



St Bernard's Preparatory School

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) - Privacy Notice for Parents

September 2025

Introduction

Under UK data protection law, individuals have a right to be informed about how our school uses any personal data that we hold about them. We comply with this right by providing 'privacy notices' to individuals where we are processing personal data.

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

We, St Bernard's Preparatory School, Hawtrey Close, Slough, SL1 1TB, are the 'data controller' for the purposes of UK data protection law.

Our data protection officer is **Mrs Maria Biscardi**

The personal data we hold

Personal data that we may collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) about your child includes, but is not restricted to:

- Name, address, date of birth, contact details, contact preferences, date of birth, identification documents
- Safeguarding information (such as court orders and professional involvement)
- Medical and Administration information (such as doctors information, child health, dental health, allergies, medication, dietary requirements and any relevant medical conditions)
- Attendance information (such as sessions attended, number of absences, absence reasons and any previous schools attended)
- Behavioural information (such as incidents, exclusions and any relevant alternative provision put in place)
- Assessment and attainment information (such as key stage 1 and phonics results and national curriculum assessments)
- Special educational needs information (including the needs and ranking)
- School History (such as where pupils go on to when they leave us)
- Safeguarding information
- Details of any support received, including care packages, plans and support providers
- Information about your child's use of the information and communication systems, equipment and facilities

We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about your child that falls into 'special categories' of more sensitive personal data. This includes but is not restricted to:

- Information about any medical conditions we need to be aware of, including physical and mental health

- Photographs and CCTV images captured in school
- Information about characteristics, such as ethnic background or special educational needs, language, nationality and country of birth

We may also hold data about your child that we have received from other organisations, including other schools and social services.

How and why does St Bernard's Preparatory School collect and use personal information?

The school's primary reason for using personal information is to provide pupils with an education. The personal data collected is essential, for the school to fulfil their official functions and meet legal requirements.

We collect and use pupil information for the following purposes:

- to support pupil learning
- to monitor and report on pupil attainment progress
- to provide appropriate pastoral care
- to keep children safe (food allergies, or emergency contact details)
- to meet the statutory duties placed upon us by the Department for Education
- to comply with the law regarding data sharing
- to assess the quality of our services
- to administer admissions waiting lists
- to carry out research
- to comply with the law regarding data sharing
- to make sure information and communication systems, equipment and facilities are used appropriately, legally and safely.

We obtain information from admission forms and from your child's previous school.

- We may also get information from professionals such as doctors and from local authorities.
- We may have information about any family circumstances which may affect your child's welfare or happiness.
- We may need information about any court orders or criminal petitions which relate to you. This is so that we can safeguard the welfare and wellbeing of your child and the other pupils at the school.
- We use CCTV to make sure the school's site is safe. CCTV is not used in any private areas such as changing rooms.
- We will monitor your child's use of web browsing, the internet and mobile electronic devices e.g. iPads to comply with the schools E-Safety Policy when using technology and to keep them safe.
- We may take photographs or videos of your child or you at school events to use on social media and on the school website. This is to show prospective parents and pupils what we do here and to advertise the school's activities. We may continue to use photographs and videos after your child has left the school.
- We may send you information to keep you up to date with what is happening at the school. For example, by sending you information about events and activities taking place (including fundraising events) and the school newsletter.
- We may keep details of your child's address when your child leaves the school so we can keep in touch and find out how your child is progressing.
- We may use information about your child if we need this for historical research purposes or for statistical purposes.

In addition, the School will on occasion need to process **special category personal data** (concerning health, ethnicity or religion) or criminal records information (such as when carrying out DBS checks) in accordance

with rights or duties imposed on it by law, including as regards safeguarding and employment, or from time to time explicit consent required. These reasons will include:

- To safeguard pupil's welfare and provide appropriate pastoral (and when 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 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 provide educational services in the context of any special educational needs of a pupil;
- To provide spiritual education in the context of any religious beliefs
- In connection with employment of its staff, for example DBS checks, welfare, union membership or pension plans
- As part of School or external complaints, disciplinary or investigation process that involves such data, for example if there are SEN, health or safeguarding elements
- For legal and regulatory purposes (for example child protection, diversity monitoring and health and safety) and to comply with its legal obligations and duties of care.

