



GDPR PRIVACY NOTICE

Priestley Smith Specialist VI School

January 2026

Policy review date: January 2027

Policy status: Statutory

Responsible member of SLT: Joanna Garvey Headteacher, Suzy McDonald DPO

Priestley Smith School is committed to the rights of the child as outlined in the UN Convention and is working towards Rights Respecting Schools Gold award. This belief influences everything the school does and impacts upon all our policies.

Article 3 The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all things that affect children.

Article 16 Every child has the right to privacy. The law should protect the child's private, family and home life, including protecting children from unlawful attacks that harm their reputation

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1. INTRODUCTION

You have a legal right to be informed about how our Priestley Smith Specialist School uses any personal information that we hold about you. To comply with this, we provide a 'privacy notice' to you where we are processing your personal data.

This notice explains how we collect, store and use personal data about **students, staff, governors, parents/carers and visitors at our school.**

We, Priestley Smith Specialist School are the 'data controller' for the purposes of UK data protection law. Our data protection officer is Mrs Suzy McDonald (see 'Contact us' below).

2. THE PERSONAL DATA WE HOLD

We hold some personal information about you to make sure we can help you learn and look after you at school. For the same reasons, we get information about you from some other places too – like other schools, the local council and the government.

2.1 Students' personal data that we may collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) about you includes, but is not restricted to:

- Your contact details
- Your test results
- Your attendance records
- Details of any behaviour issues or exclusions

We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about you that falls into "special categories" of more sensitive personal data. This includes, but is not restricted to:

- Information about your characteristics, like your ethnic background or any special educational needs
- Information about any medical conditions you have
- Photographs and CCTV images

We may also hold data about you that we have received from other organisations, including other schools and social services. We may share certain types of personal data with the other parties associated with the Birmingham Children's Collaborative Working Data Sharing Agreement (CWDSA)

2.2 Staff (including potential applicants) personal data that we may collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) about you includes, but is not restricted to:

- Contact details
- Date of birth, marital status and gender
- Next of kin and emergency contact numbers
- Salary, annual leave, pension and benefits information
- Bank account details, payroll records, National Insurance number and tax status information
- Recruitment information, including copies of right to work documentation, references and other information included in a CV or cover letter or as part of the application process
- Qualifications and employment records, including work history, job titles, working hours, training records and professional memberships
- Performance information
- Outcomes of any disciplinary and/or grievance procedures
- Absence data
- Copy of driving licence

We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about you that falls into "special categories" of more sensitive personal data. This includes, but is not restricted to, information about:

- Any health conditions you have that we need to be aware of
- Sickness records
- Photographs and CCTV images captured in school
- Trade union membership

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We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about criminal convictions and offences.

We may also hold data about you that we have received from other organisations, including other schools and social services, and the Disclosure and Barring Service in respect of criminal offence data.

2.3 Governors' personal data that we may collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) about you includes, but is not restricted to:

- Contact details
- References
- Evidence of qualifications
- Employment details
- Information about business and pecuniary interests

We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about you that falls into "special categories" of more sensitive personal data. This includes, but is not restricted to:

- Information about any health conditions you have that we need to be aware of
- Information about disability and access requirements
- Photographs and CCTV images captured in school

We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about criminal convictions and offences.

We may also hold data about you that we have received from other organisations, including other schools and social services, and the Disclosure and Barring Service in respect of criminal offence data.

2.4 Parents' / carers' personal data that we may collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) about you includes, but is not restricted to:

- Contact details and contact preferences (such as your name, address, email address and telephone numbers)
- Bank details
- Details of your family circumstances
- Details of any safeguarding information including court orders or professional involvement
- Records of your correspondence and contact with us
- Details of any complaints you have made

We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about you that falls into "special categories" of more sensitive personal data. This includes, but is not restricted to, information about:

- Any health conditions you have that we need to be aware of
- Photographs and CCTV images captured in school

We may also hold data about you that we have received from other organisations, including other schools and social services. We may share certain types of personal data with the other parties associated with the Birmingham Children's Collaborative Working Data Sharing Agreement (CWDSA)

2.5 Visitors' personal data that we may collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) about you includes, but is not restricted to:

- Name
- Contact details
- Information relating to the visit, e.g. company or organisation name, arrival and departure time, car number plate

We may also collect, use, store and share (when appropriate) information about you that falls into "special categories" of more sensitive personal data. This includes, but is not restricted to:

- Information about any access arrangements that may be required
- Photographs for identification purposes
- CCTV images captured in school

We may also hold data about you that we have received from other organisations, including other schools and social services.

