

Privacy Notice for Job Applicants

Introduction

Under UK data protection law, individuals have a right to be informed about how our school uses any personal data that we hold about them. We comply with this right by providing 'privacy notices' (sometimes called 'fair processing notices') to individuals where we are processing their personal data.

This privacy notice explains how we collect, store and use personal data about **individuals applying for jobs at our school**

Watermelon Independent Schools is registered as the Data Controller with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO); Registration Number xxxxxx. This means we are responsible for how your personal information is processed and for what purposes.

You can contact the School as the Data Controller in writing at:

Sharon Dehei, Watermelon Independent Schools, 2 Avenue Close, Birmingham, B7 4NU

Our data protection officer is the School DPO Service and is contactable via sharon@watermelonschools.com

The Head teacher, Sharon Dhesi, acts as the representative of the data controller on a day-to-day basis and is referred to as the Data Protection Lead.

What is a Privacy Notice?

A Privacy Notice sets out to individuals how we use any personal information that we hold about them. We are required to publish this information by data protection legislation. This Privacy Notice explains how we process (collect, store, use and share) personal information about our staff.

What is Personal Information?

Personal information relates to a living individual who can be identified from that information. Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information in the data controller's possession or likely to come into such possession.

'Special category' personal information reveals racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation.

What personal information do we hold?

The categories of personal data that we may collect, hold, store and share (when appropriate) about you includes, but is not limited to:

- Contact details
- Copies of right to work documentation
- References
- Evidence of qualifications
- Results of online searches
- Employment records, including work history, job titles, training records and professional memberships

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 race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation and political opinions
- 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.

For what purposes do we use this data?

We use the data listed above to:

- Enable us to establish relevant experience and qualifications
- Facilitate safe recruitment, as part of our safeguarding obligations towards pupils
- Enable equalities monitoring
- Ensure that appropriate access arrangements can be provided for candidates that require them

Use of your personal data in automated decision making and profiling

We do not currently process any job applicants' personal data through automated decision making or profiling. If this changes in the future, we will amend any relevant privacy notices in order to explain the processing to you, including your right to object to it.

What is the lawful basis for using this data?

Our lawful bases for processing your personal data for the purposes listed above will be one or more of the following:

- Public task
- Legal obligation
- Consent
- Vital interests
- To fulfil a contract
- Legitimate interests

Where you have provided us with consent to use your data, you may withdraw this consent at any time. We will make this clear when requesting your consent, and explain how you would go about withdrawing consent if you wish to do so.

Our basis for using special category data

For 'special category' data, 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 personal data in a certain way
- We need to perform or exercise an obligation or right in relation to 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 data concerned has already been made manifestly public by you
- We need to process it for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims
- We need to process it for reasons of substantial public interest as defined in legislation
- We need to process it for health or social care purposes, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health or social work professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law
- We need to process it for public health reasons, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law
- We need to process it for archiving purposes, scientific or historical research purposes, or for statistical purposes, and the processing 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 need to perform or exercise an obligation or right in relation to employment, social security or social protection law
- 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 manifestly public by you

- We need to process it for, or in connection with, legal proceedings, to obtain legal advice, or for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal rights
- We need to process it for reasons of substantial public interest as defined in legislation.

Collecting this data

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

Whenever we seek to collect information from you, we make it clear whether you must provide this information (and if so, what the possible consequences are of not complying), or whether 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 authorities
- Government departments or agencies
- Police forces, courts, tribunals

Who might we share your information with?

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

- The local authority - to meet our legal obligations to share certain information with it, such as safeguarding concerns
- Suppliers and service providers –to enable them to provide the service we have contracted them for, such as HR and recruitment support
- Professional advisers and consultants
- Employment and recruitment agencies
- Police forces, courts and tribunals
- Government departments and agencies

We do not share information about our applicants with any third party without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so.

What do we do with your information?

All personal information is held in a manner which is compliant with Data Protection legislation. Personal information is only processed for the purpose it was collected. The school monitors the personal information it processes and will only share personal information with a third party if it has a legal basis to do so (as set out above).

How long do we keep your information for?

In retaining personal information, the school complies with the Retention Schedules provided by the Information Record Management Society. The schedules set out the Statutory Provisions under which the school are required to retain the information.

A copy of those schedules can be located using the following link:

<http://irms.org.uk/page/SchoolsToolkit>

When this information is no longer needed, we will delete your information in accordance with our Records Management Policy.

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

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

Transferring data internationally

We may transfer 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
- Cloud based services or apps
- Security organisations

When we transfer your personal data to a third-party country or territory, 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.

Your other rights regarding your data

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

- Object to our use of your personal data
- Prevent your data being used to send direct marketing
- Object to and challenge the use of your personal data for decisions being taken by automated means (by a computer or machine, rather than by a person)
- In certain circumstances, have inaccurate personal data corrected
- In certain circumstances, have the personal data we hold about you deleted or destroyed, or restrict its processing
- Withdraw your consent, where you previously provided it for the collection, processing and transfer of your personal data for a specific purpose
- In certain circumstances, be notified of a data breach
- Make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office
- Claim compensation for damages caused by a breach of the data protection regulations

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

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 concern about our data processing, please raise this with us in the first instance.

If you have any concerns or wish to make a complaint about data protection, please contact the school's data protection lead or our School's data protection officer in the first instance.

You can also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office:

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

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like more information about anything mentioned in this privacy notice, please contact the school data protection lead, Sharon Dhesi at sharon@watermelonschools.com

This notice is based on the Department for Education's model privacy notice for pupils, amended for parents and to reflect the way we use data in this school.

Review

The content of this Privacy Notice will be reviewed July 2025.