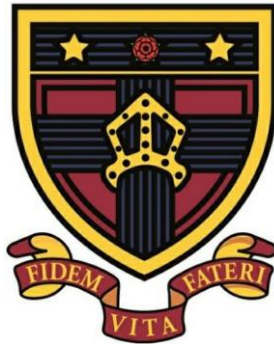


St. Mary's College



Data Protection Policy 2024/2025

College, Preparatory School and
Early Years Department

All sites collectively referred to in this document as
'the College'

Reviewed by S. Gray – September 2024
Date of Next Review – September 2025

This policy has been written in consultation with staff and governors of The College and Prep and with due regard to the school’s mission statement:

Our Mission is to provide an independent Catholic education for boys and girls of all faiths aged 0-18; to provide individual challenge towards holistic and balanced development, service and achievement for life and beyond; and to try to show our Faith by the way we live, showing care and consideration for each other, those around us and the environment.

1. Aims

St Mary’s College, Crosby is required to keep certain personal data about its staff and students in order to fulfil its purpose and to meet its legal obligations to funding bodies and government. To comply with the law, information must be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed to any other person unlawfully. Our school aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the [UK General Data Protection Regulation \(UKGDPR\)](#) and the expected provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) as set out in the [Data Protection Bill](#).

This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the UKGDPR and the expected provisions of the DPA 2018. It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) on the [UKGDPR](#) and the ICO’s [code of practice for subject access requests](#).

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Personal data	Any information relating to an identified, or identifiable, individual. This may include the individual’s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name (including initials) • Identification number • Location data • Online identifier, such as a username It may also include factors specific to the individual’s physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.
Special categories of personal data	Personal data which is more sensitive and so needs more protection, including information about an individual’s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial or ethnic origin • Political opinions • Religious or philosophical beliefs • Trade union membership • Genetics • Health – physical or mental • Sex life or sexual orientation

Processing	Anything done to personal data, such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, using, disseminating, erasing or destroying. Processing can be automated or manual.
Data subject	The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
Data controller	A person or organisation that determines the purposes and the means of processing of personal data.
Data processor	A person or other body, other than an employee of the data controller, who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.
Personal data breach	A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to personal data.

4. The Data Controller

St Mary's College, Crosby processes personal data relating to parents, pupils, staff, governors, visitors and others, and is, therefore, a data controller and responsible for implementation. As a Data Controller, the school must 'notify' (register with) the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) under the UKGDPR annually. If you have any questions regarding Data Protection at **St Mary's College, Crosby** please contact the Data Compliance Officer DPO@stmarys.lpool.sch.uk

5. Roles and Responsibilities

This policy applies to **all staff** employed by our school, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf. The policy is clearly communicated, implemented and monitored by the school.

The School is a registered Data Controller and Governors hold overall responsibility to ensure that our school complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

5.1 Data Compliance Officer (DCO)

There is a designated single point of contact for all matters relating to data protection in **St Mary's College, Crosby** known as the Data Compliance Officer (DCO). This role is held by the *School Business Director*. The DCO will ensure that:

- the school complies fully with the UKGDPR and manages its information and records appropriately.
- the school provides clear communication to stakeholders about what/why personal data is collected and details of any sharing of information
- all staff who are responsible for handling personal data are fully aware of, and understand, the school's obligations and receive the appropriate training.
- the school registers with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) annually, providing or updating the school's 'notification'.
- the school shares information with others only when it is legally appropriate to do so or where explicit consent has been received by the data subject.
- personal information is not retained for longer than is necessary and that when obsolete information is destroyed, it is done so appropriately and securely.

- procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the duty to respond to requests for access to personal information, known as 'Subject Access Requests' (SAR).
- all necessary precautions are in place to protect against physical loss or damage, and that both access and disclosure is restricted, irrespective of the format in which it is recorded.

6. Data Protection Principles

The UKGDPR is based on compliance with the following data protection principles requiring that data is:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary to fulfil the purposes for which it is processed
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- Kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which it is processed
- Processed in a way that ensures it is appropriately secure

This policy sets out how the school aims to comply with these principles.

7. Collecting Personal Data

7.1 Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

We will only process personal data where we have **one** of **six** 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **fulfil a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked the school to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **comply with a legal obligation**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual e.g. to protect someone's life
- The data needs to be processed so that the school, as a public authority, can perform a task **in the public interest**, and carry out its official functions
- The data needs to be processed for the **legitimate interests** of the school or a third party (provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden)
- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a student) has freely given clear **consent**

For special categories of personal data, we will also meet one of the special category conditions for processing which are set out in the UKGDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

Whenever we first collect personal data directly from individuals, we will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law.

7.2 Limitation, minimisation and accuracy

We will only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate reasons. Staff must only process personal data where it is necessary in order to do their jobs.

When staff no longer need the personal data they hold, they must ensure it is deleted or anonymised. This will be done in accordance with the school's Record Retention Schedule. The school is currently

working to refine retention arrangements during UKGDPR implementation and these will be duly reflected and updated in the Records Retention Schedule.

