

# St Mary's Catholic Primary School Trust



*'Aspire not to have more, but to be more'*

*(Oscar Romero)*

## Privacy Policy 2020

## Introduction

We, at St Mary's Catholic Primary School Trust, are a data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act. We collect and hold personal information relating to our pupils and may also receive information about them from their previous school, local authority and/or the Department for Education (DfE).

We use this personal data to:

- support our pupils' learning
- monitor and report on their progress
- provide appropriate pastoral care; and
- assess the quality of our services
- to comply with the law regarding data sharing

The categories of pupil information that we collect, hold and share include:

- Personal information (such as name, unique pupil number and address)
- Characteristics (such as ethnicity, language, nationality, country of birth and free school meal eligibility)
- Attendance information (such as sessions attended, number of absences and absence reasons)
- any exclusion information
- where they go after they leave us
- relevant medical information

## The Lawful basis on which we use this information

We collect and use pupil information under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Education Act 1996 which are a lawful basis for collecting and using pupil information for general purposes (and from Article 6 and Article 9 where data processed is special category data from the General Data Protection Regulation from 25 May 2018).

We will not give information about you to anyone without your consent unless the law and our policies allow us to.

We routinely share pupil information with:

- schools that the pupil's attend after leaving us
- our local authority the Department for Education (DfE)
- Social Services (consent from parents sought unless to do so would put the child at risk)
- School Nurse/NHS (consent will be sought from parents)

The DfE may also share pupil level personal data that we supply to them, with third parties. This will only take place where legislation allows it to do so and it is in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The National Pupil Database (NPD) The NPD is owned and managed by the Department for Education 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.

We are required by law, to provide information about our pupils to the DfE as part of statutory data collections such as the school census and early years' census. Some of this information is then stored in the NPD. The law that allows this is the Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013.

To find out more about the pupil information we share with the department, for the purpose of data collections, go to <https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-censuses-for-schools>. To find out more about the NPD, go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-userguide-and-supporting-information>.

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.

For more information about the department's data sharing process, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data>

For information about which organisations the department has provided pupil information, (and for which project), please visit the following website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-requestsreceived>

To contact DfE: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

School data is also used to support the Croydon Child Index and Children in Need Census (for further information telephone 020 8726 6000 ext 63584/61646).

### Collecting pupil information

Whilst the majority of pupil information you provide to us is mandatory, some of it is provided to us on a voluntary basis. In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation, we will inform you whether you are required to provide certain pupil information to us or if you have a choice in this.

## Storing Pupil Data

All pupil records should be kept securely at all times. Paper records, for example, should be kept in lockable storage areas with restricted access, and the contents should be secure within the file. Equally, electronic records should have appropriate security.

Access arrangements for pupil records should ensure that confidentiality is maintained whilst equally enabling information to be shared lawfully and appropriately, and to be accessible for those authorised to see it.

Requesting access to your personal data Under data protection legislation, parents 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, contact: School Office

You also have the right to:

- object to processing of personal data that is likely to cause damage or distress
- prevent processing for the purpose of direct marketing
- object to decisions being taken by automated means in certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data rectified, blocked, erased or destroyed
- claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of the Data Protection regulations

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you can raise your concern:

With school in the first instance

Data Protection Officer, Stephen Beck at St Thomas Becket Catholic Primary School via our school office or website.

Or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>