

Thomas Telford School



Data Protection Policy

July 2022

Data Protection Policy

What is the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)?

This is a European Directive that was brought into UK law with an updated Data Protection Act in May 2018. Brexit will not change it.

The Data Protection Act 1998 was repealed and replaced with the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.

What is the point of the GDPR?

The GDPR and DPA exist to look after individual's data. It is a series of safeguards for every individual. Information about individuals needs to be treated with respect and be secure.

The GDPR exists to protect individual rights in an increasingly digital world.

Who does it apply to?

Everyone, including schools. As public bodies schools have more obligations than some small businesses. It is mandatory to comply with the GDPR and proposed provisions in the new Act.

Thomas Telford School want to make sure information about students, parents, staff and volunteers is kept secure and within the law.

What is Data?

Any information that relates to a living person that identified them. This can be by name, address or phone number for example. It also relates to details about that person, which can include opinions.

Some data is considered to be more sensitive, and therefore more important to protect. This is information about racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, data concerning health or sex life and sexual orientation, genetic data, and biometric data where processed to uniquely identify a person.

Thomas Telford School often collect sensitive data for DfE and LA requirements and of course student data may contain information about safeguarding, SEN or health needs. Information about other family members may also be on the school file.

Thomas Telford School publishes a Privacy Notice on the website, www.ttsonline.net.

What are the key principles of the GDPR?

Lawfulness, transparency and fairness

Thomas Telford School must have a legitimate reason to hold the data, and explain this in the Data Privacy Notices on the website. Consent is often asked for to use data about a student for a particular purpose. If parents wish to withdraw consent Thomas Telford School have a form for parents to complete to allow requests to be processed. There are sometimes when parents cannot withdraw consent and this is explained in 'Data Subjects Rights'.

Collect data for a specific purpose and use it for that purpose

Data cannot be used for a purpose that it was not originally collected for, or where notice has not been given about how data may be used after collection.

Limited collection

Data controllers should only collect the minimum amount of data needed for a particular task or reason. If there is a breach or a hack only limited information can be lost.

Accuracy

Data collected should be accurate, and steps should be taken to check and confirm accuracy. This is completed when students join the school and checked on an annual basis.

If a Data Subject feels that the information held is inaccurate, should no longer be held by the Controller or should not be held by the Controller in any event a dispute resolution process and complaint process can be accessed, using the suitable forms.

Retention

Thomas Telford School follows a published retention schedule that explains how long records are stored. This is available on request.

Security

Thomas Telford School have processes in place to keep data safe. That might be paper files, electronic records or other information.

Who is a 'data subject'?

Someone whose details are kept on file. Some details are more sensitive than others. The GDPR sets out collection of details such as health conditions and ethnicity which are more sensitive than names and phone numbers.

Data subjects' rights

Individuals have a right:-

- To be informed
- Of access to data stored about them or their children
- To rectification if there is an error on the data stored
- To erasure if there is no longer a need for school to keep the data
- To restrict processing, i.e. to limit what is done with their data
- To object to data being shared or collected

There are other rights that relate to automated decision making and data portability that are not directly relevant in schools.

Data subjects rights are also subject to child protection and safeguarding concerns, sharing information for the prevention and detection of crime. Thomas Telford School also have legal and contractual obligations to share information with organisations such as the Department for Education, Social Care, the Local Authority and HMRC amongst others. In some cases these obligations override individual rights.

Subject Access Requests

An individual can ask for copies of information that Thomas Telford School holds about them or a student where the individual is the parent or has parental responsibility. A Subject Access Request process and protocol is set out separately and provides a form to be completed. An individual may need to provide identification evidence for the request to be processed.

Thomas Telford School will provide the information within a month, but this can be extended if, for example, the school was closed for holidays. The maximum extension is up to two months.

When a request is received more specific information about what is required may be asked for. This is to refine any queries to make sure an individual can access what they need, rather than sometimes getting a lot of information that may not be relevant to the query.

In some cases all information that is held on file cannot be shared if there are contractual, legal or regulatory reasons.

Thomas Telford School cannot release information provided by a third party without their consent, or in some cases it may be better to approach them directly, e.g. school nurses who are employed by the NHS.

Information will be supplied in an electronic form.

Any complaints about the process can be dealt with through our complaints policy and later information in this DPA policy.

Who is a 'data controller'?

Telford City Technology College Trust Limited is the data controller and has ultimate responsibility for how school manages data. They delegate this to data processors to act on their behalf.

Who is a 'data processor'?

This is a person or organisation that uses, collects, accesses or amends the data that the controller has collected or authorised to be collected. It can be a member of staff, a third-party company, possibly a governor, a contractor or temporary employee. It can also be another organisation such as the police or the LA.

Data controllers must make sure that data processors are as careful about the data as the controller themselves. The GDPR places additional obligations on organisations to make sure that Data Controllers require contractual agreements to ensure that this is the case.

Processing data

Thomas Telford School must have a reason to process the data about an individual. Our privacy notices set out how we use data. The GDPR has six conditions for lawful processing and any time we process data relating to an individual it is within one of those conditions.

If there is a data breach, Thomas Telford School have a Data Protection Breach and Non Compliance Procedure to follow to take immediate action to remedy the situation as quickly as possible.

The legal basis and authority for collecting and processing data in school are:-

- Consent obtained from the data subject or their parent
- Performance of a contract where the data subject is a party
- Compliance with a legal obligation
- To protect the vital interests of the data subject or other associated person
- To carry out the processing that is in the public interest and/or official authority
- It is necessary for the legitimate interests of the data controller or third party
- In accordance with national law.

