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General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Further to previous information included on newsletters posted on our website, you will be aware that the new GDPR, came into effect on 25th May 2018. This brought higher standards for handling data and greater expectations for improved transparency, enhanced data security and increased accountability for processing personal data.

What does GDPR mean for schools?

GDPR brings a new responsibility to inform parents about how we are using pupils' data and who it is being used by.

As a school, we have always endeavoured to take the greatest care with personal data, ensuring that information you provide to us about your child and yourself remains safe. Whilst there are many similarities with the outgoing Data Protection Act, we have made some changes in school in order to ensure that we comply with the new legislation. One of the changes we have been required to make is to issue a 'Privacy Notice' which replaces our old 'Fair Processing Notice'. Our new 'Privacy Notice' sets out in some detail our activities as data controller and is available on our website.

A great deal of the processing and collecting of personal data undertaken by schools will fall under a specific legal basis, 'in the public interest'. As it is in the public interest to operate schools successfully, it will mean that specific consent will not be needed in the majority of cases in schools.

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GDPR will ensure data is protected and will give individuals more control over their data, however this means schools will have greater accountability for the data.

Under GDPR, consent must be explicitly given to anything that isn't within the 'normal business' of the school, especially if it involves a third party managing the data. Parents must express consent for their child's data to be used outside of the normal business of the school.

Schools must ensure that their third party suppliers, eg confidential waste collection company, local Nursery providers, who may process any of their data is GDPR compliant and must have legally binding contracts with any company that processes any personal data. These contracts must cover what data is being processed, who it is being processed by, who has access to it and how it is protected.

Safeguarding

It will be compulsory that all data breaches which are likely to have a detrimental effect on the data subject are reported to the ICO within 72 hours.

On rare occasions, there could be an urgent Safeguarding issue which may override GDPR.

If you are concerned about how we are using your personal data then you can contact school on any of the above numbers, or call into the main office for assistance.

