

Data Protection Policy



Managed by:	Deputy Headteacher – Personal Development and Community
Policy approval:	Headteacher
Governor link committee:	Finance and Resources
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Aims

Wilmslow High School aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, students, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with UK data protection law.

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

Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) – the EU GDPR was incorporated into UK legislation, with some amendments, by [The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications \(Amendments etc\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2020](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018 \(DPA 2018\)](#)
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 – Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the [UK GDPR](#).

It meets the requirements of the [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) when referring to our use of biometric data and current [DfE guidance](#).

It meets the requirements of the [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#). Members of the public are entitled to request information as outlined in 'Subject access requests and other rights of individuals'.

It also reflects the ICO's [guidance](#) for the use of surveillance cameras and personal information.

In addition, this policy complies with regulation 5 of the [Education \(Child Information\) \(England\) Regulations 2005](#), which gives parents the right of access to their child's educational record.

1. Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Personal data	<p>Any information relating to an identified, or identifiable, living individual.</p> <p>This may include the individual's: ➤</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Name (including initials) ➤ Identification number ➤ Location data ➤ Online identifier, such as a username <p>It may also include factors specific to the individual's physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.</p>
TERM	DEFINITION
Special categories of personal data	<p>Personal data which is more sensitive and so needs more protection, including information about an individual's: ➤</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Racial or ethnic origin ➤ Political opinions ➤ Religious or philosophical beliefs ➤ Trade union membership ➤ Genetics ➤ Biometrics (such as fingerprints, retina and iris patterns), where used for identification purposes ➤ Health – physical or mental ➤ Sex life or sexual orientation
Processing	<p>Anything done to personal data, such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, using, disseminating, erasing or destroying.</p> <p>Processing can be automated or manual.</p>
Data subject	<p>The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.</p>
Data controller	<p>A person or organisation that determines the purposes and the means of processing of personal data.</p>
Data processor	<p>A person or other body, other than an employee of the data controller, who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.</p>
Personal data breach	<p>A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data.</p>

The data controller

Wilmslow High School processes personal data relating to parents, students, staff, governors, visitors and others, and therefore is a data controller.

Wilmslow High School is registered with the ICO, schools Registration No: Z5320708

Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to **all staff** employed by Wilmslow High School, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf. Staff who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

Governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for ensuring that our school complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

Data protection officer

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing the school's compliance with data protection law, advising on data protection matters, and acting as the first point of contact for individuals and for the ICO.

Wilmslow High School's appointed DPO service is provided by GDPR Sentry.

How to contact the DPO

The DPO can be contacted via the school's dedicated mailbox: dpo@wilmslowhigh.com Wilmslow High School staff, who will liaise with GDPR Sentry where DPO involvement is required.

Headteacher

The headteacher acts as the representative of the data controller on a day-to-day basis.

All staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy
- Informing the school of any changes to their personal data, such as a change of address

Contacting the DPO in the following circumstances:

- With any questions about the operation of this policy, data protection law, retaining personal data or keeping personal data secure
- If they have any concerns that this policy is not being followed
- If they are unsure whether or not they have a lawful basis to use personal data in a particular way
- If they need to rely on or capture consent, draft a privacy notice, deal with data protection rights invoked by an individual, or transfer personal data outside the UK
- If there has been a data breach
- Whenever they are engaging in a new activity that may affect the privacy rights of individuals
- If they need help with any contracts or sharing personal data with third parties

Data protection principles

The UK GDPR is based on data protection principles that our school must comply with.

The principles say that personal data must be:

- 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.