In addition, any special categories of personal data are processed on the grounds of:

- Explicit consent from the data subject or about their child
- Necessary to comply with employment rights or obligations
- Protection of the vital interests of the data subject or associated person
- Being necessary to comply with the legitimate activities of the school
- Existing personal data that has been made public by the data subject and is no longer confidential
- Bringing or defending legal claims
- Safeguarding
- National laws in terms of processing genetic, biometric or health data

Processing data is recorded within the school systems.

Data Sharing

Data sharing is done within the limits set by the GDPR. Guidance from the Department for Education, health, the police, local authorities and other specialist organisations may be used to determine whether data is shared.

The basis for sharing or not sharing data is recorded in school.

Breaches & Non Compliance

If there is non-compliance with the policy or processes, or there is a DPA breach as described within the GDPR and DPA 2018 then the guidance set out in the Breach and Non Compliance Procedure and Process needs to be followed.

Protecting data and maintaining data subjects rights is the purpose of this policy and associated procedures.

Consent

Thomas Telford School will seek consent from staff, volunteers, young people, parents and carers to collect and process their data. Reasons will be clear for requesting the data and how it will be used. There are contractual, statutory and regulatory occasions when consent is not required.

However, in most cases data will only be processed if explicit consent has been obtained.

Consent is defined by the GDPR as “any freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes by which he or she, by a statement or by a clear affirmative action, signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her”.

The School may seek consent from young people also, and this will be dependent on the child and the reason for processing.

Consent and Renewal

Privacy Notices on the Thomas Telford School website explain how data is collected and used. It is important to read those notices as it explains how data is used in detail.

Obtaining clear consent and ensuring that the consent remains in place is important for Thomas Telford School. The School also want to ensure the accuracy of that information.

For Students and Parents/Carers

On admission to Thomas Telford School parents will be asked to complete a form giving next of kin details, emergency contact and other essential information. Parents will also be asked to give consent to use the information for other in school purposes, as set out on the data collection/consent form.

Thomas Telford School review the contact and consent form on an annual basis. It is important to inform the school if details or your decision about consent changes.

Student Consent Procedure

Where processing relates to a child under 16 years old, Thomas Telford School will obtain the consent from a person who has parental responsibility for the child.

Students may be asked to give consent or to be consulted about how their data is obtained, shared and used in certain situations.

Withdrawal of Consent

Consent can be withdrawn, subject to contractual, statutory or regulatory constraints. Where more than one person has the ability to provide or withdraw consent the school will consider each situation on the merits and within the principles of GDPR and also child welfare, protection and safeguarding principles.

Consent can be withdrawn by completing the Withdrawal of Consent Form.

Biometrics

The school operates biometric recognition systems for purchasing food in the canteen. All data collected will be processed in accordance with the GDPR Data Protection Principles and the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012. The written consent of at least one parent will be obtained before biometric data is taken and used. If one parent objects in writing, then the school will not take or use a child's biometric data.

For more information about biometric data please refer to the ICO Guidance at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protection-of-biometric-information-of-children-in-schools>

CCTV Policy

Thomas Telford School has a CCTV policy.

Thomas Telford School use CCTV and store images for up to six weeks in line with the policy. CCTV may be used for:-

- Detection and prevention of crime
- School staff disciplinary procedures
- Student behaviour and exclusion management processes
- To assist the School in complying with legal and regulatory obligations

Data Protection Officer

Telford City Technology College Trust Limited have a Data Protection Officer whose role is to:-

- To inform and advise the controller or the processor and the employees who carry out processing of their obligations under the GDPR
- To monitor compliance with the GDPR and DPA
- To provide advice where requested about the data protection impact assessment and monitor its performance
- To be the point of contact for Data Subjects if there are concerns about data protection
- To cooperate with the supervisory authority and manage the breach procedure
- To advise about training and CPD for the GDPR

Telford City Technology College Trust Limited's DPO is John Walker whose contact details are;

Email: john@jawalker.co.uk

Physical Security

At Thomas Telford School, every secure area has individuals who are responsible for ensuring that the space is securely maintained and controlled if unoccupied, i.e. locked offices and cupboards that contain personal data should be secured if the processor is not present.

All Staff, contractors and third parties who have control over lockable areas must take due care to prevent data breaches.

Secure Disposal

When disposal of items is necessary a suitable process must be used. This is to secure the data, to provide a process that does not enable data to be shared in error, by malicious or criminal intent.

These processes, when undertaken by a third party are subject to contractual conditions to ensure GDPR and DPA compliance.

Hardware is disposed / recycled by RECYCLE IT 4U.LTD

Hard copy files are destroyed by SHRED IT

Servers and Hard drives are cleansed by RECYCLE IT 4U.LTD

Portable and removable storage are destroyed / cleaned/ recycled by RECYCLE IT 4U.LTD

Complaints & the Information Commissioner Office (ICO)

The Thomas Telford School Complaints Policy deals with complaints about Data Protection issues.

There is a right to complain if an individual feels that data has been shared without consent or lawful authority.

Individuals can complain if they have asked to us to erase, rectify, not process data and we have not agreed to the request.

Thomas Telford School will always try to resolve issues on an informal basis, and then through our formal complaints procedure.

In the UK it is the ICO who has responsibility for safeguarding and enforcing the DPA obligations.

Email: casework@ico.org.uk Helpline: 0303 123 1113 web: www.ico.org.uk

Review

A review of the effectiveness of GDPR compliance and processes will be conducted by the Data Protection Officer every 12 months.