The Belsteads School

believe and achieve

Privacy Notice (How we use pupil information)

Introduction

THE BELSTEADS SCHOOL is the data controller for the use of personal data in this privacy notice.

As a school we collect a significant amount of information about our pupils. 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.

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 pupil information that the school collects, holds and shares include the following:

- Personal information – e.g. names, pupil numbers, contact details and addresses
- Characteristics – e.g. ethnicity, language, nationality, country of birth and free school meal eligibility
- Safeguarding information (such as court orders and professional involvement)
- Special educational needs (including the needs and ranking)
- Medical and administration (such as doctors' information, child health, dental health, allergies, medication and dietary requirements)
- Attendance information (such as sessions attended, number of absences, absence reasons and any previous schools attended)
- Assessment and attainment information (such as key stage 1 and phonics results, post 16 courses enrolled for and any relevant results)
- Behavioural information (such as exclusions and any relevant alternative provision put in place)
- CCTV, photos and video recordings of you are also personal information

Why do we collect data?

We collect and use the pupil data to:

- Support pupil learning
- Monitor and report on pupil attainment progress
- Provide appropriate pastoral care
- Assess the quality of our services
- Keep children safe (e.g. food allergies, emergency contact details)
- Fulfil our statutory obligations to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable people

- Enable targeted, personalised learning for pupils
- Manage behaviour and effective discipline
- Comply with our legal obligations to share data
- Keep pupils, parents and carers informed about school events and school news

Our Legal Obligations

We must make sure that information we collect and use about pupils is in line with the 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 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 pupils 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 pupils, either by agreement or because the law says we must share that information, for example school nurses may visit the school.

Counselling services, careers services, occupational therapists are the type of people we will share information, so long as we have consent or are required by law to do so.

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

Collecting pupil information

We collect pupil information via pupil data collection sheets at the start of the year, Common Transfer File (CTF) or secure file transfer from the previous school.

Pupil data is essential for the schools' operational use. 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 Data Protection legislation, we will inform you whether you are required to provide certain pupil information to us or if you have a choice in this.

How we use the data

In school we also use various third-party tools to make sure that pupils' best interests are advanced. We also record details about progress, attainment and pupil 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 pupil data.

Data can be used to monitor school effectiveness, the impact of intervention and learning styles across groups of pupils 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 pupil information with them if this is relevant to their work.

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

Storing pupil data

We hold pupil data securely for the set amount of time shown in our data retention schedule. For more information on our data retention schedule and how we keep your data safe, please visit the relevant schools website or ask the relevant school office for a copy of their Records Management policy/Retention schedule].

Who we share pupil information with

We routinely share pupil information with:

- schools that the pupil's attend after leaving us
- local authorities
- the Department for Education (DfE)
- the 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.

The Department for Education collects personal data from educational settings and local authorities via various statutory data collections.

We are required to share information about our pupils with the (DfE) under regulation 5 of The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013.

All data is transferred securely and held by the DfE under a combination of software and hardware controls, which meet the current government security policy framework.

For more information, please see 'How Government Uses Your Data' section of this privacy notice.

We may be required to share information about our pupils with the local authority to ensure that they can conduct their statutory duties under the School Admissions Code, including conducting Fair Access Panels.

Requesting access to your personal data

Under data protection legislation, parents and pupils 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, contact the school's DPO as detailed in the Data Protection policy.

You also have the right to:

- to ask us for access to information about you that we hold
- to have your personal data rectified, if it is inaccurate or incomplete

- to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing
- to restrict our processing of your personal data (i.e. permitting its storage but no further processing)
- to object to direct marketing (including profiling) and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics
- not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us in the first instance. Alternatively, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at https://ico.org.uk/concerns/

For further information on how to request access to personal information held centrally by DfE, please see the 'How Government uses your data' section of this notice.

Withdrawal of consent and the right to lodge a complaint

Where we are processing your personal data with your consent, you have the right to withdraw that consent. If you change your mind, or you are unhappy with our use of your personal data, please let us know by contacting the relevant school office.

Last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically, so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time.

Contact

If you would like to discuss anything in this privacy notice, please contact:

The School Office
The Belsteads School
Back Lane
Little Waltham
Essex
CM3 3PP

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.

How Government uses your data

The pupil data that we lawfully share with the DfE through data collections:

- underpins school funding, which is calculated based upon the numbers of children and their characteristics in each school.
- informs 'short term' education policy monitoring and school accountability and intervention (for example, school GCSE results or Pupil Progress measures).
- supports 'longer term' research and monitoring of educational policy (for example how certain subject choices go on to affect education or earnings beyond school)

Data collection requirements

To find out more about the data collection requirements placed on us by the Department for Education (for example; via the school census) go to https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-andcensuses-for-schools

The National Pupil Database (NPD)

Much of the data about pupils in England goes on to be held in the National Pupil Database (NPD).

The NPD is owned and managed by the Department for Education and contains information about pupils 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.

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

Sharing by the Department

The law allows the Department to share pupils' personal data with certain third parties, including:

- schools and local authorities
- researchers
- organisations connected with promoting the education or wellbeing of children in England
- other government departments and agencies
- organisations fighting or identifying crime

For more information about the Department's NPD data sharing process, please visit:
https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data

Organisations fighting or identifying crime may use their legal powers to contact DfE to request access to individual level information relevant to detecting that crime. Whilst numbers fluctuate slightly over time, DfE typically supplies data on around 600 pupils per year to the Home Office and roughly 1 per year to the Police.

For information about which organisations the Department has provided pupil information, (and for which project) or to access a monthly breakdown of data share volumes with Home Office and the Police please visit the following website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfe-external-datashares

How to find out what personal information DfE hold about you

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018, you are entitled to ask the Department:

- if they are processing your personal data
- for a description of the data they hold about you

- the reasons they're holding it and any recipient it may be disclosed to
- for a copy of your personal data and any details of its source

If you want to see the personal data held about you by the Department, you should make a 'subject access request'. Further information on how to do this can be found within the Department's personal information charter that is published at the address below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/personalinformation-charter

To contact DfE: https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe