St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Privacy Notice for Pupil and Parents or Carers

We grow and learn in the footsteps of Jesus

Approved by	
Name:	Nicola Pettitt
Position:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	N. Pettitt
Date:	13.10.2025
Proposed review date:	October 2026

St. Mary's C.P. School Privacy Notice for Pupils and Parents or Carers

Privacy Notice (How we use pupil information)

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School is the data controller under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) for the use of personal data explained in this notice.

Personal data is any information that can be used to identify a living person, either on its own, or in combination with other pieces of data. Data processing includes the collection, use, and storage of data.

The categories of pupil and related information that we process include:

- personal identifiers like first name (or if more than one, each first name), surname, date of birth, postal address and postcode, unique pupil number, date of admission to school and parental/carer contact details.
- characteristics like sex, ethnicity, first language, free school meal, & pupil premium eligibility.
- image and voice recordings for assessment, celebration, and in surveillance cameras for safety and to prevent and detect crime.
- safeguarding information like court orders and the involvement of other professionals.
- Information on the status of a child e.g. cared for or previously cared for
- special educational needs including the needs provision and ranking
- medical information like doctors' details, child health, dental health, allergies, medicines, and dietary requirements.
- Financial information like bank details and entitlement to meals, transport, and premium funding to manage catering, school trips etc..
- Attendance data, for example, sessions attended, absences, absence reasons, previous schools attended.
- assessment and attainment like key stage 2, multiplication check and phonics results and any relevant results.
- behavioural information like behaviour management plans, suspensions and exclusions, and alternative provision.

Why we collect and use this information

The personal data we collect is essential for the school to fulfil official functions and meet legal requirements and we use it to:

a) support learning,
b) monitor and report on pupil attainment progress,
c) provide appropriate pastoral care,
d) assess the quality of what we do,
e) keep children safe e.g., food allergies, emergency contact details, CCTV,
f) meet statutory duties placed on us by the Department for Education, UK Health Security Agency etc.
g) celebrate or promote school, for scientific interest, or to record our own school history.
h) to control access to services e.g., to biometric controlled catering services.

Under UK GDPR, the lawful bases we rely on for processing personal information about pupils are:

- to perform a public task i.e., to provide education (mainly reasons a, b, c, and d above).
- to protect vital interests (and sometimes carry out a contract too) e.g., to provide **safe** meals, trips, transport, uniform, professional photos, childcare (mainly reasons a, and e above)..

- to comply with the law (mainly reasons b, and f above) e.g., recording attendance, publishing results, recording the census (see Sharing with the DfE below), data sharing with child protection partners like social care, the NHS, and the Local Authority etc. (see sharing with the DfE below for legislation).
- having consent (mainly reason g above, and to process ethnicity data) e.g., use images or names publicly.

When we process special category data like medical information or biometrics, we need to have one lawful basis from the list above *and* one of the following list:

- to prevent medical problems, assess needs, and provide services (mainly reasons e, and f above) e.g., Education Health & Care Plans (EHCP), records of medicines administration.
- to improve public health e.g., report notifiable diseases to local and national government departments;
- to make or defend legal claims e.g., some special educational needs and all accident records including, where necessary, providing accident/ill-health data to our Insurers, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- having consent (mainly reason h above) e.g., to use biometric data to access catering services.

- **Marketing Purposes**
- We may send parents or carers marketing information by text message or email promoting school events, campaigns and charities we support or who support us. You can withdraw from this at any time by contacting us (see Contact below).
- We may also use the soft opt-in available to charities. When you have shown an interest in our events, we might continue to tell you about them in the future, even if we did not ask if you wanted to know. You can ask us to stop at any time.
- **Automated decision making & profiling**
- We do not currently process any personal data through automated decision making or profiling. If this changes in the future, we will update our privacy notices to explain what we are doing and your right to object.

Collecting pupil data

We collect relevant pupil information via registration forms at the start of each academic year or a secure file sent to us when a child joins us from another school.

Most of the pupil information we ask for is required by law or necessary so we can provide a good education and some of it is voluntary. To comply with UK GDPR, if you have a choice about providing information, we will tell you when we ask for it. We will also tell you what to do if you do not want to share this information with us.

Storing pupil data

We hold pupil data securely in line with the Information and Records Management Society (IRMS) Records Management Toolkit for Schools. This personal data is retained for a wide range of time periods from days after a successful trip for the consent form to many years after a pupil has left us for an accident report or SEND information. For more information about how long we keep some information for and why (data retention), and how we keep the data safe, please ask at the school office.

