

Dundela Primary School and Nursery Unit



Belong · Believe · Achieve

Reviewed: 15/09/25

Our Vision

Our vision is to nurture, challenge and inspire all learners to be the best they can be, within a caring, child centred, inclusive and connected school community.

Our Values

We belong to...

- a happy, nurturing school with a safe and welcoming learning environment
- an accepting, inclusive and diverse Dundela family
- a caring, supportive and child centred community

We believe in...

- ourselves and each other and celebrate our individuality
- high expectations and respect for our school and community
- positive attitudes and behaviours and take pride in all we do in school

We achieve by...

- building the foundations necessary for a lifelong love for learning
- fostering curiosity, resilience and confidence as we experience success
- being encouraged, challenged and motivated to be the best we can be

This policy will be reviewed and monitored in line with the school's policy review schedule

Please note that this is an interim precedent document and may be subject to amendment by the Education Authority in due course.

DUNDELA PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

PRIVACY NOTICE

For Pupils & Parents/Families/Carers/Legal Guardians

ABOUT US

Dundela Primary School & Nursery Unit is the data controller of the personal information we hold about our pupils and their parents/families/carers/legal guardians. This means that we are responsible for deciding how we hold and use the personal information which we collect.

We are required under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to notify you of the information contained in this privacy notice.

We collect and use pupil information under the Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2018 and other legislation. You may find the specific legislation at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/departments-education-legislation>.

When we collect or use your personal information, we are subject to the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 ("data protection laws") and we are responsible as the "data controller" of that personal information. As a data controller, we are required to notify you of the information contained in this privacy notice.

The majority of pupil information you provide to us is information which you are legally obliged to provide but some pupil information is provided to us on a voluntary basis. When collecting information from you we will inform you whether you are required to provide certain pupil information to us or if you have a choice in this.

This notice applies to prospective, current and former pupils and their families/carers/legal guardians and those applying for a place at the school and their families/carers/legal guardians. We may update this notice at any time but if we do so, we will inform you as soon as reasonably practicable.

It is important that you read and retain this notice, together with any other privacy notice we may provide on specific occasions when we are collecting or processing personal information about you, so that you are aware of how and why we are using such information and what your rights are under the GDPR.

If you have any questions about this privacy notice or how we handle personal information, please contact the Principal who will deal with your query. The Principal, Ms S Wilson, can be contacted in the following ways:

By post: Dundela Primary School, Wilgar Street, Belfast BT4 3BL

By email: info@dundela.belfast.ni.sch.uk

By telephone: 028 90471234

Our Data Protection Officer is the Education Authority and it monitors the school's data protection procedures to ensure they meet the standards and requirements of the GDPR. Please contact:

DPO: Education Authority

Email: dpo@eani.org.uk

Tel: 028 8241 1300

You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the UK supervisory authority for data protection issues. The ICO's details are as follows:

The Information Commissioner's Office – Northern Ireland

3rd Floor

14 Cromac Place,

Belfast BT7 2JB

Telephone: 028 9027 8757 / 0303 123 1114

Email: ni@ico.org.uk

HOW DO WE COLLECT AND HOLD PERSONAL INFORMATION?

We collect some personal information about our pupils and their families/carers/legal guardians during a pupil's application process to the school.

We will sometimes collect additional information from third parties such as the Education Authority, Department of Education, examination board or previous school attended by a pupil.

We mainly collect personal information about our pupils and their families/carers/legal guardians throughout the course of the pupil's time at the school, for instance when completing educational visit consent forms, from statutory curriculum assessments and throughout our relationship with a pupil when we are exercising our legal obligations as a public educational body and during our pastoral care.

We might also collect personal information from:

- The Department of Education
- other government departments or agencies
- examination boards
- previous schools attended by the child
- GPs and health care providers.

WHAT PERSONAL INFORMATION DO WE COLLECT, STORE AND USE ABOUT OUR PUPILS?

Personal information is information that identifies you and relates to you. We will collect, store and use the following categories of personal information about our pupils:

- Personal information (such as name, age, date of birth, photographs and unique pupil number)
- Contact information (such as address, emergency contact information and telephone number)
- Attendance information (such as sessions attended, number of absences and absence reasons)
- Assessment information (such as statutory assessment process, school designed assessments and standardised tests provided by commercial companies)
- Exclusion and behavioural information
- Non-sensitive characteristic information (such as free school meal eligibility)
- Special categories of information (such as ethnicity, language, country of birth, nationality, information regarding health, special educational needs, allergies and disability).

WHAT PERSONAL INFORMATION DO WE COLLECT, STORE AND USE ABOUT OUR PUPILS'/ PARENTS/FAMILIES/CARERS/LEGAL GUARDIANS?

