data on criminal convictions or offences, they hold, together with the lawful basis for that processing as defined by Articles 9 and 10 (respectively) of the GDPR

The Data Protection Officer (Sara Peters - Grants, Media, Health and Safety Manager)

informs and advises the school and its employees about their legal obligations to comply with the GDPR and other data protection laws

manages internal data protection activities

advises on data protection impact assessments where appropriate

is the first point of contact for external supervisory authorities as well as those individuals (pupils, staff and parents) whose data the school holds

Individual staff and employees:

must ensure that the records for which they are responsible are accurate and are maintained and disposed of in accordance with the school's records management guidelines. This will form part of staff induction procedures.

Parents/carers, pupils and staff:

should ensure that the information they provide the school with is accurate and kept up to date

Rights of individuals

The GDPR identified 7 'rights' of individuals on whom data is held, some of which apply to schools and others which are aimed at commercial practices. In this policy we have given guidance regarding each of these rights, but should you wish for more detailed information, this can be found on the ICO website or by clicking on the links below. You can also obtain hard copies of these documents from the school office. The 7 rights as outlined by the GDPR are:

- right to be informed
- right of access
- right to rectification
- right to erasure
- right to restrict processing
- right to data portability
- right to object

Some of these rights may not apply, depending on the legal basis on which we hold and process the data. While we uphold all GDPR rights, some rights may be limited where data processing is necessary to fulfil public tasks or legal obligations, such as statutory educational record-keeping.

Much of the data that schools are required to collect and process falls under our duty as a public authority in order for us to fulfil our legal obligations, and this basis is referred to as our 'public task'. In addition, we also hold data on other bases (as outlined in our Privacy Notices) namely, 'contract' (in relation to the staff we employ) 'consent' 'legitimate interests' and 'vital interests'.

Right to be informed

At the time of requesting data from individuals (pupils, parents, staff, governors), the individuals must be informed of their rights regarding that data, which should include:

- the name and contact details of the school's Data Protection Officer
- the categories of personal data
- the school's purpose and lawful process/es for processing data the categories of personal data being requested
- the legitimate interests that apply where that is the lawful basis, who the data is shared with, how long it is held for, the right to withdraw consent at any time (where

relevant depending on the lawful basis), the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority (the ICO)

- whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory requirement and the possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data
- the existence of any automated decision making, including profiling and information about how decisions are made, the significance and the consequences

In addition, there may be times during the school year when we may require further information from you for a specific purpose. At that time, we will advise you of any additional information regarding your rights as we are required to do by the GDPR.

If we are reliant on 'consent' as our lawful basis, you will be advised of that and you will be required to give your consent in writing.

Right of access

All individuals have the right to access their personal data and supplementary information and this is referred to as a 'Subject Access Request (SAR)'. Appendix 1 gives more information on SAR in the form of 'Frequently Asked Questions'.

The right of access allows individuals to be aware of and verify the lawfulness of the processing of their data.

Individuals have the right to be provided with a copy of the information that is held on them free of any charge unless the request is manifestly unfounded, excessive or repetitive, in which case the school reserves the right to charge a reasonable fee, based on the administrative costs of providing that information. A reasonable fee may also be charged for further copies of the same information.

Information must be provided without delay. The request must be received in writing and the School will endeavour to get the information to individuals in no more than 20 working days and at the latest within one month of receipt of the request, or longer depending on when the request is made.

Where the requests are complex or numerous, the school can extend the compliance period for a further two months as long as the individual requesting the information is informed that this will be the case within one month of the receipt of the request. The school will, at the same time, explain why this extension in time is necessary.

Whilst it is always our aim to respond in a timely manner, given the nature of the school's academic year, should a request be received less than one month before the end of any term or within a school holiday period, the school will require an extended period of time in which to comply and this will be explained to the applicant at that time.

The school reserves the right to refuse to respond to a request when they are manifestly unfounded or excessive, especially if they are repetitive. In such cases, the individual making the request will be informed of the school's decision not to comply together with the reason why, as well as informing them of their right to complain to the supervisory authority without delay and at the latest within one month.

Where the request is made electronically, the school will provide the information requested in a commonly used electronic format.

Where we hold a large amount of personal data about an individual, we can ask that the request be specific.

Right to rectification

Individuals have the right to have their personal data corrected if it is inaccurate or incomplete.

Where the school has disclosed this information to a third party (e.g. Department for Education or Local Authority) it is responsible for ensuring that the third party also corrects the data in question. The individual will be advised of any third parties to whom the data has been supplied, where appropriate.

