



Thornaby Church of England Primary School

Data Protection

Schools, education services within Local Authorities (LAs), the Department for Education (DfE), the government department which deals with education and Ofsted all process information on pupils in order to run the education system, and in doing so have to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means, among other things, that the data held about pupils must only be used for specific purposes allowed by law. This policy relates to the types of data held, why that data is held, and to whom it may be passed on.

Thornaby Church of England Primary School holds information on pupils in order to support their teaching and learning, to monitor and report on their progress, to provide appropriate pastoral care, and to assess how well the school as a whole is doing. This information includes contact details, National Curriculum assessment results, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information. From time to time schools are required to pass on some of this data to LAs, the DfE and to agencies, such as STA and Ofsted that are prescribed by law.

Education services within the Local Authority use information about pupils to carry out specific functions for which they are responsible, such as the assessment of any special educational needs the pupil may have, school admissions, grants and benefits, attendance etc. The LA also uses the information to derive statistics to inform decisions on (for example) the funding of schools, and to assess the performance of pupils and schools and setting of targets. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them. Information may be passed on from time to time to the organisations listed below and to other LAs to assist in their statutory functions.

The **Standards and Testing Agency** uses information about pupils to administer the National Curriculum tests and assessments for Key Stages 1 to 3. The results of these are passed on to DfE in order for it to compile statistics on trends and patterns in levels of achievement. The STA uses the information to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Curriculum and the associated assessment arrangements, and to ensure that these are continually improved.

Ofsted uses information about the progress and performance of pupils to help inspectors evaluate the work of schools, to assist schools in their self-

evaluation, and as part of Ofsted's assessment of the effectiveness of education initiatives and policy. Inspection reports do not identify individual pupils.

The **Learning and Skills Council** uses information about pupils for statistical purposes, to evaluate and develop education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole. The statistics (including those based on information provided by the STA) are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them. On occasion information may be shared with other Government departments or agencies strictly for statistical or research purposes only.

The **Department for Education (DfE)** uses information about pupils for research and statistical purposes, to inform, influence and improve education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole. The DfE will feed back to LAs and schools information about their pupils for a variety of purposes that will include data checking exercises, use in self-evaluation analyses and where information is missing because it was not passed on by a former school. The DfE will also provide Ofsted with pupil level data for use in school inspection. Where relevant, pupil information may also be shared with post 16 learning institutions to minimise the administrative burden on application for a course and to aid the preparation of learning plans.

The **Primary Care Trust** uses aggregate information (at school year group level) about pupils' height and weight for research and statistical purposes, to inform, influence and improve health policy and to monitor the performance of the health service as a whole. The DH will base performance management discussions with Strategic Health Authorities on aggregate information about pupils attending schools in the PCT areas to help focus local resources and deliver the Pupil Agreement Target to halt the year on year rise in obesity amount children under 11 by 2010, in the context of the broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. The Department of Health will also provide aggregate PCT level data to the health Commission for performance assessment of the health service.

The **Primary Care Trust** use information about pupils for research and statistical purposes, to monitor the performance of local health services and to evaluate and develop them. The statistics are used in such a way that the individual pupils cannot be identified from them. Information and the height and weight of individual pupils may however be provided to the child and its parents and this will require the PCTs to maintain details of pupils' names for this purpose. PCTs may also provide individual schools and LAs with aggregate information on pupils' height and weight

Pupil information may be matched with other data sources that the Department holds in order to model and monitor pupils' educational progression; and to provide comprehensive information back to LAs and learning institutions to support their day to day business. The DfE may also use contact details from these sources to obtain samples for statistical surveys: these surveys may be carried out by research agencies working under contract to the Department and participation in such surveys is usually voluntary. The Department may also match data from these sources to data obtained from statistical surveys.

Pupil data may also be shared with other Government Departments and Agencies (including the Office for National Statistics) for statistical or research purposes only. In all these cases the matching will require that individualised data is used in the processing operation, but that data will not be processed in such a way that it supports measures or decisions relating to particular individuals or identifies individuals in any results. This data sharing will be approved and controlled by the Department's Chief Statistician.

The DfE may also disclose individual pupil information to independent researchers into the educational achievements of pupils who have a legitimate need for it for their research, but each case will be determined on its merits and subject to the approval of the Department's Chief Statistician.

Your Rights

Pupils, as data subjects, have certain rights under the Data Protection Act, including a general right of access to personal data held on them, with parents exercising this right on their behalf if they are too young to do so themselves. If you wish to access the personal data held about your child, then please contact the relevant organisation in writing:

- Thornaby Church of England Primary School, Baysdale Road, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, TS17 9BD;
- LA's Data Protection Officer, Children, Education & Social Care, Stockton Borough Council, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1XE;
- QCA's Data Protection Officer at QCA, 83 Piccadilly, LONDON, W1J 8QA;
- Ofsted's Data Protection Officer at Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SE;
- LSC's Data Protection Officer at Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry, Warwickshire CV1 2WT;
- DCSF's Data Protection Officer at DCSF, Caxton House, Tothill Street, LONDON, SW1H 9NA.

In order to fulfil their responsibilities under the Act the organisation may, before responding to this request, seek proof of the requestor's identity and any further information required to locate the information requested.

Separately from the Data Protection Act, regulations provide a pupil's parent (regardless of the age of the pupil) with the right to view, or to have a copy of, their child's educational record at the school. If you wish to exercise this right you should write to the school.

October 2008 - to be revised October 2010
Revised October - to be revised October 2012
Revised October 2012- to be reviewed October 2014
Revised October 2014- to be reviewed October 2016
Revised October 2016- to be reviewed October 2018