3. WHY WE USE THIS DATA

For students we use the data listed above to:

- a) Get in touch with you and/ or parents / carers when we need to
- b) Check how you're doing in exams and work out whether you or your teachers need any extra help
- c) Track how well the school as a whole is performing
- d) Look after your wellbeing

For staff We use the data listed above to:

- a) Enable you to be paid
- b) Facilitate safe recruitment, as part of our safeguarding obligations towards pupils
- c) Support effective performance management
- d) Inform our recruitment and retention policies
- e) Allow better financial modelling and planning
- f) Enable equalities monitoring
- g) Improve the management of workforce data across the sector
- h) Support the work of the School Teachers' Review Body

For Governors we use the data listed above to:

- a) Establish and maintain effective governance
- b) Meet statutory obligations for publishing and sharing governors' details
- c) Facilitate safe recruitment, as part of our safeguarding obligations towards pupils
- d) Undertake equalities monitoring
- e) Ensure that appropriate access arrangements can be provided for volunteers who require them

For Parents / Carers we use the data listed above to:

- a) Report to you on your child's attainment and progress
- b) Keep you informed about the running of the school (such as emergency closures) and events
- c) Process payments for school services and clubs
- d) Provide appropriate pastoral care
- e) Protect pupil welfare
- f) Administer admissions waiting lists
- g) Assess the quality of our services
- h) Carry out research
- i) Comply with our legal and statutory obligations

For Visitors we use the data listed above to:

- a) Identify you and keep you safe while on the school site
- b) Keep pupils and staff safe
- c) Maintain accurate records of visits to the school
- d) Provide appropriate access arrangements

3.1 Use of your personal data for marketing purposes

Where you have given us consent to do so, we may send you messages by email, text or the Dojo platform promoting school events, campaigns, charitable causes or services that you might be interested in. You can take back this consent or 'opt out' of receiving these emails, texts or Dojo messages at any time by clicking on the 'Unsubscribe' link at the bottom of any such communication, or by contacting us (see 'Contact us' below).

3.2 Use of your personal data in automated decision making and profiling

We don't currently put your personal information through any automated decision making or profiling process. This means we don't make decisions about you using only computers without any human involvement. If this changes in the future, we will update this notice in order to explain the processing to you, including your right to object to it.

Pupils have a right to object to profiling and, in the case of automated decision making, a right to:

- Obtain human intervention;
- Express their point of view; and
- Obtain an explanation of the decision made and challenge it

4. OUR LAWFUL BASIS FOR USING THIS DATA

The [ICO's guidance on the lawful basis for processing](#).

We only collect and use personal data when the law allows us to. Most commonly, we process it where:

- We need to comply with the law.
- We need it to perform a task in the public interest (to provide our pupils with an education).

Sometimes, we may also process personal data in situations where:

- Pupils (or parents/carers) have given consent for us to use it in a certain way.
- We need to protect the individual's vital interests (or someone else's interests).

4.1 Our basis for using special category data

For 'special category' data (more sensitive personal information), we only collect and use it when we have both a lawful basis, as set out above, and one of the following conditions for processing as set out in UK data protection law:

- We have obtained your explicit consent to use your information in a certain way
- We need to use your information under employment, social security or social protection law
- We need to protect an individual's vital interests (i.e. protect your life or someone else's life), in situations where you're physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The information has already been made obviously public by you
- We need to use it to make or defend against legal claims
- We need to use it for reasons of substantial public interest as defined in legislation
- We need to use it for health or social care purposes, and it's used by, or under the direction of, a professional obliged to confidentiality under law
- We need to use it for public health reasons, and it's used by, or under the direction of, a professional obliged to confidentiality under law
- We need to use it for archiving purposes, scientific or historical research purposes, or for statistical purposes, and the use is in the public interest

For criminal offence data, we will only collect and use it when we have both a lawful basis, as set out above, and a condition for processing as set out in UK data protection law. Conditions include:

- We have obtained your consent to use it in a specific way
- We need to protect an individual's vital interests (i.e. protect your life or someone else's life), in situations where you're physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The data concerned has already been made obviously public by you
- We need to use it as part of legal proceedings, to obtain legal advice, or to make or defend against legal claims
- We need to use it for reasons of substantial public interest as defined in legislation

5. COLLECTING THIS DATA

While most of the information we collect about you is mandatory, there is some information that can be provided voluntarily.

Whenever we want to collect information from you, we make it clear if you have to give us this information (and if so, what the possible consequences are of not doing that), or if you have a choice.