Collecting personal data

Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

Wilmslow High School will only process personal data where we have one of 6 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed so that Wilmslow High School can **fulfil a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked Wilmslow High School to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- The data needs to be processed so that Wilmslow High School can **comply with a legal obligation**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person
 - i.e. to protect someone's life
- The data needs to be processed so that Wilmslow High School, as a public authority, can **perform a task in the public interest or exercise its official authority**
- The data needs to be processed for the **legitimate interests** of Wilmslow High School (where the processing is not for any tasks the school performs as a public authority) or a third party, provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden
- The individual (or their parent/carers when appropriate in the case of a student) has freely given clear **consent**
 - For special categories of personal data, Wilmslow High School will also meet one of the special category conditions for processing under data protection law:
- The individual (or their parent/carers when appropriate in the case of a student) has given **explicit consent**
- The data needs to be processed to perform or exercise obligations or rights in relation to
 - **employment, social security or social protection law**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The data has already been made **manifestly public** by the individual
- The data needs to be processed for the establishment, exercise or defence of **legal claims**
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of **substantial public interest** as defined in legislation
- The data needs to be processed 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
- The data needs to be processed 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
- The data needs to be processed for **archiving purposes**, scientific or historical research purposes, or statistical purposes, and the processing is in the public interest
 - For criminal offence data, we will meet both a lawful basis and a condition set out under data protection law. Conditions include:
- The individual (or their parent/carers when appropriate in the case of a student) has given **consent**

- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The data has already been made **manifestly public** by the individual
- The data needs to be processed for or in connection with legal proceedings, to obtain legal advice, or for the establishment, exercise or defence of **legal rights**
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of **substantial public interest** as defined in legislation

Whenever Wilmslow High School first collects personal data directly from individuals, Wilmslow High School will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law. These are the current Privacy Notices.

Wilmslow High School will always consider the fairness of our data processing. We will ensure we do not handle personal data in ways that individuals would not reasonably expect, or use personal data in ways which have unjustified adverse effects on them.

Limitation, minimisation and accuracy

Wilmslow High School will only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate reasons. Wilmslow High School will explain these reasons to the individuals when Wilmslow High School first collects their data.

If Wilmslow High School want to use personal data for reasons other than those given when Wilmslow High School first obtained it, Wilmslow High School will complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment (ICO) and inform the individuals concerned where this is required.

Staff must only process personal data where it is necessary in order to do their jobs.

Wilmslow High School will keep data accurate and, where necessary, up to date. Inaccurate data will be rectified or erased when appropriate.

Sharing personal data

Wilmslow High School will not normally share personal data with anyone else without consent, but there are certain circumstances where Wilmslow High School may be required to do so. These include, but are not limited to, situations where:

- There is an issue with a student or parent/carer that puts the safety of our staff at risk
- Wilmslow High School needs to liaise with other agencies – Wilmslow High School will seek consent as necessary before doing this
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to our staff and students – for example, IT companies. When doing this, we will:
 - Only appoint suppliers or contractors which can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with UK data protection law
 - Establish a contract with the supplier or contractor 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

Wilmslow High School will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies where Wilmslow High School are legally required to do so.

Wilmslow High School 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.

Where Wilmslow High School transfer personal data internationally, Wilmslow High School will do so in accordance with UK data protection law.

Subject access requests and other rights of individuals

Subject access requests

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that the Wilmslow High 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
- Where relevant, the existence of the right to request rectification, erasure or restriction, or to object to such processing
- The right to lodge a complaint with the ICO or another supervisory authority
- 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
- The safeguards provided if the data is being transferred internationally
 - Subject access requests can be submitted in any form, but we may be able to respond to requests more quickly if they are made in writing and include:
- Name of individual
- Correspondence address
- Contact number and email address
- Details of the information requested

If staff receive a subject access request in any form they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

Children and subject access requests

Personal data about a child belongs to that child, and not the child's parents or carers. For a parent or carer to make a subject access request with respect to their child, the child must either be unable to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request, or have given their consent.

Children aged 13 and above are generally regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, most subject access requests from parents or carers of students at our school may not be granted without the express permission of the student. This is not a rule and a student's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case by-case basis.

Responding to subject access requests

When responding to requests, Wilmslow High School:

- May ask the individual to provide 2 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 (or receipt of the additional information needed to confirm identity, where relevant)
- Will provide the information free of charge
- May tell the individual Wilmslow High School will comply within 3 months of receipt of the request, where a request is complex or numerous. Wilmslow High School will inform the individual of this within 1 month, and explain why the extension is necessary

- Wilmslow High School may not disclose information for a variety of reasons, such as if it:
 - Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the student or another individual
- Would reveal that the child is being or has been abused, or is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child's best interests
- Would include another person's personal data that Wilmslow High School cannot reasonably anonymise, and Wilmslow High School don't have the other person's consent and it would be unreasonable to proceed without it
- Is part of certain sensitive documents, such as those related to crime, immigration, legal proceedings or legal professional privilege, management forecasts, negotiations, confidential references, or exam scripts

If the request is unfounded or excessive, Wilmslow High School may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee to cover administrative costs. Wilmslow High School will take into account whether the request is repetitive in nature when making this decision.