The school must ensure that data is rectified within one month but we may extend this period for a further two months where the request is complex.

Where the school decides not to take action to rectify data at the request of an individual, we will explain why and inform them of their right to complain and to whom that complaint should be addressed.

Right to erasure

Individuals have the right to request that their information is erased/deleted where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing i.e.:

Where it is no longer necessary for the school to hold that data (bearing in mind the requirement to retain certain documents for a specific period of time [2])

When, if the data is obtained under the basis of 'consent' that consent is subsequently withdrawn

Where data has been unlawfully processed or where an individual objects to the processing and there is no overriding legitimate interest for the processing to continue.

Right to restrict processing:

In certain circumstances, individuals have the right to request the restriction or suppression of their personal data, which means that they can limit the way in which any organisation uses their data.

This right applies when:

- an individual contests the accuracy of the data being processed
- an individual believes that data has been unlawfully processed
- the school no longer needs to keep the data but has been asked to do so in order to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim
- an individual objects to the processing of the data and the school is considering whether its legitimate grounds override those of the individual in question

The school can refuse to comply with a request for restriction if we believe the request to be manifestly unfounded or excessive (taking into account whether it is repetitive in nature) and we may either refuse to deal with the request or reserve the right to charge a fee in order to deal with it.

We will justify our decision for any action we take in writing. In the event that we do refuse to comply or wish to charge a fee, individuals will be informed within one month of the receipt of the request (with exceptions being made for school holidays) and will advise individuals of our reasons, their rights to make a complaint to the ICO and their rights to seek a judicial remedy.

Should the school decide it is appropriate to charge a fee or believe that we require additional information to identify an individual, no further action will be taken before that fee is received, after which the school still has one month to respond.

Right to data portability

The right to data portability gives individuals the right to receive personal data they have provided to a controller in a structured, commonly used and machine readable format. It also gives them the right to request that a controller transmits this data directly to another controller.

The right to data portability only applies when:

- The lawful basis for processing this information is consent or for the performance of a contract
- The School is carrying out the processing by automated means (ie excluding paper files)

Right to object

Where applicable, individuals have the right to object on “grounds relating to their particular situation”.

Where an individual exercises their right to object, we are required to stop processing the personal data we hold unless we can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds for the processing, which override the interests, rights and freedoms of the individual; or the processing is for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Individuals are advised on their right to object in our Privacy Notice

Privacy Notices

The school, in compliance with the requirements of the GDPR, will issue Privacy Notices to all individuals on whom we hold data, at the time that they join our school, namely:

- pupils (via their parents)
- parents
- staff
- governors

Copies of our Privacy Notices to pupils and parents can also be found on the school website.

Our Privacy Notices will contain the following information:

the categories of data that we hold, why we collect it, the lawful basis on which we process that data, who we share the data with, how long we retain the data, your right to access your data and your right to object

Accountability and Governance

Under the GDPR, the school is required to demonstrate that we comply with the principles of the accountability and responsibility and in order to do this we must ensure that we implement appropriate technical and organisation measures which will include:

- publication of this policy
- all staff will receive regular training and updates on data protection policies and procedures, including induction for new employees, to ensure ongoing compliance and awareness
- internal audits of our processing activities, including data protection impact assessments for personal and/or special category data that is processed on a large scale
- internal audits of all the personal data we hold, including special categories of personal data which include the form that the data is held in, where it is held, who has access to it, the security measures in place and how long it is retained for

Ensure that our records are kept up to date and reflect our current position, and in the unlikely event of a data breach, we will ensure that records are kept regarding the breach and the action we took in response to it.

Personal data breaches

Personal data breaches can include:

- access to the data we hold by an unauthorised 3rd party
- deliberate or accidental action (or inaction) by a controller or processor
- sending personal data to an incorrect recipient
- computing devices containing personal data being lost or stolen
- alteration of personal data without permission
- loss of availability of personal data

The school needs to ensure that there are robust systems in place to detect, investigate and report any breaches of personal data.

The GDPR makes it clear that when a security incident takes place, we are required, as a matter of urgency, to establish whether a personal data breach has occurred and, if so, promptly take steps to address it. Some data breaches will not lead to risks beyond possible inconvenience to those who need the data to do their job whilst other breaches can significantly affect individuals whose personal data has been compromised. This needs to be assessed on a case by case basis.

Under the GDPR we are required to report a personal data breach within 72 hours, when it is felt that as a result of that breach there is likelihood of a risk to people's rights and freedoms. A

breach can have a range of adverse effects on individuals which might include emotional distress and/or physical and material damage. Where it is not felt that this risk is likely, it is not necessary to report the breach but we will still document the breach and justify the decisions that have been taken, together with any subsequent action.