Most of the data we hold about you will come from you, but we may also hold data about you from:

- Local councils
- Government departments or agencies
- Police forces, courts, tribunals

6. HOW WE STORE THIS DATA

We keep personal information whilst a student is attending our school. We may also keep it beyond attendance at school if this is necessary.

For staff and governors, we keep personal information about you while you work at our school. We may also keep it beyond your employment at our school if this is necessary.

For visitors, we keep personal information about you while you are visiting our school. We may also keep it beyond your visit with our school if this is necessary.

We have security measures in place to prevent your personal information from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered or disclosed.

We'll dispose of your personal data securely when we no longer need it.

7. WHO WE SHARE DATA WITH

We don't share information about you with any third party without your consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so.

Where it's legally required, or necessary (and it complies with UK data protection law), we may share personal information about you with:

- Our local authority, Birmingham, as well as other Oocak Authorities that utilise our school provision, – to meet our legal obligations to share certain information with it, such as safeguarding concerns and information about exclusions
- Government departments or agencies
- Our youth support services provider
- Our regulator, OfSTED
- Suppliers and service providers
- Financial organisations
- Our auditors
- Survey and research organisations
- Health authorities
- Security organisations
- Health and social welfare organisations
- Professional advisers and consultants
- Charities and voluntary organisations
- Police forces, courts, tribunals

National Pupil Database

We have to provide information about you to the Department for Education (a government department) as part of data collections such as the school census.

Some of this information is then stored in the [National Pupil Database](#), which is managed by the Department for Education and provides evidence on how schools are performing. This, in turn, supports research.

The database is held electronically so it can easily be turned into statistics. The information it holds is collected securely from schools, local authorities, exam boards and others.

The Department for Education may share information from the database with other organisations, such as organisations that promote children's education or wellbeing in England. These organisations must agree to strict terms and conditions about how they will use your data.

You can find more information about this on the Department for Education's webpage on [how it collects and shares research data](#).

You can also [contact the Department for Education](#) if you have any questions about the database.

7.1 Transferring data internationally

We may share personal information about you with the following international third parties, where different data protection legislation applies:

- Other schools or educational establishments
- Government departments or agencies
- Security organisations
- App or cloud server providers

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Where we transfer your personal data to a third-party country or territory, we will do so in accordance with UK data protection law.

In cases where we have to set up safeguarding arrangements to complete this transfer, you can get a copy of these arrangements by contacting us.

8. YOUR RIGHTS

8.1 How to access personal information that we hold about you

You have a right to make a **'subject access request'** to gain access to personal information that we hold about you.

If you make a subject access request, and if we do hold information about you, we will (unless there's a really good reason why we shouldn't):

- Give you a description of it
- Tell you why we are holding and using it, and how long we will keep it for
- Explain where we got it from, if not from you
- Tell you who it has been, or will be, shared with
- Let you know whether any automated decision-making is being applied to the data (decisions made by a computer or machine, rather than by a person), and any consequences of this
- Give you a copy of the information in an understandable form

You may also have the right for your personal information to be shared with another organisation in certain circumstances.

If you would like to make a request, please contact us (see 'Contact us' below).

8.2 Your other rights regarding your data

Under UK data protection law, you have certain rights regarding how your personal information is used and kept safe. For example, you have the right to:

- Say that you don't want your personal information to be used
- Stop it being used to send you marketing materials
- Say that you don't want it to be used for automated decisions (decisions made by a computer or machine, rather than by a person)
- In some cases, have it corrected if it's inaccurate
- In some cases, have it deleted or destroyed, or restrict its use
- Withdraw your consent, where you previously provided consent for your personal information to be collected, processed and transferred for a particular reason
- In some cases, be notified of a data breach
- Make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office
- Claim compensation if the data protection rules are broken and this harms you in some way

To exercise any of these rights, please contact us (see 'Contact us' below).

9. COMPLAINTS

We take any complaints about our collection and use of personal information very seriously.

If you think that our collection or use of personal information is unfair, misleading or inappropriate, or have any other concerns about our data processing, please let us know first.

Alternatively, you can make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office:

- Report a concern online at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>
- Call 0303 123 1113
- Or write to: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

10. CONTACT US

If you have any questions, concerns or would like more information about anything mentioned in this privacy notice, please contact our **data protection officer**:

- Mrs Suzy McDonald, email enquiry@priestley.bham.sch.uk FAO DPO, or phone 0121 325 3900

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Or write to
Mrs S McDonald,
Priestley Smith Specialist School
Beeches Road,
Great Barr
B42 2PY