

Scope

This privacy notice explains how we collect, store and use personal data about pupils under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Responsibilities

The Together Trust, on behalf on Ashcroft School, is responsible under the GDPR to inform individuals about how the school uses any personal data that it holds about them. We comply with this right by providing 'privacy notices' to individuals where we are processing their personal data.

The Together Trust has a Data Protection Officer under the GDPR who can be contacted; By email: dataprotection@togethertrust.org.uk
Or by writing: DPO, Together Trust Centre, Schools Hill, Cheadle, SK8 1JE

Who we are

The Together Trust is a charity that offers care, support and special education to children, adults and families.

Ashcroft School, an independent special school, is a service run by the Together Trust. The school caters for children and young people aged 8 to 18 years who have struggled to cope in other settings because of their individual barriers to learning.

The personal data we hold

Personal data that we may collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) about pupils includes, but is not restricted to:

- Contact details, contact preferences, date of birth, identification documents
- Results of internal assessments and externally set tests
- Pupil and curricular records
- Characteristics, such as ethnic background, eligibility for free school meals, or special educational needs
- Exclusion information
- Details of any medical conditions, including physical and mental health
- Attendance information
- Safeguarding information
- Details of any support received, including care packages and plans
- Photographs
- CCTV images captured in school

We may also hold data about pupils that we have received from other organisations, including other schools, local authorities and the Department for Education.

Why we use this data

We use this data to:

- Support pupil learning
- Monitor and report on pupil progress
- Provide appropriate pastoral care
- Protect pupil welfare
- Assess the quality of our services
- Administer admissions waiting lists
- Carry out research
- Comply with the law regarding data sharing

Our legal basis for using this data

We only collect and use pupils' personal data when the law allows us to. Most commonly, we process it where:

- We need to comply with a legal obligation
- We have a legitimate interest (i.e. to facilitate learning) to process this data.

Less commonly, we may also process pupils' personal data in situations where:

- We have obtained consent to use it in a certain way
- We need to protect the individual's (or another persons') vital interests (i.e. in a medical emergency).

Where we have obtained consent to use pupils' personal data (i.e. photographs), this consent can be withdrawn at any time. We will make this clear when we ask for consent, and explain how consent can be withdrawn.

Some of the reasons listed above for collecting and using pupils' personal data overlap, and there may be several grounds, which justify our use of this data.

Collecting this information

While the majority of information we collect about pupils is mandatory, there is some information that can be provided voluntarily.

Whenever we seek to collect information from you or your child, we make it clear whether providing it is mandatory or optional. If it is mandatory, we will explain the possible consequences of not complying.

How we store this data

We keep personal information about pupils while they are attending our school. We may also keep it beyond their attendance at our school if this is necessary in order to comply with our legal obligations.

Most information about our pupils is kept for 25 years from their date of birth. We do this for legal reasons.

You can request our full retention schedule for Ashcroft School by contacting our Data Protection Officer.

Data sharing

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

Where it is legally required, or necessary (and it complies with data protection law) we may share personal information about pupils with:

- Our local authorities – to meet our legal obligations to share certain information with it, such as safeguarding concerns and exclusions
- The Department for Education (such as for the Pupil National Database)
- The pupil's family and representatives
- Educators and examining bodies
- Our regulator Ofsted
- Suppliers and service providers – to enable them to provide the service we have contracted them for.

This can include third party "cloud computing" services to store information rather than the information being stored on the school's hard drives

- Survey and research organisations
- Security organisations
- Health authorities and social welfare organisations
- Professional advisers and consultants
- Police forces, courts, tribunals
- Government departments (e.g. Education Funding Agency)

National Pupil Database

We are required to provide information about pupils to the Department for Education as part of statutory data collections such as the school census].

Some of this information is then stored in the National Pupil Database (NPD), which is owned and managed by the Department and provides evidence on school performance to inform research.

The database is held electronically so it can easily be turned into statistics. The information is securely collected from a range of sources including schools, local authorities and exam boards.

The Department for Education may share information from the NPD with other organisations which promote children's education or wellbeing in England. Such organisations must agree to strict terms and conditions about how they will use the data.

For more information, see the Department's webpage on how it collects and shares research data. You can also contact the Department for Education with any further questions

Youth support services

Once our pupils reach the age of 13, we are legally required to pass on certain information about them to their local authority or youth support services, as it has legal responsibilities regarding the education or training of 13-19 year-olds.

This information enables it to provide youth support services, post-16 education and training services, and careers advisers.

Parents/carers, or pupils once aged 16 or over, can contact Ashcroft School to request that we only pass the individual's name, address and date of birth to these organisations.

Transferring data internationally

If we ever have to transfer personal data to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, we will do so in accordance with data protection law.

Pupils' rights regarding personal data

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that the school holds about them.

Parents/carers can make a request with respect to their pupil's data where the child is not considered mature enough to understand their rights over their own data (usually under the age of 12), or where the child has provided consent.

Parents also have the right to make a subject access request with respect to any personal data the school holds about them.

If you make a subject access request, and if we do hold information about you or your child, we will:

- Give you a description of it
- Tell you why we are holding and processing it, and how long we will keep it for
- Explain where we got it from, if not from you or your child
- Tell you who it has been, or will be, shared with
- Let you know whether any automated decision-making is being applied to the data, and any consequences of this
- Give you a copy of the information

Individuals also have the right for their personal information to be passed electronically to other organisations in certain circumstances.

Parents/carers also have a legal right to access to their child's educational record. To request access, please contact the Data Protection Officer.

Other rights

Under GDPR, individuals have certain rights regarding how their personal data is used and kept safe, including the right to:

- Object to the use of personal data if it would cause, or is causing, damage or distress
- Prevent it being used to send direct marketing
- Object to decisions being taken by automated means (by a computer or machine, rather than by a person)
- In certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data corrected, deleted or destroyed, or restrict processing
- Claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of the data protection regulations

To exercise any of these rights, please contact our Data Protection Officer.

Complaints

We take any complaints about our collection and use of personal information very seriously.

If you think that our collection or use of personal information is unfair, misleading or inappropriate, or have any other concern about our data processing, please raise this with us in the first instance by contacting our Data Protection Officer.

Alternatively, you can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office:

- Report a concern online at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>
- Call 0303 123 1113
- Or write to: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Contact us

If you have any questions, concerns or would like more information about anything mentioned in this privacy notice, please contact our Data Protection Officer:

- By email: dataprotection@togethertrust.org.uk
- Or by writing: DPO, Together Trust Centre, Schools Hill, Cheadle, SK8 1JE

This notice is based on the Department for Education's model privacy notice for parents/carers, amended to reflect the way we use data in this school.