When Wilmslow High School refuse a request, Wilmslow High School will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO or they can seek to enforce their subject access right through the courts.

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 Wilmslow High School are collecting their data about how Wilmslow High School use and process it (see section 7), individuals also have the right to:

- Withdraw their consent to processing at any time
- Ask Wilmslow High School to rectify, erase or restrict processing of their personal data (in certain circumstances)
- Prevent use of their personal data for direct marketing
- Object to processing which has been justified on the basis of public interest, official authority or legitimate interests
- Challenge decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (i.e. making decisions or evaluating certain things about an individual based on their personal data with no human involvement)
- 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 DPO. If staff receive such a request, they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

Parental requests to see the educational record

Parents, or those with parental responsibility, have a legal right to free access to their child's educational record (which includes most information about a student – exceptions outlined below) within 15 school days of receipt of a written request.

If the request is for a copy of the educational record, the Wilmslow High School may charge a fee to cover the cost of supplying it.

This right applies as long as the student concerned is aged under 13.

If the student is over the age of 13, the information held by Wilmslow High School is exempt from the right of access under Schedule 2, Part 3, paragraph 16 of the Data Protection Act 2018 – Protection of the rights of others. This is because the information is third party personal data in that it relates to, and is about, someone else.

There are certain circumstances in which this right can be denied, such as if releasing the information might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the student or another individual, or if it would mean releasing exam marks before they are officially announced.

Student requests to see the educational record where the student is over the age of 13

Students have a legal right to free access to their educational record where the student is over the age of 13 (which includes most of their information – exceptions outlined below) within 15 school days of receipt of a written request.

If the request is for a copy of the educational record, the Wilmslow High School may charge a fee to cover the cost of supplying it.

There are certain circumstances in which this right can be denied, such as if releasing the information might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the student or another individual, or if it would mean releasing exam marks before they are officially announced.

Safeguarding

Wilmslow High School understands that the UK GDPR does not prevent or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.

Wilmslow High School will ensure that staff have due regard to their ability to share personal information for safeguarding purposes, and that fears about sharing information must not be allowed to obstruct the need to safeguard and protect students. The governing board will ensure that staff are:

- Confident of the processing conditions which allow them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information, which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as 'special category personal data'.
- Aware that information can be shared without consent where there is good reason to do so, and the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a student in a timely manner.

Wilmslow High School will ensure that information pertinent to identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety of a child is shared with the relevant individuals or agencies proactively and as soon as is reasonably possible. Where there is doubt over whether safeguarding information is to be shared, especially with other agencies, the DSL will ensure that they record the following information:

- Whether data was shared
- What data was shared
- With whom data was shared
- For what reason data was shared
- Where a decision has been made not to seek consent from the data subject or their parent
- The reason that consent has not been sought, where appropriate

Wilmslow High School will aim to gain consent to share information where appropriate; however, staff will not endeavour to gain consent if to do so would place a child at risk. The school will manage all instances of data sharing for the purposes of keeping a child safe in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Students' personal data will not be provided where the serious harm test is met. Where there is doubt, the school will seek independent legal advice.

Biometric recognition systems

Where Wilmslow High School use students' biometric data as part of an automated biometric recognition system (for example, students use finger prints to receive school dinners instead of paying with cash, Wilmslow High School will comply with the requirements of the [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#).

Parents/carers will be notified before any biometric recognition system is put in place or before their child first takes part in it. The school will get written consent from at least one parent or carer before we take any biometric data from their child and first process it.

Parents/carers and students have the right to choose not to use the Wilmslow High School's biometric system(s). Wilmslow High School will provide alternative means of accessing the relevant services for those students. For example, students can use a PIN number to identify themselves to the catering system.

Parents/carers and students can withdraw consent, at any time, and Wilmslow High School will make sure that any relevant data already captured is deleted.

As required by law, if a student refuses to participate in, or continue to participate in, the processing of their biometric data, Wilmslow High School will not process that data irrespective of any consent given by the student's parent(s)/carer(s).

