

Embrace Multi Academy Trust

Privacy notice – student data



Introduction

As a school we collect a significant amount of information about our students. This notice explains why we collect the information, how we use it, the type of information we collect and our lawful reasons to do so.

Why do we collect data?

We collect and use student data to:

- fulfil our statutory obligations to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable people
- enable targeted, personalised learning for students
- manage behaviour and effective discipline
- monitor our effectiveness
- comply with our legal obligations to share data
- support students to fulfil their potential
- keep students, parents and carers informed about school events and school news.

Our legal obligations

We must make sure that information we collect and use about students is in line with the UK GDPR and 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 UK 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 also share information about students who may need or have an Education Health and Care Plan (or Statement of Special Educational Needs). Medical teams have access to some information about students, either by agreement or because the law says we must share that information, for example school nurses may visit the school.

Sharing Information

Other services, organisations and people we may share information with include:-

- schools or Academies that the students attend after leaving us
- relevant local authority/(ies)
- youth support services (students aged 13+)
- the Department for Education (DfE)
- the NHS as required

- School nursing service
- Parent/Carer
- Suppliers and service providers
- Health professionals
- Health & Social Welfare organisations
- Professional bodies
- Charities and voluntary organisations
- Auditors
- Survey & research organisations
- Social Care Organisations
- Police forces and Court services
- Suppliers of software and apps that are used in school

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

How we use the data

In school we also use various third party tools to make sure that students best interests are advanced. We also record details about progress, attainment and student development to support future planning and learning.

We use software to track progress and attainment.

We use data to manage and monitor pastoral needs and attendance/absences so that suitable strategies can be planned if required.

We use systems to take electronic payments for school meals. This includes financial software to manage school budgets, which may include some student data.

Data can be used to monitor school effectiveness, the impact of intervention and learning styles across groups of students as well as individual children.

We may use consultants, experts and other advisors to assist the school in fulfilling its obligations and to help run the school properly. We might need to share student information with them if this is relevant to their work.

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

What type of data is collected?

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.

The categories of student information that the school collects, holds and shares include the following:

- Personal information – eg names, student numbers and addresses
- Characteristics – eg ethnicity, language, nationality, country of birth and free school meal eligibility
- Attendance information – eg number of absences and absence reasons
- Assessment information – eg national curriculum assessment results
- Relevant medical information and social care
- Information relating to SEND and health needs

- Behavioural information – eg number of temporary exclusions
- CCTV photos and video recordings (applies to some schools only – where applicable a corresponding CCTV Policy can be found within the GDPR section of the school website)

The National Pupil Database (NPD)

The NPD is owned and managed by the Department for Education and contains information about students 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 students 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 student information we share with the department, for the purpose of data collections, go to <https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-censuses-for-schools>.

To find out more about the NPD, go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-user-guide-and-supporting-information>.

The department may share information about our students 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 for Education 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: and
- the arrangements in place to store and handle the data.

To be granted access to student 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 student 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 students 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 individual responsible for GDPR within the school. A list of contacts can be found here: <https://www.embracemat.org/gdpr>

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; and
- 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, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to 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 individual responsible for GDPR within the school. A list of contacts can be found here: <https://www.embracemat.org/gdpr>

More information about data protection and our policies

How we manage the data and our responsibilities to look after and share data is explained in our Data Protection Policy, and connected policies, which are also available on our website.

If you feel that data about your child is not accurate, or no longer needed please contact the schools office. Our complaints policy explains what to do if there is a dispute. Subject Access Requests are dealt with by within the Data Protection Policy.