We will collect, store and use the following categories of personal information about our pupils'/parents/families/carers/legal guardians:

- Personal information (such as name, age, date of birth and photographs)
- Contact information (such as address and telephone number)
- Financial information (such as bank account details and payment history)
- In limited circumstances we may collect, store and use special categories of personal information about parents/families/carers/legal guardians (such as ethnicity, language, country of birth, nationality, information regarding health, allergies and disability).

WHY DO WE COLLECT, STORE AND USE THIS INFORMATION?

We will only use personal information when the law allows us to. Most commonly, we will use personal information relating to our pupils and their parents/families/carers/legal guardians where we need to comply with our legal obligations and where it is needed in the public interest for us to exercise our authority as a public educational body.

We will also use personal information relating to children & young people and their parents/families/carers/legal guardians where we need to comply with our **legal obligations**. We collect and use information under the Education Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 and other legislation. You may find the specific legislation on the [Department of Education website](#).

In some cases we may use personal information where it is necessary for our legitimate interests (or those of a third party) and your interests and fundamental rights do not override those interests. For example, the school has a legitimate interest in providing pupils with an education, safeguarding and promoting pupil welfare, facilitating the efficient operation of the school.

We may also use your personal information, less frequently to protect a pupil's or their family's interests (or someone else's interests). For example, when investigating a complaint made by another pupil.

We keep personal information electronically on the School's information management systems, the School's IT network, or manually in indexed filing systems.

Situations in which we will use personal data, including special category data, include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching & Learning <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to monitor and report on pupil progress ○ to provide appropriate pastoral care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Returns <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to monitor equal opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding & Child Protection <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to safeguard pupils ○ to manage a pupil's absence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to comply with health and safety obligations ○ to comply with the law regarding data sharing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Continuity <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to assess the quality of our services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Systems <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to support pupil learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to foster links between the school and the local community, including fundraising events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound Financial Management <p>For example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to provide more efficient means of payment for school facilities such as catering services

CONSENT

Whilst the majority of the personal data provided to the school is required for us to comply with our legal obligations, some of that information is provided on a voluntary basis through parental consent (namely, a parent's/carer's/legal guardian's express agreement). A pupil aged 13 or over is considered capable of giving consent themselves and will not require express agreement from a parent/carer/legal guardian. However, if a child is not considered capable of giving consent

themselves for example, due to an identified special educational need, an adult with parental responsibility may exercise the child's data protection rights on their behalf.

Where we need consent, the school will provide the person with parental responsibility for a pupil or, if aged 13 or over, the pupil themselves, with a specific and clear notice which explains the reasons why the data is being collected and how the data will be used. You should be aware if you do not consent to our collection of this type of data, this will not affect the standard of education we deliver to the pupil.

If we ask for your consent to use personal information, you can take back this consent at any time. Please contact the school if you would like to withdraw any consent you have given.

Please be aware that we do not need to obtain parental consent if personal data is to be processed for the purposes of obtaining counselling services for the child.

HOW LONG IS THE INFORMATION STORED FOR?

We will only keep personal information for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it (for example, to educate and look after pupils) and including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, accounting, or reporting requirements.

We do not store personal data forever; we only hold pupil and family data for as long as we are legally able to do so. However, sometimes we will keep personal information for historical reasons (e.g. year group or sports team photographs) but you will always have a right to ask for it to be destroyed.

Personal information relating to children & young people and their parents/families/carers/legal guardians is stored in line with is stored in line with the EA's Retention and Disposal of Records Schedule, which is available online at [EA Privacy Notices](#) or can be requested by telephone by calling 028 8241 1300 or by emailing dpo@eani.org.uk. This sets out information about how long we keep personal information.

In determining the appropriate retention period for personal information, we consider the amount, nature, and sensitivity of the personal data, the potential risk of harm from unauthorised use or disclosure of your personal data, the purposes for which we process your personal data and whether we can achieve those purposes through other means, and the applicable legal requirements.

In some circumstances we may anonymise your personal information so that it can no longer be associated with you, in which case we may use such information without further notice to you.

DATA SECURITY

We have put in place appropriate security measures to prevent personal information from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered or disclosed. In addition, we limit access to your personal information to those employees, agents, contractors and other third parties who have a need to know. They will only process personal information on our instructions and they are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We have put in place procedures to deal with any suspected data security breach and will notify you and any applicable regulator (currently the Information Commissioner's Office) of a suspected breach where we are legally required to do so.

WHO WE SHARE PUPIL INFORMATION WITH

We may have to share pupil and their family's data with third parties, including third-party service providers and other bodies such as:

- the new school/s that the pupil attends after leaving us
- the Department of Education
- the Education Authority for Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum Examinations and Assessments
- The Board of Governors
- General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland
- Youth Council for Northern Ireland
- Exceptional Circumstances Body
- Department of Health and Health & Social Care Trusts
- PSNI
- Legal Representatives
- C2K School Management Information System
- Data Systems such as e.g. Seesaw
- Commercial standardised test providers.

