

Privacy Notice: What the School, Local Education Authority and Welsh Government does with Information it holds on Pupils

Subject

To meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998, schools are required to issue a Privacy Notice to pupils and/or parents summarising the information held on record about pupils, why it is held, and the third parties to whom it may be passed on. This Privacy Notice provides information about the collection and processing of pupils' personal and performance information by the Welsh Government, Merthyr Tydfil Local Education Authority (LEA), the Joint Education Service (JES) and Afon Tâf High School.

The collection of personal information

The school collects information about pupils and their parents or legal guardians when they enrol at the school. The schools also collect information at other key times during the school year. Information is also received from other schools when pupils transfer. The **School** processes the information it collects to administer the education it provides to pupils. For example:

- the provision of educational services to individuals;
- monitoring and reporting on pupils' educational progress;
- the provision of welfare, pastoral care and health services;
- the giving of support and guidance to pupils, their parents and legal guardians;
- the organisation of educational events and trips;
- planning and management of the school.

Welsh Government & Local Education Authority (LEA)

The Welsh Government receives information on pupils normally as part of what is called the Pupil Level Annual Schools' Census (PLASC). The Welsh Government uses this personal information for research (carried out in such a way that ensures individual pupils cannot be identified) and for statistical purposes, to inform, influence and improve education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole.

Examples of the sort of statistics produced can be viewed at www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

The LEA also uses the personal information collected via PLASC to do research. It uses the results of this research to make decisions on policy and the funding of schools, to calculate the performance of schools and help them to set targets. The research is carried out in such a way that ensures individual pupils cannot be identified. In addition, the Welsh Government and LEAs receive information regarding National Curriculum assessment and Public Examination results and attendance data at pupil level.

Personal information held

The sort of personal information that will be held includes:

- personal details such as name, address, date of birth,
- pupil identifiers and contact details for parents and guardians;
- information on performance in internal and national assessments and examinations;
- information on the ethnic origin and national identity of pupils (this is used only to prepare summary statistical analyses);
- details about pupils' immigration status (this is used only to prepare summary statistical analyses);
- medical information needed to keep pupils safe while in the care of the school;
- information on attendance and any disciplinary action taken;
- information about the involvement of social services with
- individual pupils where this is needed for the care of the pupil.

Organisations who may share personal information

Information held by the School, LEA and the Welsh Government on pupils, their parents or legal guardians may also be shared with other organisations when the law allows, for example with:

- Joint Education Service (JES)
- other education and training bodies, including schools, when pupils are applying for courses, training, school transfer or seeking guidance on opportunities;
- bodies doing research for the Welsh Government, LEA and schools, so long as steps are taken to keep the information secure;
- central and local government for the planning and provision of educational services;
- social services and other health and welfare organisations where there is a need to share information to protect and support individual pupils;

- various regulatory bodies, such as ombudsmen and inspection authorities, where the law requires that information be passed on so that they can do their work.
- When a pupil leaves education and becomes NEET (not in education, employment or training) the Council will pass their details on to Career Wales or any other career advisory service/partner organisation that it deems suitable.
- College@Merthyr to ensure that pupils are on an appropriate course and their educational support needs are being met.

Pupils have certain rights under the Data Protection Act, including a general right to be given access to personal data held about them by any organisation. The presumption is that by the age of 12 a child has sufficient maturity to understand their rights and to make an access request themselves if they wish. A parent would normally be expected to make a request on a child's behalf if the child is younger.

If you wish to access your personal data, or that of your child, then please contact the relevant organisation in writing. Details of these organisations can be found on the following website Merthyr.gov.uk or for those pupils/parents where this is not practical, a hard copy can be obtained from the school

Other information

The Welsh Government, LEA and school place a high value on the importance of information security and have a number of procedures in place to minimise the possibility of a compromise in data security.

The Welsh Government, LEA and school will endeavour to ensure that information is kept accurate at all times. Personal information will not be sent outside the United Kingdom.

Your rights under the Data Protection Act 1998

The Data Protection Act 1998 gives individuals certain rights in respect of personal information held on them by any organisation. These rights include:

- the right to ask for and receive copies of the personal information held on you, although some information can sometimes be legitimately withheld;
- the right, in some circumstances, to prevent the processing of personal information if doing so will cause damage or distress;
- the right to ask for wrong information to be put right;
- the right to seek compensation if an organisation does not comply with the Data Protection Act 1998 and you personally suffer damage;
- in some circumstances a pupil's parent or legal guardian will have a right to receive a copy of personal data held about a pupil in their legal care. Such cases will be considered on an individual basis where the individual is deemed to have insufficient understanding of their rights under the Act.

You also have the right to ask the Information Commissioner, who enforces and oversees the Data Protection Act 1998, to assess whether or not the processing of personal information is likely to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Seeking further information

For further information about the personal information collected and its use, if you have concerns about the accuracy of personal information, or wish to exercise your rights under the Data

Protection Act 1998, you should contact:

- your child's school on **01685 351830**;
- your LEA on **01685 724600**;
- the Welsh Assembly Government's data protection officer at:

The Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ;

- the Information Commissioner's office help line can be contacted on 01625 545 745;
- information is also available from www.ico.gov.uk