
Data Protection Information

Schools, Local Education Authorities (LEAs), the Department for Education (DFE), the government department which deals with education, The Standards and Testing Agency (STA), Ofsted and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) all process information on pupils in order to run the education system, and in doing so have to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means, among other things that the data held about pupils must only be used for specific purposes allowed by law. We are therefore writing to tell you about the types of data held, why that data is held, and to whom it may be passed on.

The **school** holds information on pupils in order to support their teaching and learning, to monitor and report on their progress, to provide appropriate pastoral care, and to assess how well the school as a whole is doing. This information includes contact details, National Curriculum assessment results, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information. From time to time schools are required to pass on some of this data to LEAs, the DFE and to agencies, Ofsted and EFA, that are prescribed by law.

The **Standards and Testing Agency** administers assessment testing up to the end of Key stage 3.

The **Local Education Authority** uses information about pupils to carry out specific functions for which it is responsible, such as the assessment of any special educational needs the pupil may have. It also uses the information to derive statistics to inform decisions on (for example) the funding of schools, and to assess the performance of schools. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them.

Ofsted uses information about the progress and performance of pupils to help inspectors evaluate the work of schools, to assist schools in their self-evaluation, and as part of Ofsted's assessment of the effectiveness of education initiatives and policy. Inspection reports do not identify individual pupils.

The **Education Funding Agency** uses information about pupils for statistical purposes, to evaluate and develop education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them. On occasion information may be shared with other Government departments or agencies strictly for statistical or research purposes only.

The **Department for Education** (DFE) uses information about pupils for research and statistical purposes, to inform, influence and improve education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole. The DFE will feed back to LEAs and schools information about their pupils for a variety of purposes that will include data

checking exercises, use in self-evaluation analyses and where information is missing because it was not passed on by a former school. The EFA and DFE will also provide Ofsted with pupil level data for use in school inspection. Where relevant, pupil information may also be shared with post 16 learning institutions to minimise the administrative burden on application for a course and to aid the preparation of learning plans.

Pupil information may be matched with other data sources that the Department holds in order to model and monitor pupils' educational progression; and to provide comprehensive information back to LEAs and learning institutions to support their day to day business. The DFE may also use contact details from these sources to obtain samples for statistical surveys: these surveys may be carried out by research agencies working under contract to the Department and participation in such surveys is usually voluntary. The Department may also match data from these sources to data obtained from statistical surveys.

Pupil data may also be shared with other Government Departments and Agencies (including the Office for National Statistics) for statistical or research purposes only. In all these cases the matching will require that individualised data is used in the processing operation, but that data will not be processed in such a way that it supports measures or decisions relating to particular individuals or identifies individuals in any results. This data sharing will be approved and controlled by the Department's Chief Statistician.

The DFE may also disclose individual pupil information to independent researchers into the educational achievements of pupils who have a legitimate need for it for their research, but each case will be determined on its merits and subject to the approval of the Department's Chief Statistician.

Pupils, as data subjects, have certain rights under the Data Protection Act, including a general right of access to personal data held on them. If you wish to access your personal data, or you wish your parents to do so on your behalf, then please contact the relevant organisation in writing:

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- the school at Hele's School, Seymour Road, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 4LT
 - the LEA's Data Protection Officer at Performance and Information Team, Department for Lifelong Learning, Plymouth City Council, PL1 2AA
 - the STA's data protection officer at: Standards and Testing Agency, Department for Education, 53-55 Butts Road, Earlsdon Park, Coventry, CV1 3BH Tel: 0370 000 2288
 - EFA's Data Protection Officer at the Public communications unit Telephone: 0370 000 2288
 - Ofsted's Data Protection Officer at Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SE;
 - the DFES's Data Protection Officer at DFES, Caxton House, Tothill Street, LONDON, SW1H 9NA.

In order to fulfil their responsibilities under the Act the organisation may, before responding to this request, seek proof of the requestor's identity and any further information required to locate the information requested.

Separately from the Data Protection Act, regulations provide a pupil's parent (regardless of the age of the pupil) with the right to view, or to have a copy of, their child's educational record at the school. If you wish to exercise this right you should write to the school.

Providing information to Careers SW services providers

For pupils approaching or above age 13, the school is also required to pass on information to Careers SW services providers on request. This information includes the name and address of the pupil and parent, and any further information relevant to the Careers SW services' role, which is to support young people, helping them to achieve their potential and to realise benefits from education and training. However parents, or the pupil themselves if aged 16 or over, can ask that no information beyond name and address (for pupil and parent) be passed on to Careers SW. If as a parent, or as a pupil aged 16 or over, you do not want Careers SW to receive from the school information beyond name and address, then please contact the school within **four** weeks of receiving this note.

The LEA and DFE may supply to Careers SW services providers information which they have about your child, but will not pass on any information they have received from the school if you (or your child if aged 16 or over) have notified the school that Careers SW should not receive information beyond name and address.