



Right of Access Policy

Status of policy: Statutory

Frequency of review: 3 years

Date of most recent review: July 2023

Date of next review: July 2026

Approved by FGB: 13th July 2023

Signed: Agreed in virtual meeting

Making a Subject Access Request (SAR)

- 1.1 Under the General Data Protection Regulation you have the right to request access to information we hold about you.
- 1.2 Under this right you can request:
 - Confirmation that we hold personal information about you and why we do so
 - A copy of any information we may hold about you.
- 1.3 An individual is entitled to make a request for the information we hold about them, but in certain circumstances they may be able to make a request for information we hold on someone else.
- 1.4 If you have parental responsibility for a child at this school, you may wish to make a request to identify what personal data we hold on that child, as well to request a copy of that information
- 1.5 The applicant must effectively communicate their request to the school. While there is no requirement for this request to be made in writing, the school will make available a SAR Request form to help facilitate this process.

2 Proof of Identification

- 2.1. If we have any cause to doubt your identity we will ask you to provide any evidence we reasonably need to confirm your identity. This may be done by requesting a recognised form of identification. Items requested may be:
 - Proof of Identity Passport, photo driving licence, national identity card, birth certificate.
 - Proof of Address Utility bill, bank statement, credit card statement (no more than 3 months old); current driving licence; current TV licence; local authority tax bill, HMRC tax document (no more than 1 year old).
- 2.2. Where requesting details of information held about a pupil, we will confirm your right to this information. In order to do this we may request a copy of the child's birth certificate or other official documentation confirming parental/guardianship rights.
- 2.3. Where requesting information on behalf of another individual, we will request a copy of the written authority of the individual involved confirming both their and your identity and clearly stating you are acting on their behalf and with their full knowledge.

2. How we process Subject Access Requests

- 2.1 The school will clarify the nature of the request and determine whether the request relates to information belonging to a child or whether the request has been made in relation to information belonging to the requestor.
- 2.2. In the event that a large quantity of information is being processed about an individual, the school may ask the individual to specify the information the request is in relation to.

2.3. If we identify information that relates to third parties we will take all reasonable steps to establish whether this information can be disclosed.

2.4. We are not required to disclose information relating to third parties, unless they have provided their consent or it is reasonable to do so without their consent. If the third party objects to the information being disclosed we may seek legal advice on what action we should take.

2.5. Before sharing any information that relates to third parties, we will where possible anonymise information that identifies individuals not already known to the applicant. We will also edit information that may affect another party's privacy, and if necessary summarise the information provided (rather than provide a full copy of the document).

2.6. Once we have confirmed identification, resolved any queries around the applicant's request, and gathered the relevant information, we will issue our response electronically via a secure email service, or if requested, via hard copy. Hard copy responses will be sent by Royal Mail recorded delivery in an envelope or package marked 'Private and Confidential' and 'Addressee Only'.

2.7. Where requests relate to information in the form of video images captured by our CCTV security cameras, we may ask whether the requester would be satisfied with viewing these images at our premises.

3. Right to Information

3.1. Parents accessing their child's personal data under the GDPR are exercising the child's right of subject access on the child's behalf.

3.1. A parent or guardian does not have an automatic right to information held about their child. The right belongs to the child and the parent(s) acts on their behalf, where they have parental responsibility for the child.

3.2. In England the age at which a child reaches sufficient maturity to exercise their own right to access their information is normally 12, but this may vary amongst individuals. Once a child reaches sufficient maturity, the parent may only act with their child's consent.

3.3. Where a child is over 12 and a request is made on their behalf, the school may contact them separately to seek their signed consent for someone to access their records on their behalf. When deciding whether information about a child can be released, consideration will be given to the best interests of the child.

3.4. The school will not service a Subject Access Request for information held on a child if the child, having been deemed capable of understanding the nature of the request and the consequences of their actions, refuses to consent to this information being disclosed.

4. The cost of a Subject Access Request

4.1. A copy of the information will be supplied to the individual free of charge; however, the school may impose a 'reasonable fee' to comply with requests for further copies of the same information.

4.2. Where a request is manifestly unfounded, excessive or repetitive, a reasonable fee may be charged.

4.3. All fees will be based on the administrative cost of providing the information.

4.4. Where a fee has been imposed the individual has the right to appeal to the cost specified in the first case to the School and, if they are still unsatisfied, they may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.

5. Timeframe for responding to Subject Access Requests

5.1. A response must be sent within 30 calendar days starting from the date when we have received all the information necessary to identify you and, where necessary, identify the information requested. We will aim to respond to all requests as soon as possible within this timeframe.

5.2. Where a response is proving difficult to service we may provide information available while continuing to work through additional information.

5.3. In the event of numerous or complex requests, the period of compliance will be extended by a further two months. The individual will be informed of this extension, and will receive an explanation of why the extension is necessary, within one month of the receipt of the request.

5.5. In the event that a large quantity of information is being processed about an individual, the school may ask the individual to specify the information the request is in relation to.

5.6. The school will communicate in its Privacy Notice any delays that could be caused to the responding of Subject Access Requests as a result of school closure (holiday periods)

5.7. As a matter of course, requests submitted prior to any holiday period will be responded to within the required timescales. However, the school is conscious of the fact the ability to service such requests may be made more complex by staff absence.

5.8. Should a holiday close down period severely affect the school's ability to facilitate the production of the required information, the requestor will be notified and the school may extend the period of compliance by a further two months.

5.9. Requests made during school closures, principally the summer holiday period, will not be actioned until staff return and identification of the requestor has been made. Requests sent by email will be auto-notified of this delay and details will be promoted on the school website.

6. Grounds for not complying with Subject Access Requests

6.1. Where a request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, the school holds the right to refuse to respond to the request. The individual will be informed of this decision and the reasoning behind it, as well as their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy, within one month of the refusal.

6.2 If you have made a previous subject access we must respond only if a reasonable interval has elapsed since this previous request was made. We will define a reasonable interval by reviewing the elapsed time, nature of information, and changes that have occurred since the last request was made.

7. What to do if you identify inaccurate information in our records

7.1. If you identify an error in the information we hold please notify us as soon as possible. If we agree that the information is inaccurate we will take all reasonable steps to correct the information or if relevant and practically possible, remove the inaccurate information by deletion or destruction.

7.2. If we believe the information is accurate, or we are unable to make a decision as to the accuracy of the information, we will keep a note of the alleged error on the file.

8. What to do if you want us to stop processing your data.

8.1. You have the right to ask us to delete or completely stop processing some or all of your data, or stop processing this data in relation to a particular purpose or in a particular way. The right to prevent processing applies in certain limited circumstances.

8.2. We will respond to an objection within 20 days of receipt, and in writing, advising that we have either complied with your request, intend to comply with it, or state the extent to which we will comply with it and why.

8.2. Where we will not or cannot comply with a request to delete or stop processing data we will clearly communicate those reasons to you.

9. Complaints procedure

9.1 An individual having any complaint in connection with our actions has the right to present a complaint in writing to the School' Data Protection Officer

Schools Data Protection Officer
Cheshire West and Chester Council,
4 Civic Way
Ellesmere Port
CH65 0BE

Email: schoolDPO@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

9.2 If you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to report your concern to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45

<https://ico.org.uk>