SOUTH WEST ESSEX
COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRUST

Policy Name	**Pupil privacy notice**
Approved by	FHAC
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SWECET Privacy Notice (How we use pupil information)

Introduction

SWECET 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 we process include:

- Personal identifiers and contacts – (such as name, unique pupil number, contact details and address)
- Characteristics – (such as ethnicity, language, 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 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 we collect and use pupil information

We collect and use pupil data for the following purposes:

- To support pupil learning
- To monitor and report on pupil attainment progress
- To provide appropriate pastoral care
- To assess the quality of our services
- To keep children safe (e.g. food allergies, emergency contact details)
- To meet the statutory duties placed upon us for the Department of Education (DfE) data

collections

- To fulfil our statutory obligations to safeguard and protect children and vulnerable people
- To enable targeted, personalised learning for pupils
- To manage behaviour and effective discipline
- To comply with our legal obligations to share data
- To 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 UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). 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 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 registration forms and via email.

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 requested on a voluntary basis. In order to comply with data protection legislation, we will inform you at the point of collection, whether you are required to provide certain pupil information to us or if you have a choice in this.

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 South West Essex Community Education Trust - Policies

Who we share pupil information with

We routinely share pupil information with:

- schools that the pupils attend after leaving us
- our local authority
- the Department for Education (DfE)
- youth support services (pupils aged 13+)
- the NHS

Why we regularly 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

Youth support services

Pupils aged 13+

Once our pupils reach the age of 13, we also pass pupil information to our local authority and / or provider of youth support services as they have responsibilities in relation to the education or training of 13-19 year olds under section 507B of the Education Act 1996.

This enables them to provide services as follows:

- youth support services
- careers advisers

The information shared is limited to the child's name, address and date of birth. However, where a parent or guardian provides their consent, other information relevant to the provision of youth support services will be shared. This right is transferred to the child / pupil once they reach the age 16.

Data is securely transferred to the youth support service via ***[insert method used]*** and is stored ***[insert storage]*** and held for ***[insert data retention period]***.

Department for Education (DfE)

The Department for Education (DfE) 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 Department for Education (DfE) either directly or via our local authority for the purpose of those data collections, under: Data collection and censuses for schools - GOV.UK

Examples for school census:

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

All data is transferred securely and held by the Department for Education (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.

For privacy information on the data the Department for Education collects and uses, please see: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/privacy-information-early-years-foundation-stage-to-key-stage-3

and

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/privacy-information-key-stage-4-and-5-and-adult-education

Requesting access to your personal data

The UK GDPR gives parents and pupils certain rights about how their information is collected and used. To make a request for your personal information, or be given access to your child's educational record, contact ***sarrequests@swecet.org***

You also have the following rights:

- the right to be informed about the collection and use of your personal data – this is called 'right to be informed'.
- the right to ask us for copies of your personal information we have about you – this is called 'right of access', this is also known as a subject access request (SAR), data subject access request or right of access request.
- the right to ask us to change any information you think is not accurate or complete – this is called 'right to rectification'.
- the right to ask us to delete your personal information – this is called 'right to erasure'
- the right to ask us to stop using your information – this is called 'right to restriction of processing'.
- the 'right to object to processing' of your information, in certain circumstances
- rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.
- the right to withdraw consent at any time (where relevant).
- the right to complain to the Information Commissioner if you feel we have not used your information in the right way.

There are legitimate reasons why we may refuse your information rights request, which depends on why we are processing it. For example, some rights will not apply:

- right to erasure does not apply when the lawful basis for processing is legal obligation or public task.
- right to portability does not apply when the lawful basis for processing is legal obligation, vital interests, public task or legitimate interests.
- right to object does not apply when the lawful basis for processing is contract,

legal obligation or vital interests. And if the lawful basis is consent, you don't have the right to object, but you have the right to withdraw consent.

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 or directly to 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 Department for Education (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 ***dataprotection@swecet.org*.**

Please note that data may still be shared under any lawful obligation to share it.

Last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically, so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time. This version was last updated on 8th July 2026.

Contact

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

dataprotection@swecet.org

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 Department for Education (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-and-censuses-for-schools.

The National Pupil Database (NPD)

The NPD is owned and managed by the Department for Education (DfE) and contains information about pupils in schools in England. This information is securely collected from a range of sources including schools, local authorities and awarding bodies.

The data in the NPD is provided as part of the operation of the education system and is used for research and statistical purposes to improve, and promote, the education and well-being of children in England.

The evidence and data provide DfE, education providers, Parliament and the wider public with a clear picture of how the education and children's services sectors are working in order to better target, and evaluate, policy interventions to help ensure all children are kept safe from harm and receive the best possible education.

To find out more about the NPD, go to https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-npd-privacy-notice/national-pupil-database-npd-privacy-notice.

Sharing by the Department for Education (DfE)

DfE will only share pupils' personal data where it is lawful, secure and ethical to do so. Where these conditions are met, the law allows the Department for Education (DfE) 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 for Education's (DfE) 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 the Department for Education (DfE) to request access to individual level information relevant to detecting that crime.

For information about which organisations the Department for Education (DfE) 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-data-shares.

How to find out what personal information the Department for Education (DfE) holds about you

Under the terms of the UK GDPR, you are entitled to ask the Department for Education (DfE):

- 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 for Education (DfE), you should make a 'subject access request'. See the guide for details: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/requesting-your-personal-information/requesting-your-personal-information#your-rights

Further information on what personal information the Department for Education (DfE) holds about you published in the privacy notices for early years foundation stage to key stage 3, and key stage 4 and 5 and adult education. These are available below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/privacy-information-early-years-foundation-stage-to-key-stage-3

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/privacy-information-key-stage-4-and-5-and-adult-education
To contact the Department for Education (DfE): https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe

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