

Data Protection Act

Schools hold information on pupils in order to run the education system, and in doing so have to follow 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. We are therefore writing to tell you about the types of data held, why that data is held, and to whom it may be passed on.

The 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 (where appropriate), attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

In order to administer the National curriculum tests we are required to pass on some of this data to the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) which is responsible for the National Curriculum and associated assessment arrangements.

QCA 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 DfES in order to compile statistics on trends and patterns in levels of achievement. The QCA uses the information to evaluate the effectiveness of the National Curriculum and the associated assessment arrangements, and to ensure that these are continually improved.

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 about your child, this can be done through a subject access request. This is a formal procedure which is started in the first instance by contacting the school. If you believe QCA holds personal data then the data protection officer for these organisations should be contacted to initiate a subject access request process.

Please note that all rights under the Data Protection Act to do with information about your child rest with them as soon as they are old enough to understand these rights. This will vary from one child to another and you will wish to consider the position of your child, but, as a broad guide, it is considered that most children will have a sufficient understanding by the age of 12.