



GDPR Privacy Notice

Who processes your information?

Birch Copse School is the data controller of the personal information you provide to us. This means the school determines the purposes for which, and the manner in which, any personal data relating to pupils and their families is to be processed. Gerard Strong acts as the school's Data Protection Officer; he can be contacted via the school on 0118 942 7442 or office@birchcopse.co.uk.

In some cases, the school uses third-party service providers to process personal data on its behalf. Where this occurs, the school ensures that appropriate contracts and security measures are in place in accordance with UK GDPR. Where the school outsources data to a third party processor, the same data protection standards that Birch Copse School upholds are imposed on the processor.

Gerard Strong is the data protection officer. His role is to oversee and monitor the school's data protection procedures, and to ensure they are compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation. The data protection officer can be contacted via the school at office@birchcopse.co.uk.

Why do we collect and use your information?

Birch Copse School holds the legal right to collect and use personal data relating to pupils and their families, and we may also receive information regarding them from their previous school, LA and/or the DfE. We collect and use personal data in order to meet legal requirements and legitimate interests set out in the GDPR and UK law, including those in relation to the following:

- Article 6 and Article 9 of the GDPR
- Education Act 1996
- Regulation 5 of The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (England) Regulations 2013

In accordance with the above, the personal data of pupils and their families is collected and used for the following reasons:

- To support pupil learning
- To monitor and report on pupil progress
- To provide appropriate pastoral care
- To assess the quality of our service
- To comply with the law regarding data sharing



- To safeguard pupils

Which data is collected?

The categories of pupil information that the school collects, holds and shares include the following:

- Personal information – e.g. names, pupil numbers and addresses
- Characteristics – e.g. ethnicity, language, nationality, country of birth and free school meal eligibility
- Attendance information – e.g. number of absences and absence reasons
- Assessment information – e.g. national curriculum assessment results
- Relevant medical information
- Information relating to SEND
- Behavioural information – e.g. number of temporary exclusions

Whilst the majority of the personal data you provide to the school or is recorded by us is mandatory, some is provided on a voluntary basis. When collecting data, the school will inform you whether you are required to provide this data or if your consent is needed. Where consent is required, the school will provide you with specific and explicit information with regards to the reasons the data is being collected and how the data will be used.

How long is your data stored for?

Personal data relating to pupils at Birch Copse School and their families is stored in line with the school's GDPR Data Protection Policy.

In accordance with the GDPR, the school does not store personal data indefinitely; data is only stored for as long as is necessary to complete the task for which it was originally collected.

Will my information be shared?

The school is required to share pupils' data with the DfE on a statutory basis.

The National Pupil Database (NPD) is managed by the DfE and contains information about pupils in schools in England. Birch Copse School is required by law to provide information about our pupils to the DfE as part of statutory data collections, such as the school census; some of this information is then stored in the NPD. The DfE may share information about our pupils from the NDP with third parties who promote the education or wellbeing of children in England by:

- Conducting research or analysis.
- Producing statistics.



- Providing information, advice or guidance.

The DfE has robust processes in place to ensure the confidentiality of any data shared from the NPD is maintained.

The school will only share personal data where there is a lawful basis to do so, including where required by law, for safeguarding purposes, or where necessary to support pupils' education and wellbeing. The school routinely shares pupils' information with:

- Pupils' destinations upon leaving the school
- Our LA & other LAs
- The NHS
- The DfE
- School caterers
- The school PTA
- Cool Milk
- School library service
- ParentMail (123Comms Ltd)
- Bromcom
- Residential and educational visit providers

What are your rights?

Parents and pupils have the following rights in relation to the processing of their personal data.

You have the right to:

- Be informed about how Birch Copse School uses your personal data.
- Request access to the personal data that Birch Copse School holds.
- Request that your personal data is amended if it is inaccurate or incomplete.
- Request that your personal data is erased where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.
- Request that the processing of your data is restricted.
- Object to your personal data being processed.

Where the processing of your data is based on your consent, you have the right to withdraw this consent at any time.

If you have a concern about the way Birch Copse School is collecting or using your personal data, we request that you raise your concern with us in the first instance. Please contact us at



office@birchcopse.co.uk. Alternatively, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Where can you find out more information?

If you would like to find out more information about how we and/or the DfE collect, use and store your personal data, please download our GDPR Data Protection Policy or contact our Headteacher at the school address.

May 2026