Use of your child's personal data for filtering and monitoring purposes

While your child is in in our school, we may monitor their use of our information and communication systems, equipment and facilities (e.g. school computers). We do this so that we can:

- Comply with health and safety and other legal obligations
- Comply with our policies and our legal obligations
- Keep our network(s) and devices safe from unauthorised access, and prevent malicious software from harming our network(s)
- Protect your child's welfare

How the School collects Data

Pupil data is essential for the school's 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 the 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 and we will tell you what you need to do if you do not want to share this information with us.

Generally, the School receives personal data from the individual directly (including, in the case of pupils, from their parents). This may be via a 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); or collected from publicly available resources.

Who has access to personal data and the school shares it with

Occasionally, the School will need to share information relating to its community with third parties, such as:

- professional advisers (e.g. lawyers, insurers and accountants);
- government authorities (e.g. HMRC, DfE, police or the local authority); and
- appropriate regulatory bodies
- professional associations

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 and access protocols (i.e. on a need to know basis). Particularly strict rules of access apply in the context of:

- medical records, held and accessed by appropriate staff under supervision, or otherwise in accordance with express consent; and
- pastoral or safeguarding files

However, a certain amount of SEN pupils' 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.

Finally, in accordance processing activity is carried out by 3rd party system providers, such as ParentMail. This is always subject to contractual assurances that personal data will be kept securely and only in accordance with the School's specific directions.

How long we keep personal data

The School will retain personal information securely and only in line with how long it is necessary to keep for legitimate and lawful reason. Typically, the legal recommendation for how long to keep ordinary staff and pupil data is up to 7 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, as detailed by the [ICO Retention Policy](#).

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 us. However, please bear in mind that the School will often have lawful and necessary reasons to hold onto some personal data **even following such requests**.

A limited and reasonable amount of information will be kept for achieving purposes, for example; historical data information.

We have put in place appropriate security measures to prevent your child's personal information from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered or disclosed.

We will dispose of your child's personal data securely when we no longer need it.

Financial information

- We will process financial information about you in relation to the payment of educational events, resources and fees.

Data Sharing

We do not share information about your child 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 UK data protection law), we may share personal information about your child.

- Occasionally we may use consultants, experts, peripatetic teachers and other advisors to assist the school in fulfilling its obligation and to help run the school properly. We might need to share your information with them if this is relevant to their work.
- If your child leaves us to attend another school we may need to provide that school with information about you. For example, details of family circumstances for safeguarding reasons.
- We may share information about you with others in your family, such as another parent or step parent. For example, where this is a part of obligations, or in connection with miscellaneous school charges.

- We may need to share information if there is an emergency, for example, if you are hurt whilst on school premises
- We may also need to share information with our legal advisers for the purpose of obtaining legal advice.
- Our local authority
- The Department for Education (DfE)
- On occasion, we may need to share information with the police.
- Health and social welfare organisations
- Professional advisers and consultants
- Charities and voluntary organisations
- Any personal data relating to pupils and their families is to be processed.

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 and early years census.

Some of this information is then stored in the [National Pupil Database](#) (NPD), which is owned and managed by the Department for Education 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 third parties, such as other organisations which promote children's education or wellbeing in England. These third parties must agree to strict terms and conditions about how they will use the data.

For more information, see the Department for Education's webpage on [how it collects and shares personal data](#).

You can also [contact the Department for Education](#) with any further questions about the NPD.

Our legal grounds for using personal information

This section contains information about legal basis that we are relying on when handling your information.

St Bernard's Preparatory School holds the legal right to collect and use personal data relating to pupils and their families, and we may also receive information regarding from their previous school. Local authority and or the Departments for Education.

We collect and use personal data in order to meet legal requirements and legitimate interests set out in the GDPR and UK Law, including those in relation to the following:

- Article 6 and Article 9 of the GDPR 2018
- Education Act 1996
- Regulation 5 of the Education (Information about Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013

We will need to use your information in order to perform our obligations under our contract with you. For example, we need your name and contact details so that we can update you on your child's progress and so that we can contact you if there is concern.

