

PRIVACY NOTICE

What the DfE does with Pupil data

The **Department for Education (DfE)** uses information about pupils to provide accurate targeting of funding for Local authorities (LAs) and schools, including the development of the Pupil Premium. It also uses information to support other key areas involving LAs such as the Revenue Support Grant. Pupil information is also used for research and statistical purposes in order to inform, influence and improve education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole.

The DfE is the data controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act.

Pupil information may be matched with other data sources that the DfE holds in order to model and monitor pupils' educational progression and provide comprehensive information to LAs and learning institutions to support their day-to-day business. The DfE may also use contact details from these sources to obtain samples for statistical surveys which may be carried out by research agencies working on behalf of them. Participation in such surveys is usually voluntary. The DfE may also match data from these sources to data obtained from statistical surveys. In all such cases, the matching will require that individualised data is used in the processing operation but that it will not be used in such a way that supports measures or decisions relating to particular individuals, or identifies individuals in any results.

Pupil data may also be shared with other Government departments and agencies as provided for by the Education (Individual Pupil Information) (Prescribed Persons) (England) Regulations 2009. These Regulations were made in exercise of powers conferred by sections 537A(4), (5) and (6) and 569(4) of the Education Act 1996.

The DfE may disclose individual pupil information to independent researchers who have a legitimate need for it for their research. However, each case will be determined on its merits, subject to the Data Protection Act 1998 and approval of the Department's Chief Statistician. The Department's powers to pass personal data to researchers are derived from The Education (Individual Pupil Information) (Prescribed Persons) (England) Regulations 2009. These regulations restrict the researchers who receive data to "persons conducting research into the educational achievements of pupils and who require individual pupil information for that purpose".

Pupils, as data subjects, have certain rights under the Data Protection Act, including a general right of access to their personal data. A parent can exercise this right on their behalf if the pupil does not have the necessary maturity to make/understand such a request or the personal data in question. If you wish to access your child's personal data held by the DfE, please contact:

Public Communications Unit
for general enquiries
Telephone: 0370 000 2288