8. Sharing Personal Data

We will not normally share personal data with anyone else, but may do so where:

- There is an issue with a student or parent/carer that puts the safety of our staff at risk
- We need to liaise with other agencies – we will seek consent as necessary before doing this
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to our staff and pupils – for example, IT companies. When doing this, we will:
 - Only appoint suppliers or contractors which can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with data protection law
 - Establish a data sharing agreement with the supplier or contractor, either in the contract or as a standalone agreement, to ensure the fair and lawful processing of any personal data we share
 - Only share data that the supplier or contractor needs to carry out their service, and information necessary to keep them safe while working with us

We will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies where we are legally required to do so, including for:

- The prevention or detection of crime and/or fraud
- The apprehension or prosecution of offenders
- The assessment or collection of tax owed to HMRC
- In connection with legal proceedings
- Where the disclosure is required to satisfy our safeguarding obligations
- Research and statistical purposes, as long as personal data is sufficiently anonymised, or consent has been provided

We may also share personal data with emergency services and local authorities to help them to respond to an emergency situation that affects any of our students or staff.

9. Subject Access Requests (SAR) and other Rights of Individuals

9.1 Subject Access Requests

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that the school holds about them. This includes:

- Confirmation that their personal data is being processed
- Access to a copy of the data
- The purposes of the data processing
- The categories of personal data concerned
- Who the data has been, or will be, shared with
- How long the data will be stored for, or if this isn't possible, the criteria used to determine this period
- The source of the data, if not the individual
- Whether any automated decision-making is being applied to their data, and what the significance and consequences of this might be for the individual

Subject access requests must be submitted in writing, either by letter, email or fax to the DCO. They should include:

- Name of individual

- Correspondence address
- Contact number and email address
- Details of the information requested

If staff receive a subject access request they must immediately forward it to the DCO.

9.2 Responding to subject access requests

When responding to requests, we:

- May ask the individual to provide two forms of identification
- May contact the individual via phone to confirm the request was made
- Will respond without delay and within 1 month of receipt of the request
- Will provide the information free of charge
- May tell the individual we will comply within 3 months of receipt of the request, where a request is complex or numerous. We will inform the individual of this within 1 month, and explain why the extension is necessary

We will not disclose information if it:

- Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual
- Would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child's best interests
- Is contained in adoption or parental order records
- Is given to a court in proceedings concerning the child

If the request is unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee which takes into account administrative costs. A request will be deemed to be unfounded or excessive if it is repetitive or asks for further copies of the same information. When we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO.

9.3 Other data protection rights of the individual

In addition to the right to make a subject access request (see above), and to receive information when we are collecting their data about how we use and process it (see section 7), individuals also have the right to:

- Withdraw their consent to processing at any time
- Ask us to rectify, erase or restrict processing of their personal data, or object to the processing of it (in certain circumstances)
- Prevent use of their personal data for direct marketing
- Challenge processing which has been justified on the basis of public interest
- Request a copy of agreements under which their personal data is transferred outside of the European Economic Area
- Object to decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (decisions taken with no human involvement, that might negatively affect them)
- Prevent processing that is likely to cause damage or distress
- Be notified of a data breach in certain circumstances
- Make a complaint to the ICO
- Ask for their personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format (in certain circumstances)

Individuals should submit any request to exercise these rights to the DCO. If staff receive such a request, they must immediately forward it to the DCO.

10. CCTV

We use CCTV in various locations around the school site to ensure it remains safe.

Any enquiries about the CCTV system should be directed to the Services manager.

11. Photographs and Videos

As part of our school activities, we may take photographs and record images of individuals within our school. We obtain written consent from parents/carers, for photographs and videos to be taken of students for communication, marketing and promotional materials.

Uses may include:

- Within school on notice boards and in school magazines, brochures, newsletters, etc.
- Outside of school by external agencies such as the school photographer, newspapers, campaigns
- Online on our school website or social media pages

Consent can be refused or withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, we will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

11. Data Protection by Design and Default

We will put measures in place to show that we have integrated data protection into all of our data processing activities, including:

- Only processing personal data that is necessary for each specific purpose of processing, and always in line with the data protection principles set out in relevant data protection law (see section 6)
- Completing privacy impact assessments where the school's processing of personal data presents a high risk to rights and freedoms of individuals, and when introducing new technologies
- Integrating data protection into internal documents including this policy, any related policies and privacy notices
- Regularly training members of staff on data protection law, this policy, any related policies and any other data protection matters; we will also keep a record of attendance
- Regularly conducting reviews and audits to test our privacy measures and make sure we are compliant
- Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:
 - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of our school and DCO and all information we are required to share about how we use and process their personal data (via our privacy notices)
 - For all personal data that we hold, maintaining an internal record of the type of data, data subject, how and why we are using the data, any third-party recipients, how and why we are storing the data, retention periods and how we are keeping the data secure

12. Data Security and Storage of Records

We will protect personal data and keep it safe from unauthorised or unlawful access, alteration, processing or disclosure, and against accidental or unlawful loss, destruction or damage.

In particular:

- Paper-based records and portable electronic devices, such as laptops and hard drives that contain personal data are kept under lock and key when not in use.
- Papers containing confidential personal data must not be left on office and classroom desks, on staffroom tables, pinned to notice/display boards, or left anywhere else where there is general access.
- Passwords that are at least 8 characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access school computers.

- Where we need to share personal data with a third party, we carry out due diligence and take reasonable steps to ensure it is stored securely and adequately protected (see section 8)

13. Disposal of Records

Personal data that is no longer needed will be disposed of securely. Personal data that has become inaccurate or out of date will also be disposed of securely, where we cannot or do not need to rectify or update it. For example, we will shred or incinerate paper-based records, and overwrite or delete electronic files. We may also use a third party to safely dispose of records on the school's behalf. If we do so, we will require the third party to provide sufficient guarantees that it complies with data protection law.

14. Personal Data Breaches

The school will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches. In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, we will follow the procedure set out in Appendix 1.

15. Training

All staff and Governors will be provided with data protection training.

16. Monitoring arrangements

The DCO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary and will be reviewed annually by the school and presented to the Governing Body **every 2 years** for review and approval.

Appendix 1: Personal data breach procedure

This procedure is based on [guidance on personal data breaches](#) produced by the ICO.

- On finding or causing a breach, or potential breach, the staff member or data processor must immediately notify the DCO
- The DCO will investigate the report, and determine whether a breach has occurred. To decide, the DCO will consider whether personal data has been accidentally or unlawfully:
 - Lost
 - Stolen
 - Destroyed
 - Altered
 - Disclosed or made available where it should not have been
 - Made available to unauthorised people
- The DCO will alert the headteacher and the chair of governors
- The DCO will make all reasonable efforts to contain and minimise the impact of the breach, assisted by relevant staff members or data processors where necessary. (Actions relevant to specific data types are set out at the end of this procedure)
- The DCO will assess the potential consequences, based on how serious they are, and how likely they are to happen
- The DCO will work out whether the breach must be reported to the ICO. This must be judged on a case-by-case basis. To decide, the DCO will consider whether the breach is likely to negatively affect people's rights and freedoms, and cause them any physical, material or non-material damage (e.g. emotional distress), including through:
 - Loss of control over their data
 - Discrimination
 - Identify theft or fraud
 - Financial loss
 - Unauthorised reversal of pseudonymisation (for example, key-coding)
 - Damage to reputation
 - Loss of confidentiality
 - Any other significant economic or social disadvantage to the individual(s) concerned

If it's likely that there will be a risk to people's rights and freedoms, the DCO must notify the ICO.

- The DCO will document the decision (either way), in case it is challenged at a later date by the ICO or an individual affected by the breach. Documented decisions are stored on the school's computer system.
- Where the ICO must be notified, the DCO will do this via the ['report a breach' page of the ICO website](#) within 72 hours. As required, the DCO will set out:
 - A description of the nature of the personal data breach including, where possible:
 - The categories and approximate number of individuals concerned
 - The categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned
 - The name and contact details of the DCO
 - A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach

- A description of the measures that have been, or will be taken, to deal with the breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned
- If all the above details are not yet known, the DCO will report as much as they can within 72 hours. The report will explain that there is a delay, the reasons why, and when the DCO expects to have further information. The DCO will submit the remaining information as soon as possible
- The DCO will also assess the risk to individuals, again based on the severity and likelihood of potential or actual impact. If the risk is high, the DCO will promptly inform, in writing, all individuals whose personal data has been breached. This notification will set out:
 - The name and contact details of the DCO
 - A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
 - A description of the measures that have been, or will be, taken to deal with the data breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned
- The DCO will notify any relevant third parties who can help mitigate the loss to individuals – for example, the police, insurers, banks or credit card companies
- The DCO will document each breach, irrespective of whether it is reported to the ICO. For each breach, this record will include the:
 - Facts and cause
 - Effects
 - Action taken to contain it and ensure it does not happen again (such as establishing more robust processes or providing further training for individuals)

Records of all breaches will be stored on the school's computer system.

- The DCO and headteacher will meet to review what happened and how it can be stopped from happening again. This meeting will happen as soon as reasonably possible

Actions to minimise the impact of data breaches

We will take the actions set out below to mitigate the impact of different types of data breach, focusing especially on breaches involving particularly risky or sensitive information. We will review the effectiveness of these actions and amend them as necessary after any data breach.

Sensitive information being disclosed via email (including safeguarding records)

- If special category data (sensitive information) is accidentally made available via email to unauthorised individuals, the sender must attempt to recall the email as soon as they become aware of the error
- Members of staff who receive personal data sent in error must alert the sender and the DCO as soon as they become aware of the error
- If the sender is unavailable or cannot recall the email for any reason, the DCO will ask the ICT department to recall it
- In any cases where the recall is unsuccessful, the DCO will contact the relevant unauthorised individuals who received the email, explain that the information was sent in error, and request that those individuals delete the information and do not share, publish, save or replicate it in any way
- The DCO will ensure we receive a written response from all the individuals who received the data, confirming that they have complied with this request
- The DCO will carry out an internet search to check that the information has not been made public; if it has, we will contact the publisher/website owner or administrator to request that the information is removed from their website and deleted