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## Privacy Notice for Parents and Pupils (How we use personal data)

### WHO WE ARE

Data protection is an important legal compliance issue for Windrush Valley School Limited. During the course of the School's activities, we collect, store and process personal data (sometimes sensitive in nature) about our current, past and prospective pupils; and their parents, carers or guardians. The School, as "data controller", is liable for the actions of our staff, proprietor and governors in how we handle such data.

### WHAT THIS PRIVACY POLICY IS FOR

This Privacy Notice is intended to provide information about how the School will collect, use and hold (or "process") personal data about individuals including: current, past and prospective pupils; and their parents, carers or guardians (referred to in this policy as "parents").

This makes the School a data controller of your personal information and this information is provided because data protection law gives individuals rights to understand how their data is processed and this Privacy Notice sets out how we will use that information and what your rights are in respect of the data we hold about you. [Please note that the School has a separate Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notice applicable to its employees and other staff.]

This **Privacy Notice** applies alongside any other information the School may provide about a particular use of personal data, for example when collecting data via an online or paper form.

This Privacy Notice also applies in addition to the School's other relevant terms and conditions and policies, including:

- any contract between the School and the parents of pupils;
- the School's policy on taking, storing and using images of children;
- the School's retention of records policy;
- the School's CCTV policy
- the School's safeguarding, pastoral, or health and safety policies, including as to how concerns or incidents are recorded; and
- the School's IT policies.

## RESPONSIBILITY FOR DATA PROTECTION

The School has appointed Amanda Douglas as the Data Protection Lead who will endeavour to ensure that all personal data is processed in compliance with this policy and Data Protection Law. Any questions about the operation of this policy or any concerns that the policy has not been followed should be referred in the first instance to the Data Protection Lead.

## WHY THE SCHOOL NEEDS TO PROCESS PERSONAL INFORMATION

In order to carry out its ordinary duties to staff, pupils and parents, the School needs to process a wide range of personal data about individuals (including current, past and prospective staff, pupils or parents) as part of its daily operation.

Some of this activity the School will need to carry out in order to fulfil its legal rights, duties or obligations – including those under a contract with the parents of its pupils. Other uses of personal data will be made in accordance with the School's legitimate interests, or the legitimate interests of another, provided that these are not outweighed by the impact on individuals, and provided it does not involve special or sensitive types of data.

The School expects that the following uses will fall within that category of its (or its community's) "legitimate interests":

- For the purposes of pupil selection, to confirm the identity of prospective pupils and their parents, and retain a record if appropriate for the purposes of future applications or openings;
- To provide education services, including musical education, physical training and extra-curricular activities to pupils, and monitoring pupils' progress and educational needs, including where such services are provided remotely (either temporarily or permanently)
- To report and liaise with parents about their child's progress, welfare and development including by way of regular reports and parents' evenings;

- To organise and manage meetings, events and social engagements for pupils and parents;
- To enable relevant authorities to monitor the School's performance and to intervene or assist with incidents as appropriate;
- To give and receive information and references about past and current pupils, including relating to outstanding fees or payment history, to/from any educational institution that the pupil attended or where it is proposed they attend;
- To enable pupils to take part in national or other assessments, and to publish the results of public examinations or other achievements of pupils of the School;
- To safeguard pupils' health and welfare and provide appropriate pastoral care (including following the requirements and recommendations of the government's guidance on [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#) (or "KCSIE"));;
- To monitor (as appropriate) use of the School's IT and communications systems in accordance with the School's Online Safety Policy and ICT Acceptable Use Agreement;
- To make use of photographic images of pupils in School publications, on the School website and (where appropriate) on the School's social media channels in accordance with the School's policy on taking, storing and using images of children;
- For security purposes, including CCTV, in accordance with the School's CCTV policy;
- For the prevention and detection of crime, and in order to assist with investigations (including criminal investigations) carried out by the police and other competent authorities;
- To carry out or cooperate with any school or external complaints, disciplinary or investigation process;
- To promote the School to prospective parents and pupils; and
- Where otherwise reasonably necessary for the School's purposes, including to obtain appropriate professional advice and insurance for the School.

