



## DATA PROTECTION POLICY

The school collects and uses personal information (referred to in the Data Protection Act as personal data) about staff, pupils, parents and other individuals who come into contact with the school. This information is gathered in order to enable the provision of education and other associated functions. In addition, the school may be required by law to collect, use and share certain information.

### Purpose

This policy sets out how the school deals with personal information correctly and securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988, and Data Protection (Amendment Act) 2003.

This policy applies to all personal information however it is collected, used, recorded and stored and whether it is held on paper or electronically.

All school staff involved with the collection, use, processing or disclosure of personal data will be aware of their duties and responsibilities and will adhere to this policy.

### What is Personal Information/data?

Personal information or data is information which relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data, or from that data in addition to other information available to them. Personal data includes (but is not limited to) an individual's name, address, date of birth, photograph, bank details and other information that identifies them.

### Data Protection Principles

The Data Protection Act establishes eight principles that must be adhered to at all times:

1. Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully;
2. Personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes;
3. Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive;
4. Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date;
5. Personal data processed for any purpose shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes.
6. Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the Data Protection Act 1998.
7. Personal data shall be kept secure i.e. protected by an appropriate degree of security.

8. Personal data shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of data protection.

## **Commitment**

The school is committed to maintaining the above principles at all times. Therefore, the school will:

- Inform individuals why personal information is being collected.
- Inform individuals when their information is shared, and why and with whom unless the Data Protection Act provides a reason not to do this.
- Check the accuracy of the information it holds and review it at regular intervals.
- Ensure that clear and robust safeguards are in place to ensure personal information is kept securely and to protect personal information from loss, theft and unauthorised disclosure, irrespective of the format in which it is recorded.
- Ensure that personal information is not retained longer than it is needed.
- Ensure that when information is destroyed that it is done so appropriately and securely.
- Share personal information with others only when it is legally appropriate to do so.
- Comply with the duty to respond to requests for access to personal information.
- Ensure that personal information is not transferred outside the EEA without the appropriate safeguards.
- Ensure all staff are aware of and understand these policies and procedures.

## **Complaints**

Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the school's complaints policy.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed as it is deemed appropriate, but no less frequently than every five years. The policy review will be undertaken by the Board of Management.

## **Contacts**

If you have any queries in relation to this policy, please contact the Principal who will also act as the contact point for any subject access requests.