

Waltham Leas Primary Academy

Data Protection Policy

1. Introduction

The Data Protection Act 1998 came into force on 1st March 2000. It sets out what can and what cannot be done with personal data, that is, information about living individuals. Waltham Leas Primary Academy is placed under a legal obligation to comply with the provisions of this Act.

2. Commitment to the Protection of Personal Information

Waltham Leas Primary Academy needs to collect and use certain types of information about people with whom it deals in order to operate effectively. These include pupils, parents, guardians, staff, governors, suppliers and others with whom it communicates. In addition, it is required by law to collect and use certain types of information to comply with the requirements of government departments.

This personal information must be dealt with properly and securely regardless of what method is used for its collection, recording or use – whether this is paper, a computer system or any other material. There are safeguards to ensure that the processing of such information is carried out in a proper fashion and these are contained in the Act.

This policy does not seek to convey the whole legislation to its readers, rather to acquaint them with the main provisions and to demonstrate that Waltham Leas Primary Academy has a commitment to those provisions.

Waltham Leas Primary Academy regards the lawful and correct treatment of personal information as very important to the successful and efficient performance of its functions and to maintaining confidence between those with whom we deal and ourselves. We ensure that our school treats personal information lawfully and fairly.

3. Our Data Protection Standards

Waltham Leas Primary Academy will, through appropriate management and adherence to agreed procedures:

- Observe fully the conditions relating to the fair collection and lawful use of personal information;
- Meet its legal obligations to specify the purposes for which the information is used;
- Collect and process appropriate information but only that which is necessary to its operational needs or meet its legal requirements;

Waltham Leas Primary Academy

- Ensure the quality of information used by ask people to help us to achieve this by keeping academy informed of any changes to the information held about them;
- Apply strict checks to determine the length of time information is held and to ensure that it will be disposed of when no longer required with due regard for its sensitivity;
- Ensure that the rights of people about whom information is held can be exercised. These include the right to be informed that processing is being undertaken, the right to access one's personal information, the right to prevent processing in certain circumstances and the right to correct, rectify, block or erase information which is regarded as wrong;
- Take appropriate technical and organisational measures to safeguard personal information.

4. Management Arrangements

Waltham Leas Primary Academy will ensure that:

- the Headteacher holds specific responsibility for data protection within the school;
- everyone managing and handling personal information understands that they are responsible for following good data protection practice;
- everyone managing and handling personal information is appropriately trained to do so;
- everyone managing and handling personal information is appropriately supervised;
- anyone wanting to make enquiries about handling personal information knows what to do;
- queries about handling personal information are dealt with promptly and courteously;
- methods of handling personal information are regularly assessed and evaluated;
- records of personal information will not be kept for longer than is necessary, and will follow the guidance on records retention issued by the local authority.

Useful Information

Further guidance and information on data security and data safety can be obtained from the following sources:

Waltham Leas Primary Academy

Information Commissioner

www.informationcommisioner.gov.uk

TeacherNet – data protection

www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/tools/ims/dataprotection/

Data protection Act 1998

<http://legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/19980029.htm>

Freedom of Information Act

<http://legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2000/20000036.htm>