Where the breach is likely to result in a high risk of adversely affecting individuals' rights and freedoms we will inform those individuals without undue delay.

When reporting a breach, we are required to provide the ICO with the following information:

- a description of the nature of the personal data and, where possible, the categories and number of individuals concerned together with the category and number of personal data records concerned
- the name and contact details of our Data Protection Officer
- a description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
- a description of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken, to deal with the personal data breach including, where appropriate, the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects.

We will keep records of any data breach, whether or not we are required to inform the ICO.

Risk Assessment - Data Register

The school has developed a Risk Data Register detailing the data kept and shared by the school. The risk assessment provides on information on third party providers that have access to the school data and copies of the privacy notices for each of these providers.

[Risk Data Register - Risk Assessment](#)

Cyber Resilience and Security

Cyber resilience is the ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from cyber attacks. Cyber resilience helps an organisation protect against cyber risks, defend against and limit the severity of attacks, and ensure its continued survival despite an attack. Oldcastle Primary School have developed a [Cyber Resilience and Security Risk Assessment](#) to plan for business continuity in the event of an attack.

The School has developed a [Digital Resilience and E Safty Policy](#).

Freedom of Information

The school understands its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the procedures and supporting documents which explain the process can be found in Appendix 10

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or earlier in the event of any changes to legislation.

APPENDIX 1 - Subject Access Requests (SAR)

Full details regarding Subject Access Requests can be found in the '[Subject Access Code of Conduct](#)' produced by the Information Commissioner's Office, which we abide by.

We have answered the key questions below but much more detail can be found in the ICO's Code of Conduct which can be downloaded by clicking on the link above.

1. What are your individual rights?

You have the right to see a copy of the information we hold on you, or on another person (e.g. a pupil) if you are acting on their behalf. Furthermore, where you make a request in writing and are prepared to pay an appropriate fee, you are also entitled to be:

- told whether any personal data is being processed
- given a description of the personal data, the reasons it is being processed and whether it will be given to any other organisations or people
- given a copy of the information and data held and where that data came from

A subject access request gives you the right to see the information contained in the personal data we hold **rather than** the right to see the documents that contain that information.

The information that you receive as a result of your request will be provided in a clear format which can be easily understood.

2. What is a valid subject access request?

A SAR must be made in writing (which can include an email, fax or social media). If a request is made verbally, there is no obligation for the school to respond however, depending on the circumstances, we may still be happy to do so but will advise you of this at the time.

Where the individual requesting the data is disabled and as a result finds it extremely difficult to make the request in writing, we are happy to make an adjustment for them in line with our obligations under the 2010 Equality Act. We will also take into account their specific disability in the way in which we respond.

3. What about when the SAR is made on behalf of another individual?

The law does not prevent you from making a subject access request via a third party. This might be a solicitor acting on your behalf or simply a friend or relative, if this makes you feel more comfortable. However, you must provide written authority and the school reserves the right to contact you should we have any concerns about the request and/or supplying the data to your representative.

4. What if I want to request information about my child who is a pupil at the school?

Where you are making a SAR on behalf of a pupil (in your care) the legal position is that the data (whatever their age) is still their personal data and does not belong, for example, to a parent or guardian. It is the child therefore who has the right of access, even though in the case of young children these rights are likely to be exercised by those with parental responsibility.

Before we respond to a SAR for information held about a child, we are entitled to consider whether or not the child is mature enough to understand their rights and, if we are confident that this is the case, we are legally required to respond to the child. In England there is no legal aim limit at which it is presumed that a child is mature enough (although the age in Scotland is set at 12), which may be a reasonable indication of appropriate age.

When considering borderline cases, we are required to take other factors into consideration, namely:

- the child's level of maturity and their ability to make decisions like this
- the nature of the personal data
- any court orders relating to parental access or responsibility that may apply
- any duty of confidence owed to the child or young person
- any consequences of allowing those with parental responsibility access to the child's or young person's information this is particularly important if there have been any allegations of abuse or ill treatment
- any detriment to the child or young person if individuals with parental responsibility cannot access the information, and any view's the child or young person has on whether their parents should have access to information about them.

Again, further information on this can be found in the above mentioned Code of Practice.

5. What happens if the data I am asking for also includes information about other people?

If, by disclosing the information you request would also mean disclosing information about another individual who can then be identified, we do not have to comply with your request except where the other individual has consented to us supplying the information or we believe that it is reasonable, taking into consideration all the circumstances, to comply without the other individual's consent.