Legal obligation

Where the school needs to use your information in order to comply with legal obligation, for example to report a concern about your wellbeing to Children's Services. We may also have to disclose information to third parties such as the courts, the local authority or the police where legally obliged to do so.

Vital and Public Interests

St Bernard's Preparatory School considers that it is acting in the public interest when providing education. St Bernard's Preparatory School considers it is acting to protect the vital interests of any person where a person cannot give consent, for example, if they are seriously hurt and are unconscious or to prevent someone from being seriously harmed or killed.

Department for Education

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 DfE either directly or via our local authority for the purpose of those data collections. This data sharing underpins the school's funding and educational attainment policy and monitoring.

The National Pupil Database (NPD)

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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 third parties, such as other organisations which promote children's education or wellbeing in England. These third parties must agree to strict terms and conditions about how they will use the data.

For more information, see the Department for Education'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.

The Department may share information about our pupils from the NPD with third parties who promote the education or well-being of children in England by:

- conducting research or analysis
- producing statistics
- providing information, advice or guidance

The Department has robust processes in place to ensure the confidentiality of our data is maintained and there are stringent controls in place regarding access and use of the data. Decisions on whether DfE releases data to third parties are subject to a strict approval process and based on a detailed assessment of:

- who is requesting the data
- the purpose for which it is required
- the level and sensitivity of data requested: and
- the arrangements in place to store and handle the data

To be granted access to pupil information, organisations must comply with strict terms and conditions covering the confidentiality and handling of the data, security arrangements and retention and use of the data.

We can keep information about pupils for a very long time or even indefinitely if we need this for historical, research or statistical purposes. For example, if we consider the information might be useful to write a book about the school.

What decisions can you make about your information?

You have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that we hold about your child.

If you make a subject access request, and if we do hold information about your child, we will (subject to any exemptions that apply):

- 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
- 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

You may also have the right for your child's personal information to be transmitted electronically to another organisation in certain circumstances.

Your other rights regarding your child's data

Under UK data protection law, you have certain rights regarding how your child's personal data is used and kept safe. For example, you have the right to:

- The right to be informed - you can also ask what information we hold about you and be provided with a copy. We will also give you extra information, such as why we use this information about you, where it came from and what types of people we have sent it to;
- The right to rectification - if information is incorrect you can ask to correct it;
- The right to erasure - you can ask to have personal data, blocked, erased or destroyed, in certain circumstances. For example, where we no longer need the information;
- The right of access - you can ask the school to send you, or another organisation, certain types of information about you in a format that can be read by computer; and
- The right to restrict processing - our use of information about you may be restricted in some cases. For example, if you tell us that the information is inaccurate we can only use it for limited purposes while we check its accuracy.
- The right to object - you can object to processing of personal data that is likely to cause, or is causing, damage or distress. Where the processing of your data is based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw this consent at any time e.g. direct marketing and fundraising
- The right to data portability allows individuals to obtain and reuse their personal data for their own purposes across different services.
- Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling - not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you.

Like other organisations we need to keep personal information safe, up to date, only use it for its original purposes, destroy it when it is no longer needed and treat the information we get fairly.

There are certain circumstances in which this right can be denied, such as if releasing the information might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual, or if it would mean releasing exam marks before they are officially announced.

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.

Please contact the school's GDPR Lead if:

- You have any questions or concerns
- You object to the school using your information for marketing
- You would like the school to update the information we hold about you
- You would prefer that certain information is kept confidential.

If you have any concerns about the way St Bernard's Preparatory School and /or the DfE is collecting or using your personal data, you can raise a concern with DPO in the first instance.

Alternatively, you can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office:

- Report a concern online at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>
- Call 0303 123 1113
- Or write to: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information about anything mentioned in this privacy notice, please contact our **data protection officer**:

Key Officers:

Headteacher: Mrs A. Verma

Data Protection Officer (DPO): Mrs M Biscardi