



Data Protection Policy

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Wirral Metropolitan College (WMC) is committed to a policy of protecting the rights and privacy of individuals, including students, staff and others, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) May 2018.

The regulatory environment demands transparency and accountability in how colleges manage and use personal data. It also accords rights for individuals to understand and control that use.

The GDPR contains provisions that the college will need to be aware of as data controllers, including provisions intended to enhance the protection of student's personal data. For example, the GDPR requires that:

We must ensure that our college privacy notices are written in a clear, plain way that staff and students will understand.

WMC needs to process certain information about its staff, students, parents and guardians and other individuals with whom it has a relationship for various purposes such as, but not limited to:

1. The recruitment, management and payment of staff.
2. The administration of programmes of study and courses.
3. Student enrolment.
4. Examinations and external accreditation.
5. Recording student progress, attendance and conduct.
6. Collecting fees.
7. Complying with legal obligations to funding bodies and government including local government.

To comply with various legal obligations, including the obligations imposed on it by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) WMC must ensure that all this information about individuals is collected and used fairly, stored safely and securely, and not disclosed to any third party unlawfully.

Compliance

This policy applies to all staff and students of WMC. Any breach of this policy or of the Regulation itself will be considered an offence and the College's disciplinary procedures will be invoked.

As a matter of best practice, other agencies and individuals working with WMC and who have access to personal information, will be expected to read and comply with this policy. It is expected that departments who are responsible for dealing with external bodies will take the responsibility for ensuring that such bodies sign a contract which among other things will include an agreement to abide by this policy.

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice in data management, security and control and to ensure compliance with any changes or amendments to the GDPR and other relevant legislation.

The Code of Practice on GDPR for WMC gives further detailed guidance and WMC undertakes to adopt and comply with this Code of Practice.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This piece of legislation came in to force on the 25th May 2018. The GDPR regulates the processing of personal data, and protects the rights and privacy of all living individuals (including children), for example by giving all individuals who are the subject of personal data a general right of access to the personal data which relates to them. Individuals can exercise the right to gain access to their information by means of a 'subject access request'. Personal data is information relating to an individual and may be in hard or soft copy (paper/manual files; electronic records; photographs; CCTV images), and may include facts or opinions about a person.

The GDPR also sets out specific rights for College students in relation to educational records held within the state education system. These rights are set out in separate education regulations 'The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2000'. For more detailed information on these Regulations see the Data Protection Data Sharing Code of Practice (DPCoP) from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). Please follow this link to the ICO's website (ico.org.uk)

Responsibilities under the GDPR

WMC will be the 'data controller' under the terms of the legislation – this means it is ultimately responsible for controlling the use and processing of the personal data.

The college appoints a Data Protection Officer (DPO), currently the Director of MIS & IT who is available to address any concerns regarding the data held by college and how it is processed, held and used.

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for all day-to-day data protection matters, and will be responsible for ensuring that all members of staff and relevant individuals abide by this policy, and for developing and encouraging good information handling within the college.

Compliance with the legislation is the personal responsibility of all members of the College who process personal information.

Individuals who provide personal data to the College are responsible for ensuring that the information is accurate and up-to-date.

Data Protection Principles

The legislation places a responsibility on every data controller to process any personal data in accordance with the eight principles. More detailed guidance on how to comply with these principles can be found in the DPCoP. Please follow this link to the ICO's website (ico.org.uk)

1. Process personal data fairly and lawfully

WMC will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that individuals who are the focus of the personal data (data subjects) are informed of the identity of the data controller, the purposes of the processing, any disclosures to third parties that are envisaged; given an indication of the period for which the data will be kept, and any other information which may be relevant. For example,

2. Process the data for the specific and lawful purpose for which it collected that data and not further process the data in a manner incompatible with this purpose

WMC will ensure that the reason for which it collected the data originally is the only reason for which it processes those data, unless the individual is informed of any additional processing before it takes place.

3. Ensure that the data is adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose for which it is processed

WMC will not seek to collect any personal data which is not strictly necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained. Forms for collecting data will always be drafted with this mind. If any irrelevant data are given by individuals, they will be destroyed immediately.

4. Keep personal data accurate and, where necessary, up to date

WMC will review and update all data on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of the individuals giving their personal data to ensure that this is accurate, and each individual should notify the College if, for example, a change in circumstances mean that the data needs to be updated. It is the responsibility of the College to ensure that any notification regarding the change is noted and acted on.