6. Can I be asked for more information when I make a SAR?

We are allowed to confirm two things with you when you make a SAR:

If we are in any doubt about the identity of someone requesting information on personal data, we are allowed to request more details from you to ensure that we are not giving personal data out to the wrong person. However such requests in our case are likely to be rare.

We may also need further information from you to ensure that we find the data that you have requested and it where this is the case, the time limit of 30 days will start from the date on which we receive the additional information.

7. Will I have to pay a fee and if so, how much?

Yes, we may charge a fee for processing your request and the fee we can charge you depends on the quantity of data you request.

If the SAR is made for information containing, in whole or in part, a pupil's 'educational record', we must provide a response within 20 working days and the maximum we can charge you

depends on the number of pages of information and will range from between £1 and £50 (where 500+ pages of information are supplied).

If it does not relate to any information that forms part of the educational record, then we have the usual one month time limit for responding (within the guidance as set out in our policy) and the maximum fee we can charge for dealing with the request is £10.

Special rules apply in relation to information on examinations and further detail can be found in the 'Subject Access Request Code of Practice' (chapter 10, page 60) as mentioned above.

8. What about repeated or unreasonable requests?

Whilst the Data Protection Act does not limit the number of SAR you can make, it does allow some discretion when dealing with requests that we believe to be made at unreasonable intervals.

We are not obliged to comply with identical or similar request to one you have already made unless a reasonable amount of time has passed between the first request and any subsequent requests.

When deciding on whether or not requests are made at reasonable intervals, we can take the following factors into consideration:

- the type of data and whether or not it is particularly sensitive
- the purpose of us processing the data and whether or not it is likely to be detrimental to you as an individual
- how often the data is altered as if it changes frequently, it would not be unreasonable for requests to be closer together in terms of when they are made.

APPENDIX 2 Privacy Notice

Oldcastle Primary School place a high value of the importance of information security and have a number of procedures in place to minimise the possibility of a compromise in data security.

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

- Personal information (such as name, unique pupil number and address)
- Characteristics (such as ethnicity, language, nationality, country of birth and free school meal eligibility)
- Attendance information (such as sessions attended, number of absences and absence reasons)
- Relevant medical information
- Special education needs information
- Internal and national assessments and examinations
- Parents / Guardians contact details

Why we collect and use this information

We use the pupil data:

- to support pupil learning
- to monitor and report on pupil progress
- to provide appropriate pastoral care
- to assess the quality of our services
- to comply with the law regarding data sharing

The lawful basis on which we use this information

We collect and use pupil information under the Education (Wales) Act 2014. We operate in full compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Law and will only process data with a fair and reasonable legal basis for doing so.

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

Personal data will be retained in accordance with statutory guidance typically retaining pupil records for 7 years plus 1 year after leaving the school, unless otherwise required by law.

Who we share pupil information with

We routinely share pupil information with:

- schools that the pupil's attend after leaving us
- our local authority
- Welsh Government
- NHS

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 Welsh Government 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 our local authority (LA) and the Welsh Government. All third-party providers with access to personal data must have appropriate data protection agreements in place, ensuring compliance with GDPR and safeguarding pupils' information.

Your rights under the General Data Protection Regulations

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) rights include:

- the right to ask for and receive copies of the personal information held on yourself, although some information can sometimes be legitimately withheld;
- the right, in some circumstances, to prevent the processing of personal information if doing so will cause damage or distress;
- the right to ask for wrong information to be put right;
- the right to seek compensation if an organisation does not comply with General Data Protection Regulations and you personally suffer damage; and
- in some circumstances a pupil's parent or legal guardian *may* have a right to receive a copy of personal data held about a pupil in their legal care. Such cases will be considered on an individual basis where the individual is deemed to have insufficient understanding of their rights under the Regulations.

You also have the right to ask the Information Commissioner, who enforces and oversees Data Protection, to assess whether or not the processing of personal information is likely to comply with the provisions.

Seeking further information

For further information about the personal information collected and its use, you have concerns about the accuracy of personal information, or wish to exercise your rights under General Data Protection Regulations, you should contact:

- Headteacher at Oldcastle Primary School, South Street, Bridgend. CF31 3ED.
- Bridgend County Borough Council on 01656 642696;
- Welsh Assembly Government's data protection officer at, The Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ;
- Information Commissioner's office helpline can be contacted on 01625 545 745 or 0303123 113
- information is also available from www.ico.gov.uk