Who we share pupil information with and why

We do not share information about our pupils with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so. The laws listed in this notice that require us to collect information also require us to share it. Data is transferred securely by hand delivery or registered post, via a government data transfer system like School to School, via a contractor's secure data sharing system like our online school trips safety system, and sometimes in other secure ways.

We routinely share pupil information with:

- Schools and other education providers pupils go to after leaving us to support their continuing education.
- Child development and protection partners like our local Authority Children's Services, Public Health, Inclusion & Social Care etc. to check attendance, monitor, and protect children; the NHS for medical referrals & support; private companies offering counselling and other family or support services.
- The DfE to help decide our school funding, monitor attainment & benchmark it nationally, compile league tables, develop national education policy and monitor it and monitor attendance.
- Our Local Authority to ensure they can conduct their statutory duties such as under the Schools Admission Code, including conducting Fair Access Panels. We also share absence data with the Local Authority to improve attendance, identify vulnerable pupils, and to enable early intervention and proactive support for struggling pupils.
- Medical services like therapists, the school nurse, or the NHS for things like screening, vaccinations, health/ eye/ dental checks, Education Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) provision etc. and UK Health Security Agency about certain contagious infections our pupils come into contact with.
- Government departments like UK Health Security Agency, local authority public health, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to comply with the law, support public health action and report specified injuries/ill-health connected with the work of the school;
- Voluntary and charitable organisations (with your permission only), such as Barnardo's, our local Foodbank and similar organisations who can offer families practical help and support.

Sharing with the Department for Education (DfE)

We are required to share information about our pupils with the DfE directly or via our local authority for the purpose of statutory data collections, under the following legislation:

- section 29(3) and section 537A of the Education Act 1996;
- the Education (School Performance Information)(England) Regulations 2007;
- regulations 5 and 8 of the School Information (England) Regulations 2008;
- the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006;
- section 83 of the Children Act 1989 (for monitoring and research purposes); and
- for census purposes under section 3 of The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013.
- section 3 of The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013 as amended by The Education (Information About Individual Pupils (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2024.

All data is transferred securely and held by DfE under a combination of software and hardware controls, which meet the current government security policy framework.

For more information, please see the section on 'How Government uses your data' below.

Requesting access to your personal data

Under UK GDPR, parents, carers, and pupils have the right to request access to information about them that we hold. To make a request for your personal information, or be given access to your child's educational record, please contact the headteacher on 01946 66356 or

email: head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk

Depending on which lawful basis above was used to process the data, you may also have the right to:

- ask us for access to information about you that we hold
- have your personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing
- restrict our processing of your personal data (i.e., permitting its storage but no further processing)
- object to direct marketing (including profiling) and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics
- be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should 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 DfE, please see the 'How Government uses your data' section of this notice below.

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 want to make a complaint about our use of your personal data, please let us know by contacting head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk

Last updated

This privacy notice was compiled using DfE advice and model documents. We may need to review it periodically, so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time. This version was last updated on 13.10.2025

Contact

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

01946 66356 or head@kells-stmarys.cumbria.sch.uk

How Government uses your data

The pupil data that we lawfully share with the 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 DfE (for example; via the school census) go to www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-censuses-for-schools.

The National Pupil Database (NPD)

Much of the data about pupils in England is held in the National Pupil Database (NPD).

The NPD is owned and managed by the DfE and contains information about pupils in schools in England. It provides invaluable evidence on educational performance to inform independent research, as well as studies commissioned by the Department.

It is held in electronic format for statistical purposes. This information is securely collected from a range of sources including schools, local authorities and awarding bodies.

To find out more about the NPD, go to www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-user-guide-and-supporting-information.

Sharing by the DfE

The law allows the 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 DfE's NPD data sharing process, please visit: www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data

Organisations fighting or identifying crime may use their legal powers to contact DfE to request access to individual level information relevant to detecting that crime. Whilst numbers fluctuate slightly over time, DfE typically supplies data on around 600 pupils per year to the Home Office and roughly 1 per year to the Police.

For information about which organisations the 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 DfE holds about you

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018, you are entitled to ask the 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 DfE, please make a 'subject access request' to them. Find out how in the DfE's personal information charter published at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/personal-information-charter

To contact the DfE go to: www.gov.uk/contact-dfe.