WHY WE SHARE PUPIL INFORMATION

We do not share information about our pupils with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so. We only permit access to personal data for specified purpose and in accordance with our instructions.

We are required to share pupils' data with the Department of Education and/or the Education Authority on a statutory basis. This data sharing underpins school funding and educational attainment policy and monitoring. We also share information with the NHS or a pupil's destination upon leaving school.

School may share your personal information with law enforcement authorities (including the PSNI and Northern Ireland Government Departments) where we have a legal obligation to do so or because there is a legitimate interest in doing so for the prevention or detection of crime or for the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

There may also be some circumstances in which it will only be appropriate to share your personal information if you have consented to us doing so.

We also use data processors, who are third parties that process personal information on EA's behalf to enable us to provide our services. We have contracts in place with our data processors which confirm that they cannot do anything with your personal information unless we have instructed them to do it.

TRANSFERRING INFORMATION OUTSIDE THE EEA

We will not transfer the personal information we collect about you to any country outside the EEA without telling you in advance that we intend to do so and what steps we have taken to ensure adequate protection for your personal information in those circumstances.

Microsoft COPILOT 365

We are currently trialling the use of Copilot for Microsoft 365 within school to evaluate its effectiveness in enhancing staff productivity and efficiency.

It is important to note that this generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool will not be used to make decisions about individuals. Instead, Copilot is being evaluated to understand how it can assist our staff with tasks such as:

- Meetings: Copilot can assist with meetings by taking minutes, producing summaries and actions, and helping staff catch up on missed meetings.
- Drafting: Copilot can help with writing documents and emails, such as suggesting ways to word something, helping to creating drafts and formatting documents.
- Presentations: Copilot can be used to speed up the time it takes to create PowerPoint presentations.
- Data analysis: Copilot can be used to analyse and visualise data, identify trends, and create reports and graphs.

The EA's data, used with Copilot for Microsoft 365, is stored within our secure Microsoft tenant. The data is under the control of the EA and is not used to train or improve Microsoft, or open / third party, AI models.

Where the school uses personal data with Copilot for Microsoft 365, this is processed for the purposes and on the lawful bases referred to in this Privacy Notice (most commonly, to perform a task in the public interest).

We recognise that the potential uses of Copilot may evolve over time. Any new proposed uses will be carefully considered and aligned with our commitment to data privacy and security.

To ensure responsible AI usage, we have established an AI Ethics and Governance Committee.

Your duty to inform us of changes

It is important that the personal information we hold is accurate and current. Please keep us informed if your personal information changes during your relationship with us.

Schools Census

The Department of Education has a legal right to ask for particular information under the Education and Libraries (NI) Order 2003 and is referred to as the "School Census". This information includes information on pupil characteristics such as date of birth, gender, ethnicity, religion, free school meal entitlement and special educational needs status. A number of statistical releases are made

available through the Department of Education website covering data on enrolments, participation rates, pupil teacher ratios, school leavers, attendance and school performance

YOUR RIGHTS OF ACCESS, CORRECTION, ERASURE AND RESTRICTION

Under GDPR, pupils/parents/families and carers have the right to request access to information about them that we hold. To make a request for your personal information, or be given access to your child's educational record, contact the Principal, Ms S Wilson.

By post: Dundela Primary School, Wilgar Street, Belfast BT4 3BL

By email: info@dundela.belfast.ni.sch.uk

By telephone: 028 90471234

We may need to request specific information from you to help us confirm your identity and ensure your right to access the information (or to exercise any of your other rights). This is another appropriate security measure to ensure that personal information is not disclosed to any person who has no right to receive it.

Under certain circumstances, by law a parent/carer/legal guardian or a child over the age of 13 (who is considered competent to do so) has the right to:

- **Request access** to personal information (commonly known as a "data subject access request"). This enables you to receive a copy of the personal information we hold about you and your child and to check that we are lawfully processing it. You will not have to pay a fee to access your personal information (or to exercise any of the other rights). However, we may charge a reasonable fee if your request for access is clearly unfounded or excessive. Alternatively, we may refuse to comply with the request in such circumstances.
- **Request correction** of the personal information that we hold about you and your child. This enables you to have any incomplete or inaccurate information we hold corrected.
- **Request erasure** of personal information. This enables you to ask us to delete or remove personal information where there is no good reason for us continuing to process it. You also have the right to ask us to delete or remove your personal information where you have exercised your right to object to processing (see below).
- **Object to processing** of personal information where we are relying on a legitimate interest (or that of a third party) and there is something about your particular situation which makes you want to object to processing on this ground. You also have the right to object where we are processing you and your child's personal information for direct marketing purposes.
- **Request the transfer** of your personal information to another party, for instance a new school.