



Data Protection Policy

Name of policy	Data Protection
Review committee	Board of Trustees
Last review date	September 2024
Next review date	September 2025

Introduction

This policy provides information about how GUST Independent School ('the School') will use (or 'process') personal data about individuals, including current and prospective learners and their parents, carers or guardians (referred to in this policy as 'parents').

It applies in addition to the School's terms and conditions, and any other information the School may provide about a particular use of personal data.

Responsibility for Data Protection

In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 ('the Act'), the School has notified the Information Commissioner's Office ('ICO') of its processing activities. The School's ICO registration number is Z1649180 and its registered address is GUST Independent School, 1 Haldane Street, Ashington NE63 8SF.

The School has appointed the chair of the board of trustees as data protection officer ('DPO') who will endeavour to ensure that all personal data is processed in compliance with this policy and the Act.

Types of Personal Data Processed by the School

The School may process a wide range of personal data about individuals, including current, past and prospective students and their parents, as part of its operation, including by way of example:

- Names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and other contact details
- Past, present and prospective students' academic, disciplinary, admissions and attendance records (including information about any special needs), and examination scripts and marks
- Where appropriate, information about individuals' health, and contact details for their next of kin
- References given or received by the School about students and information provided by previous educational establishments and/or other professionals or organisations working with students
- Images of students (and occasionally other individuals) engaging in School activities

Generally, the School receives personal data from the individual directly (or, in the case of students, from parents). However, in some cases, personal data may be supplied by third parties (for example, another School, or other professionals or authorities working with that individual) or collected from publicly available resources.

The School may, from time to time, need to process 'sensitive personal data' regarding individuals. Sensitive personal data includes information about an individual's physical or mental health, race or ethnic origin, political or religious beliefs, sex life, or criminal records and proceedings. Sensitive personal data is entitled to special protection under the Act and will only be processed by the School with the explicit consent of the appropriate individual or as otherwise permitted by the Act.

Use of Personal Data by the School

The School will use (and, where appropriate, share with third parties) personal data about individuals for a number of purposes as part of its operations, including as follows:

- For the purposes of pupil selection and to confirm the identity of prospective students and their parents
- To provide education services (including SEN), career services, and extra-curricular activities to students, monitor students' progress and educational needs, and maintain relationships with alumni and the School community
- For the purposes of management planning and forecasting, research and statistical analysis, and to enable the relevant authorities to monitor the School's performance
- To give and receive information and references about past, current and prospective students, including relating to outstanding fees or payment history, to/from any educational institution that the pupil attended or where it is proposed they attend, and to provide references to potential employers of past students
- To enable students to take part in national or other assessments, and to publish the results of public examinations or other achievements of students of the School
- To safeguard students' welfare and provide appropriate pastoral (and where necessary, medical) care, and to take appropriate action in the event of an emergency or accident, including by disclosing details of an individual's medical condition where it is in the individual's interests to do so – for example, for medical advice, insurance purposes or to organisers of School trips
- To monitor (as appropriate) use of the School's IT and communications systems in accordance with the School's IT online safety policy
- To make use of photographic images of students in School publications, on the School website and on the School's social media channels in accordance with the School's policy on taking, storing and using images of children
- For security purposes and for regulatory and legal purposes (for example, child protection and health and safety) and to comply with its legal obligations
- Where otherwise reasonably necessary for the School's purposes, including to obtain appropriate professional advice and insurance for the School

Keeping in Touch

The School will use the contact details of parents, alumni and other members of the School community to keep them updated about the activities of the School, including by sending updates and newsletters, by e-mail and by post.

Rights of Access to Personal Data ('subject access request')

Individuals have the right under the Act to access personal data about them held by the School, subject to certain exemptions and limitations set out in the Act. Any individual wishing to access their personal data should put their request in writing to the DPO.

The School will endeavour to respond to any such written requests (known as 'subject access Requests') as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within statutory time limits.

You should be aware that certain data is exempt from the right of access under the Act. This may include information that identifies other individuals, or information that is subject to legal professional privilege. The School is also not required to disclose any pupil examination scripts (though examiners' comments may fall to be disclosed), nor any reference given by the School for the purposes of the education, training or employment of any individual. Students can make subject access requests for their own personal data, provided that, in the reasonable opinion of the School, they have sufficient maturity to understand the request they are making.

All subject access requests from students will, therefore, be considered on a case-by-case basis.

A person with parental responsibility will generally be expected to make a subject access request on behalf of younger students. A pupil of any age may ask a parent or other representative to make a subject access request on their behalf.

Who the Rights Belong To?

The rights under the Act belong to the individual to whom the data relates. However, the School will in most cases rely on parental consent to process personal data relating to students (if consent is required under the Act).

In general, the School will assume that students consent to the disclosure of their personal data to their parents – for example, for the purposes of keeping parents informed about the pupil's activities, progress and behaviour, and in the interests of the pupil's welfare – unless, in the School's opinion, there is a good reason to do otherwise.

However, where a pupil seeks to raise concerns confidentially with a member of staff and expressly withholds their agreement to their personal data being disclosed to their parents, the School will maintain confidentiality unless, in the School's opinion, there is a good reason to do otherwise; for example, where the School believes disclosure will be in the best interests of the pupil or other students.

Students are required to respect the personal data and privacy of others and to comply with the School's relevant policies and the School rules.

Data Accuracy and Security

The School will endeavour to ensure that all personal data held in relation to an individual is as up to date and accurate as possible. Individuals must notify the DPO of any changes to information held about them.

An individual has the right to request that inaccurate information about them is erased or corrected (subject to certain exemptions and limitations under the Act) and may do so by contacting the DPO in writing.

The School will take appropriate technical and organisational steps to ensure the security of personal data about individuals. All staff will be made aware of this policy and their duties under the Act.

Queries and Complaints

Any comments or queries on this policy should be directed to the DPO: The Chair of Trustees GUST Independent School, 1 Haldane Street, Ashington NE63 8SF.

If an individual believes that the School has not complied with this policy or acted otherwise than in accordance with the Act, they should utilise the School complaints procedure and should also notify the DPO.