



July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Re: Privacy Notice**

Under data protection law, individuals have a right to be informed about how the school uses any personal data that we hold about them. We comply with this right by providing 'privacy notices' (sometimes called 'fair processing notices') to individuals where we are processing their personal data.

This privacy notice explains how we collect, store and use personal data about pupils.

We, Birchwood Community High School, are the 'data controller' for the purposes of data protection law.

Our data protection officer is Mrs T. Wiegand (see 'Contact us' below).

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 need it to perform an official task in the public interest

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 vital interests (or someone else's interests)

Where we have obtained consent to use pupils' personal data, this consent can be withdrawn at any time.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withdrawn.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. We keep records on students for 9 years after they leave Birchwood Community High School and they are then disposed of securely as recommended by the Information and Records Management Toolkit for Schools; [Information and Records Management Society's toolkit for schools](#).

### **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 authority – to meet our legal obligations to share certain information with it, such as safeguarding concerns and exclusions*
- *The Department for Education (a government department)*
- *Your family and representatives*
- *Educators and examining bodies – to meet our responsibility to provide you with an education*
- *Our regulator – Ofsted, to ensure we are meeting our legal duties as a school*
- *Suppliers and service providers – to enable them to provide the service we have contracted them for: -*
  - *Microsoft Office 365 including Teams*
  - *Zoom - online distance learning*
  - *Cunninghams – cashless catering system*
  - *Parent Pay – online payment system*
  - *SISRA – Assessment tracking system*
  - *FFT (Fisher Family Trust) – target setting system*
  - *Sparx – maths programme*
  - *Classcharts – home/school communication system*
  - *Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme – for those students who wish to participate, with your consent.*
  - *CPOMS – online safeguarding system*
  - *Evolve – LA Trip management*
  - *Seneca/Wonde – Data management system*
  - *Provision May – SEND management*
  - *Inventry – school signing in system*

- *Central and local government* - We need to use it to carry out a task in the public interest (in order to provide you with an education)
- *Health authorities – such as school health for immunisations* - We need to use it to carry out a task in the public interest
- *Health and social welfare organisations* - – to meet our legal obligations to share certain information with it, such as safeguarding concerns and exclusions
- *Police forces, courts, tribunals* – to meet our legal obligations to share certain information with it, such as safeguarding concerns and exclusions
- *Professional bodies* - We need to use it to carry out a task in the public interest, in order to provide you with an education.

## **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 about the NPD.

## **Youth support services**

Once our pupils reach the age of 13, we are legally required to pass on certain information about them to Warrington Borough Council, 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 our data protection officer to request that we only pass the individual's name, address and date of birth to Warrington Borough Council.

## **Transferring data internationally**

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

## **Parents and 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 child’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 in an intelligible form

Individuals also have the right for their personal information to be transmitted electronically to another organisation in certain circumstances.

If you would like to make a request please contact Tina Wiegand, HR & Staff Manager.

### **Other rights**

Under data protection law, 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.

To make a complaint, please contact 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**:

- Mrs T Wiegand, Data Protection Officer ([twiegand@birchwoodhigh.org](mailto:twiegand@birchwoodhigh.org)) 01925853500.

*This notice is based on the [Department for Education's model privacy notice](#) , amended for parents and to reflect the way we use data in this school.*

Yours faithfully



Mrs E. Mills  
Head Teacher