In addition, the School will on occasion need to process special category personal data (concerning health, ethnicity, religion, biometrics or sexual life) in accordance with rights or duties imposed on it by law, including as regards safeguarding and employment, or from time to time by explicit consent where required. These reasons will include:

- To safeguard pupils' welfare and provide appropriate pastoral (and where necessary, medical) care, and to take appropriate action in the event of an emergency, incident or accident, including by disclosing details of an individual's medical condition or other relevant information where it is in the individual's interests to do so: for example for medical advice, for social protection, safeguarding, and cooperation with police or social services, for insurance purposes or to caterers or organisers of school
- trips who need to be made aware of dietary or medical needs;
- To comply with public health requirements;
- To provide educational services in the context of any special educational needs of a pupil;

- As part of any school or external complaints, disciplinary or investigation process that involves such data, for example if there are SEND, health or safeguarding elements; or
- For legal and regulatory purposes (for example child protection, diversity monitoring, health and safety and immigration / visa sponsorship compliance) and to comply with its legal obligations and duties of care.

## TYPES OF PERSONAL DATA PROCESSED BY THE SCHOOL

This will include by way of example:

- names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and other contact details;
- bank details and other financial information, e.g. about parents (or others) who pay fees to the School, and any anti-money laundering information we are required to collect by law;
- past, present and prospective pupils' academic, disciplinary, admissions and attendance records (including information about any special needs), and examination papers and marks;
- where appropriate, information about individuals' health and welfare, and contact details for their next of kin;
- references given or received by the School about pupils, and relevant information provided by previous educational establishments and/or other professionals or organisations working with pupils;
- correspondence with and concerning staff, pupils and parents (past and present); and
- images of pupils (and occasionally other individuals) engaging in school activities, and images captured by the school's CCTV system (in accordance with the School's policy on taking, storing and using images of children);

## HOW THE SCHOOL COLLECTS DATA

Generally, the School receives personal data from the individual directly (including, in the case of pupils, from their parents). This may be via a paper or online form, or simply in the ordinary course of interaction or communication (such as email or written assessments). However in some cases personal data will be supplied by third parties (for example another school, or other professionals or authorities working with that individual).

## WHO HAS ACCESS TO PERSONAL DATA AND WHO THE SCHOOL SHARES IT WITH

Processing by third parties:

For the most part, personal data collected by the School will remain within the School, and will be processed by appropriate individuals only in accordance with access protocols (i.e. on a 'need to

know' basis). However, some functions are outsourced including accounting, IT, cloud storage / records management, and school meals management. In accordance with Data Protection Law, this type of external data processing is always subject to contractual assurances that personal data will be kept securely and used only in accordance with the School's specific directions. Third party data processors include:

- Azets Accounting
- 123ICT
- Eduspot/School Money
- Parentmail
- Compass MIS
- Xero Accounting system
- Local Authority Early Years Team
- CPoms
- Tapestry

Data sharing:

Occasionally, the School will need to share personal information relating to our pupils and parents with third parties, such as:

- The Parent Consultative Group
- appropriate contractors, such as visiting music teachers;
- professional advisers (e.g. lawyers, insurers, marketing consultants and accountants);
- examination boards;
- Stage 3 complaints panels, which may include independent panel members such as when a complaint is raised (and in accordance with the School Complaints Procedure, this requires the involvement of independent panel members); third parties and their advisers in the event of a possible or actual sale, merger or other restructuring of the school; and
- government authorities (e.g. HMRC, DfE, police, Home Office, a relevant public health / NHS body and / or local authority) and/or appropriate regulatory bodies e.g. the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) and the Independent Schools Council (ISC).

## ACCESS TO, AND SHARING OF, SENSITIVE DATA

Particularly strict rules of access apply in the context of "special category" data, most notably:

- medical records; and
- pastoral or safeguarding files.

Medical / health data:

The School needs to process such information to comply with statutory duties and to keep pupils and others safe, but the School will ensure only authorised staff can access information on a need-to-know basis. This may include wider dissemination if needed for school trips or for catering purposes. Express consent will be sought where appropriate.

However, a certain amount of any SEND pupil's relevant information will need to be provided to staff more widely in the context of providing the necessary care and education that the pupil requires.

Safeguarding data:

Pupils and parents are reminded that the School is under duties imposed by law and statutory guidance (including [Keeping Children Safe in Education or KCSIE](#) ) to record or report incidents and concerns that arise or are reported to it, in some cases regardless of whether they are proven, if they meet a certain threshold of seriousness in their nature or regularity. This is likely to include file notes on personnel or safeguarding files, and in some cases referrals to relevant authorities such as the LADO or police.

