



INFORMATION RIGHTS POLICY

Reviewed and updated autumn 2025 | Next review autumn 2026

Introduction

For the purpose of the data protection law the School is the Data Controller of personal data regarding; pupils, parents and/or guardians, faculty and administration staff (data subjects). The controller is responsible for the implementation of appropriate data protection policies (Article 24). Policies are required to facilitate the exercise of the data subject's rights.

The data protection law provides data subjects with a wide array of rights that can be enforced against organisations which process personal data. These rights may limit the ability of Schools to lawfully process the personal data of data subjects, and in some cases these rights can have a significant impact the way the School works. This Information Rights Policy is aimed at faculty and administration staff, governors, directors, School boards, parents and pupils and explains how the School comply with the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (UK establishments only).

The School is required to respond to requests from the data subject without undue delay and at the latest within one month, giving reasons in any cases where the controller does not intend to comply with any such requests. However, it should be noted that the lawful basis for processing personal data can also affect which rights are available to individuals (see appendix one).

This policy applies to individuals' rights under the data protection law, specifically Articles 12 - 23, and applies to all requests for information (defined below) received by the School.

The individual rights are:

- The right to be informed (Articles 12(1), 12(5),12(7),13 and 14)
- The right of access (Articles 12 and 15)
- The right to rectification (Articles 12,16 and 19)
- The right to erasure (Articles 17 and 19)
- The right to restrict processing (Articles 18 and 19)
- The right to data portability (Articles 12 and 20)
- The right to object (Articles 12 and 21)
- Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling (Articles 4(4), 9,12,13,14,15,21,22 35(1)and (3))

The School has a procedure in place to record all requests, including those made verbally. Processes are in place to ensure that the School responds within the required time limit and are aware of the circumstances where the time limit can be extended.

Information covered in this policy

Information in this policy relates to personal data. Personal data means any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified in particular by reference to an identifier.

Information includes any expression of opinion, indication of the intention of the establishment, or any other person in respect of the individual.

Individuals' Rights Explained

Right to be informed (Privacy Notices)

- The School has an obligation to process personal data lawfully, fairly and transparently to those individuals whose data is being processed. The School communicates this through privacy notices
- The School provides individuals with information including; the purposes for processing of personal data, the retention periods for that personal data, and those with whom it will be shared
- Privacy information is provided to individuals at the point of collection, communicating to the individual in clear terms the reasons for processing
- The School regularly reviews how personal data is being processed and will update individuals should the processing change
- The School will make individuals aware before a new processing activity is to start
- The information on the processing of personal data will be:
 - Concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible
 - Written in clear and plain language, especially if aimed at children
 - Free of charge

Right of access (Subject Access Request)

- All individuals, including teaching staff, administration staff, parents and students are entitled to obtain:
 - Confirmation that their data is being processed
 - Access to their personal information; and
 - Other supplementary information (in line with relevant privacy notices)
- When requested, the School will provide information requested via a subject access request without undue delay and at the latest within one month of receipt of the request
- The School can extend the period of compliance by a further two months where requests are complex or numerous. If this is the case, we will inform the individual within one month of the receipt of the request and explain why the extension is necessary

Right to rectification

- Individuals are entitled to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete
- When notified, the School will respond to the request within one calendar month
- In certain circumstances the School can refuse a request for rectification
- This right is closely linked to the controller's obligations under the accuracy principle of the GDPR (Article (5)(1)(d))

Right to erasure (Right to be forgotten)

Individuals have the right to have their personal data erased if:

- The personal data is no longer necessary for the purpose it was originally collected or processed
- If the School is relying on consent as the lawful basis for holding the data, and the individual withdraws their consent
- If the School is relying on legitimate interests as the basis for processing, the individual objects to the processing of their data, and there is no overriding legitimate interest to continue the processing;

- If the School is processing your personal data for direct marketing purposes and the individual objects to that processing
- If the School has processed your personal data unlawfully
- The right is not absolute and only applies in certain circumstances
- When notified the School will respond to the request within one calendar month

Right to restrict processing

- Individuals have a right to 'block' or suppress processing
- When processing is restricted, the School is permitted to store the personal data, but not process it further
- An individual can make a request for restriction verbally or in writing
- When notified the School will respond to the request within one calendar month
- This is not an absolute right and only applies in certain circumstances
- This right has close links to the right to rectification (Article 16) and the right to object (Article 21)

Right to data portability

- Allows individuals to obtain and reuse their personal information for their own purpose across different services
- It allows individuals to move, copy or transfer personal data from one IT environment to another
- The information must be provided free of charge
- When notified the School will respond to the request within one calendar month

Right to object

- Gives individuals the right to object to the processing of their personal data in certain circumstances
- Individuals have an absolute right to stop their data being used for direct marketing
- An individual can make an objection verbally or in writing
- When notified the School have one calendar month to respond

Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling

- The School must identify, as part of the data mapping, whether any processing falls under Article 22
- If Article 22 is identified the School must carry out a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA), ideally this should be completed prior to any automated decision making or profiling is undertaken
- Individuals must be informed of how they can access, review and edit any accuracy issues

Your rights and how to apply them

You can submit a request to obtain information in accordance with your rights by emailing us at ithelpdesk@stnicholas.School.

The data protection law explicitly enables the School to require data subjects to provide proof of identity before initiating the request. This helps to limit the risk that a third party could gain unlawful access to your personal data.

The School will validate the data subject's identity using the information held by the School. If there are any reasonable doubts as to the identity of the data subject, the School can request additional information necessary to confirm your identity.

The School is not obliged to seek out additional information from external sources in order to validate your identity. If the School can demonstrate that it is not in a position to identify the data subject then the School is exempt from the application of the rights of data subjects (Article 15-22).

For example, if the requester is unable to provide evidence of their identity/parental responsibility but believes that a third party holds information which will validate the request, the School is not obliged to contact the third party and as such is exempt from complying with the requesters Subject Access Rights as detailed in Article 15-22.

Requests from children

The School will consider all Information Rights requests from pupils/students.

Children have the same rights as adults over their personal data and can exercise their own rights as long as they are competent to do so. Where a child is not considered to be competent, an adult with parental responsibility may exercise the child's data protection rights on their behalf.

Where a request is received from a child, the School will assess the request taking into consideration a number of variables that includes age, maturity, competence and other social or behavioural factors.