Where staff members or other adults use the school's biometric system(s), Wilmslow High School will also obtain their consent before they first take part in it, and provide alternative means of accessing the relevant service if they object. Staff and other adults can also withdraw consent at any time, and Wilmslow High School will delete any relevant data already captured.

CCTV

Wilmslow High School uses CCTV in various locations around the school site to ensure it remains safe and to deter cases of vandalism. Wilmslow High School will follow the [ICO's guidance](#) for the use of CCTV, and comply with data protection principles.

Wilmslow High School do not need to ask individuals' permission to use CCTV, but Wilmslow High School make it clear where individuals are being recorded. Security cameras are clearly visible and accompanied by prominent signs explaining that CCTV is in use.

Any enquiries about the CCTV system should be directed to the DPO.

Photographs and videos

As part of our school activities, Wilmslow High School takes photographs and records images of individuals within our school.

Where Wilmslow High School need parental consent, Wilmslow High School will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carers and student. Where Wilmslow High School do not need parental consent, Wilmslow High School will clearly explain to the student how the photograph and/or video will be used.

Any photographs and videos taken by parents/carers at school events for their own personal use are not covered by data protection legislation. However, Wilmslow High School will ask that photos or videos with other students are not shared publicly on social media for safeguarding reasons, unless all the relevant parents/carers (or students where appropriate) have agreed to this.

Where the school takes photographs and videos, uses may include:

- Within school on notice boards and in school publications, 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, Wilmslow High School will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

When using photographs and videos in this way Wilmslow High School will not accompany them with any other personal information about the child, to ensure they cannot be identified.

Data protection by design and default

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

- Appointing a suitably trained DPO, and ensuring they have the necessary resources to fulfil their duties and maintain their expert knowledge
- 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 data protection 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 (the DPO will advise on this process)
- 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 Wilmslow High School's privacy measures and make sure Wilmslow High School are compliant
- Appropriate safeguards being put in place if Wilmslow High School transfer any personal data outside of the UK, where different data protection laws may apply
- **Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:**
 - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of Wilmslow High School's DPO and all information Wilmslow High School are required to share about how Wilmslow High School use and process their personal data (via Wilmslow High School's privacy notices)
 - For all personal data that Wilmslow High School hold, maintaining an internal record of the type of data, type of data subject, how and why Wilmslow High School are using the data, any third-party recipients, any transfers outside of the UK and the safeguards for those, retention periods and how Wilmslow High School are keeping the data secure

Data security and storage of records

Wilmslow High School 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, and Cyber-attacks: refer to our Risk Protection Arrangement Cyber Response Plan Policy

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, or left anywhere else where there is general access
- Passwords that are at least 12 characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access school computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Staff and students are reminded that they should not reuse passwords from other sites
- Encryption software is used to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices
- Staff, students or governors who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for school-owned equipment.
- Where Wilmslow High School need to share personal data with a third party, Wilmslow High School carry out due diligence and take reasonable steps to ensure it is stored securely and adequately protected (see section 8)

Disposal of records

The school maintains records in accordance with guidance on record retention.

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 Wilmslow High School cannot or do not need to rectify or update it.

For example, Wilmslow High School will shred paper-based records, and overwrite or delete electronic files. Wilmslow High School may also use a third party to safely dispose of records on the school's behalf. If Wilmslow High School do so, Wilmslow High School will require the third party to provide sufficient guarantees that it complies with data protection law.

Personal data breaches

Wilmslow High School will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches.

In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, Wilmslow High School will follow the procedure set out in appendix 1.

When appropriate, Wilmslow High School will report the data breach to the ICO within 72 hours after becoming aware of it. Such breaches in a school context may include, but are not limited to:

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on the school website which shows the exam results of students eligible for the student premium
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person
- The theft of a school laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about students

Training

All staff and governors are provided with data protection training as part of their induction process.

Data protection will also form part of continuing professional development, where changes to legislation, guidance or the school's processes make it necessary.

Monitoring arrangements

The DPO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

The Headteacher will include exception reports on the Data Protection Policy within the termly Headteacher Reports to the Full Governing Board.

This policy will be reviewed annually with amendments submitted to the Headteacher for approval.