KCSIE also requires that, whenever a child leaves the School to join another school or college, his or her child protection file is promptly provided to the new organisation, along with any other information which the School's *Designated Safeguarding Lead* considers material to the ongoing care needs of any pupil. Where appropriate, the School will consult with parents as to how these needs are best served, but ultimately the decision as to what information is necessary to share with the new school or college is a safeguarding question that must be reserved to the School. The School will retain a copy of the child protection file in accordance with its retention policy for material related to safeguarding matters.

For further information about this, please view the School's Safeguarding Policy.

## HOW LONG WE KEEP PERSONAL DATA

The School will retain personal data securely and only in line with how long it is necessary to keep for a legitimate and lawful reason. Typically, the legal recommendation for how long to keep pupil personnel files is up to 6 years following departure from the School. However, incident reports and safeguarding files will need to be kept much longer, in accordance with specific legal requirements.

If you have any specific queries about how our retention policy is applied, or wish to request that personal data that you no longer believe to be relevant is considered for erasure, please contact the School Office by telephone on 01993 831793 or by email on [info@windrushvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:info@windrushvalleyschool.co.uk). However, please bear in mind that the School will often have lawful and necessary reasons to hold on to some personal data even following such requests.

A limited and reasonable amount of information will be kept for archiving purposes, for example; and even where you have requested we no longer keep in touch with you, we will need to keep a record of the fact in order to fulfil your wishes (called a "suppression record").

Please refer to the School's GDPR Asset Management and Retention Policy for further details.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH AND SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL

The School will use the contact details of parents to keep them updated about the activities of the School, and parent events of interest, including by sending updates and newsletters, by email and by post. Unless the relevant individual objects, the School will also:

- Share personal data about parents and/or alumni, as appropriate, with organisations set up to help establish and maintain relationships with the school community, such as the Parents Consultative Group; Class WhatsApp group
- Contact parents and/or alumni (including via the organisations above) by post and email in order to promote and raise funds for the School [and, where appropriate, other worthy causes];

Should you wish to limit or object to any such use, or would like further information about them, please contact the Headteacher in writing. You always have the right to withdraw consent, where given, or otherwise object to direct marketing or fundraising. However, the School is nonetheless likely to retain some of your details (not least to ensure that no more communications are sent to that particular address, email or telephone number).

## YOUR RIGHTS

Individuals (both pupils and parents) have various rights under Data Protection Law to access and understand their own personal data held and processed by the School, and in some cases ask for it to be erased or amended, or to have it transferred elsewhere, or for the School to stop processing it – but subject to certain exemptions and limitations.

The School will endeavour to respond to any such written requests as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within statutory time-limits (which is generally one month, but actually fulfilling more complex or multiple requests, e.g. those involving third party information, may take 1-2 months longer).

You have the following rights:

- to obtain access to, and copies of, the personal data that we hold about you;
- to require us to correct the personal data we hold about you if it is incorrect;
- to require us (in certain circumstances) to erase your personal data;

- to request that we restrict our data processing activities (and, where our processing is based on your consent, you may withdraw that consent, without affecting the lawfulness of our processing based on consent before its withdrawal);
- to receive from us the personal data we hold about you which you have provided to us, in a reasonable format specified by you, including for the purpose of you transmitting that personal data to another data controller;
- to object, on grounds relating to your particular situation, to any of our particular processing activities where you feel this has a disproportionate impact on your rights.

Please note that the above rights are not absolute, and we may be entitled to refuse requests where exceptions apply.

### **Rights of access, etc:**

The School will be better able to respond quickly to smaller, targeted requests for information made during term time. If the request for information is manifestly excessive or similar to previous requests, the School may ask you to reconsider, or require a reasonable fee for the administrative costs of complying with the request, or in certain cases refuse the request (but only where data protection law allows it, and in accordance with relevant regulatory guidance)

If you consider that the personal data we hold on you is inaccurate, please let us know. However, the School will not necessarily delete or amend views, opinions, notes or records purely on the request of an individual who disputes the account, although we may keep a record of all parties' viewpoints.

