



DfE Privacy Notice for school attendance data collection

Who we are

This work is being carried out by the Data Directorate which is a part of the Department for Education (DfE). For the purpose of data protection legislation, DfE is the data controller for the personal data processed as part of school's attendance data collection

How we will use your information

This attendance information is collected from the daily attendance registration records schools are required to collect. This is not new information being collected this is information that schools already collect but we are changing how often and how we collect it. DfE have always collected this information once a term / year, but now we are collecting it daily to give us a better understanding of attendance within schools. This information collection will help schools, Local Authority, Academy Trust and DfE to look at why children are absent and how they can be supported quicker and ensure children are protected from harm.

How we collect your child's/your information

We collect pupil level attendance data daily using the services of a company working for us under contract called Wonde. This information on your child's/your attendance is taken from your child's/your school Management Information System. This is transferred securely to DfE for schools who have agreed to share their daily data with DfE. Wonde will only take the daily attendance information that DfE have said they need to take and they will not use this information for anything else.

What information about your child/you will we use?

Demographic

Forename	Middle Name	Surname
Date of birth	Sex	Ethnicity
First Language	Unique Pupil Number (and former, where necessary)	

Related Information

Attendance Code Admission Date Leaving Date (where available)
Postcode National Curriculum year group

Vulnerable child indicators - * indicates voluntary

Child in Need* Child Protection Plan* Looked after Child

Previously looked after child

Special Educational Needs type and rank

Education health and care plan (EHCP)

Free School meals

These are collected for:

- pupils in reception
- all compulsory school-age pupils
- pupils in years 12 and 13 (if this is recorded in your management information (MI) system)

Why can we use your child's/your information?

To be able to use this information we have to make sure we meet requirements in data protection legislation. Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the lawful basis DfE rely on for using this information is:

Public task (Article 6 (1)(e)) - the processing is necessary for the organisation to perform a task in the public interest or for the organisation's official functions, and the task or function has a clear basis in law.

This means we must show we meet at least one relevant "condition" to be able to use the information. For our use of your child's/your attendance information, we are doing this as part of work as a government department and the relevant conditions are:

- Article 6(1)(e) we need to perform a public task – DfE has a responsibility to oversee the delivery of education, to make it as easy as possible for children to access education and to safeguard children.

and

- Article 9(2)(g) it is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest - including in reducing absence, how we can support children to stay in school and factors that may be affecting attendance.

Who we will share your child's/your information with

When we have received your child's/your data (from Wonde) we will share this in a safe and secure way with the relevant school, LA and Academy Trust (if applicable). Child level data will be shared with

- Their/your school they/you go to
- The Local Authority and Academy Trust responsible for the school

We will do this to help them identify any potential issues with you/your child's attendance and if needed, enable timely support to help children stay in school. We will only share information where the law allows us to and it is safe and secure to do so. We may share information with other government departments and researchers to help in the work they do, but when we do this we will make sure that it does not identify your child/you.

How long will we keep your child's/your information?

We will only keep your child's/your information as part of our school attendance data collection for as long as necessary, in this case until state retirement age plus three years. The law allows us to do this as long as we check every year to make sure we still need to keep this attendance information. When we decide we no longer need this information we will securely destroy it.

There are circumstances where we may need to keep your information indefinitely for research and statistical purposes. We have measures to safeguard this information.

DfE have published [guidance](#) to help you understand what information is being used and why we are doing this.

Your data protection rights

Your data protection rights Under the Data Protection Act 2018, you are entitled to ask us for:

- the right to access - you can ask if we hold information about you and ask for a copy by making a 'subject access request'.
- the right to rectification - you can request to correct any information you believe it is wrong.
- the right to erasure - you can request for your information to be erased, under certain circumstances.
- the right to restrict processing - you can request that we restrict the processing of your personal data, under certain circumstances.
- the right to object to processing - you can object to DfE's processing, under certain circumstances.

More information about how the DfE handles personal information is published here:
Personal Information Charter

Under the Data Protection Act 2018, you are entitled to ask if we hold information relating to you and ask for a copy, by making a 'subject access request'.

For further information and how to request your data, please use the '[contact form](#)' in the Personal Information Charter at [Personal Information Charter](#) under the 'How to find out what personal information we hold about you' section.

If you need to contact us regarding any of the above, please do so via the DfE site at: <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>.

Further information about your data protection rights appears on the Information Commissioner's website at: [Individual rights | ICO](#).

Contact Info:

If you have any questions about how your personal information will be used, please contact us at <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe> and enter School's attendance data collection as a reference. For the Data Protection Officer (DPO) please contact us via gov.uk and mark it for the attention of the 'DPO'.

We will review this privacy notice at the end of July 2025. This version was last updated August 2024.

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