### **Requests that cannot be fulfilled:**

You should be aware that GDPR rights (including the right of access) are limited to your own personal data, and certain data is exempt. This will include information which identifies other individuals (and parents need to be aware this may include their own children, in certain limited situations – [please see further below]), or information which is subject to legal privilege (for example legal advice given to or sought by the School, or documents prepared in connection with a legal action, or where a duty of confidence is owed by a legal adviser).

The School is also not required to disclose any pupil examination papers (or other information consisting solely of pupil test answers, potentially including in mock exam scripts or other types of exams / tests used to assess performance – although markers' comments may still be disclosable if they constitute pupil personal data). The School is also not required to provide examination or other test marks ahead of their ordinary publication date, nor share any confidential reference held

by the School that was (or will be) given for the purposes of the education, training, appointment or employment of any individual.

You may have heard of the "right to be forgotten". However, we will sometimes have compelling reasons to refuse specific requests to amend, delete or stop processing your (or your child's) personal data: for example, a legal requirement, or where it falls within a proportionate legitimate interest identified in this Privacy Notice. Generally, if the School still considers the processing of the personal data to be reasonably necessary, it is entitled to continue. All such requests will be considered on their own merits.

### **Requests by or on behalf of pupils:**

Pupils can make subject access requests for their own personal data, provided that, in the reasonable opinion of the School, they have sufficient maturity to understand the request they are making. A pupil of any age may ask a parent or other representative to make a subject access request on his/her behalf.

Indeed, while a person with parental responsibility will generally be entitled to make a subject access request on behalf of younger pupils, the law still considers the information in question to be the child's. Requests not considered in the child's best interests may sometimes be refused.

### **Parental requests, etc:**

It should be clearly understood that the rules on subject access are not the sole basis on which information requests are handled. Parents may not have a statutory right to information, but they and others will often have a legitimate interest or expectation in receiving certain information about pupils without their consent. The School may consider there are lawful grounds for sharing with or without reference to that pupil.

Parents will in general receive educational and pastoral updates about their children. Where parents are separated, the School will in most cases aim to provide the same information to each person with parental responsibility, but may need to factor in all the circumstances including the express wishes of the child, court orders, or pastoral issues.

All information requests from, on behalf of, or concerning pupils – whether made under subject access or simply as an incidental request – will therefore be considered on a case by case basis.

### **Consent:**

Where the School is relying on consent as a means to process personal data, any person may withdraw this consent at any time (subject to similar age considerations as above). Examples where we do rely on consent are: certain types of uses of images, certain types of fundraising activity.

Please be aware however that the School may not be relying on consent but have another lawful reason to process the personal data in question even without your consent. That reason will usually have been asserted under this Privacy Notice, or may otherwise exist under some form of contract or agreement with the individual (e.g. an employment or parent contract, or because a purchase of goods, services or membership of an organisation such as an alumni or parents' association has been requested).

## DATA ACCURACY AND SECURITY

The School will endeavour to ensure that all personal data held in relation to an individual is as up to date and accurate as possible. Individuals must please notify the School Office of any significant changes to important information, such as contact details, held about them.

An individual has the right to request that any out-of-date, irrelevant or inaccurate or information about them is erased or corrected (subject to certain exemptions and limitations under Data Protection Law): please see above for details of why the School may need to process your data, and who you may contact if you disagree.

The School will take appropriate technical and organisational steps to ensure the security of personal data about individuals, including policies around use of technology and devices, and access to school systems. All staff and governors will be made aware of this policy and their duties under Data Protection Law and receive relevant training.

## THIS POLICY

The School will update this Privacy Notice from time to time. Any substantial changes that affect your rights will be provided to you directly as far as is reasonably practicable. This Privacy Notice was last updated on 16 January 2024

## QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS

Any comments or queries on this policy should be directed to the School Office by telephone on 01993 831793 or by email on [info@windrushvalleyschool.co.uk](mailto:info@windrushvalleyschool.co.uk)

If an individual believes that the School has not complied with this policy or acted otherwise than in accordance with Data Protection Law, they should utilise the School [complaints / grievance] procedure and should also notify the School Office. You can also make a referral to or lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), although the ICO recommends that steps are taken to resolve the matter with the School before involving the regulator.

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 would like to discuss anything in this privacy notice, please contact Amanda Douglas- Head Teacher

Approved By: Amanda Douglas



Signed by Headteacher:

Dated: 06 May 2026