5. Only keep personal data for as long as is necessary

WMC undertakes not to retain personal data for longer than is necessary to ensure compliance with the legislation, and any other statutory requirements. This means WMC will undertake a regular review of the information held and implement a weeding process.

WMC will dispose of any personal data in a way that protects the rights and privacy of the individual concerned (e.g. secure electronic deletion, shredding and disposal of hard copy files as confidential waste). A log will be kept of the records destroyed.

6. Process personal data in accordance with the rights of the data subject under the legislation

Individuals have various rights under the legislation including a right to:

- be told the nature of the information the College holds and any parties to whom this may be disclosed.
- prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress.
- prevent processing for purposes of direct marketing.
- be informed about the mechanics of any automated decision taking process that will significantly affect them.
- not have significant decisions that will affect them taken solely by automated process.
- sue for compensation if they suffer damage by any contravention of the legislation.
- take action to rectify, block, erase or destroy inaccurate data.
- request that the Office of the Information Commissioner assess whether any provision of the Act has been contravened.

WMC will only process personal data in accordance with individuals' rights.

7. Put appropriate technical and organisational measures in place against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data, and against accidental loss or destruction of data

All members of staff are responsible for ensuring that any personal data which they hold is kept securely and not disclosed to any unauthorised third parties.

WMC will ensure that all personal data is accessible only to those who have a valid reason for using it.

WMC will have in place appropriate security measures e.g. ensuring that hard copy personal data is kept in lockable filing cabinets/cupboards with controlled access (with the keys then held securely in a key cabinet with controlled access):

- keeping all personal data in a lockable cabinet with key-controlled access.
- password protecting personal data held electronically.
- archiving personal data which are then kept securely (lockable cabinet).
- placing any PCs or terminals, CCTV camera screens etc. that show personal data so that they are not visible except to authorised staff.
- ensuring that PC screens are not left unattended without a password protected lock-screen.

WMC will put in place appropriate measures for the deletion of personal data - manual records will be shredded or disposed of as 'confidential waste' and appropriate contract terms will be put in place with any third parties undertaking this work. Hard drives of redundant PCs will be wiped clean before disposal or if that is not possible, destroyed physically. A log will be kept of the records destroyed.

This policy also applies to staff and students who process personal data 'off-site', e.g. when working at home, and in circumstances additional care must be taken regarding the security of the data.

8. Ensure that no personal data is transferred to a country or a territory outside the European Economic Area (EEA) unless that country or territory ensures adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data

WMC will not transfer data to such territories without the explicit consent of the individual.

This also applies to publishing information on the Internet - because transfer of data can include placing data on a website that can be accessed from outside the EEA - so WMC will always seek the consent of individuals before placing any personal data (including photographs) on its website.

If the College collects personal data in any form via its website, it will provide a clear and detailed privacy statement prominently on the website, and wherever else personal data is collected.

Processing data

WMC inform individuals of the lawful basis under which their data is being processed. Data is collected and processed in an open and transparent manner. Some data will be collected due to the performance of a contract, e.g. signing the enrolment form.

Consent is may be basis for processing for example when WMC is processing any sensitive data, as defined by the legislation. If consent is the lawful basis WMC understands consent to mean that the individual has been fully informed of the intended processing and has signified their agreement whilst being of a sound mind and without having any undue influence exerted upon them. Consent obtained on the basis of misleading information will not be a valid basis for processing. Consent cannot be inferred from the non-response to a communication.

“Personal Details

- *For the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)*

(Regulation (EU) 2016/679 you consent to the College holding and processing personal data including sensitive personal data of which you are the subject, details of which are specified in the College's data protection policy.

WMC will ensure that any forms used to gather data on an individual will contain a statement (fair collection statement) explaining the use of that data, how the data may be disclosed and also indicate whether or not the individual needs to consent to the processing.

WMC will include the specified statement from the DfE on the student enrolment form and update when required following the ESFA's technical guidance:

How We Use Your Personal Information:

This privacy notice is issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Department of Education (DfE). It is to inform students how their personal information will be used by the DfE, the ESFA (an executive agency of the DfE) and any successor bodies to these organisations. For the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998, the DfE is the data controller for personal data processed by the ESFA. Your personal information is used by the DfE to exercise its functions and to meet its statutory responsibilities, including under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 and to create and maintain a unique learner number (ULN) and a personal learning record (PLR).

Your information may be shared with third parties for education, training, employment and well-being related purposes, including for research. This will only take place where the law allows it and the sharing is in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

The English European Social Fund (ESF) Managing Authority (or agents acting on its behalf) may contact you in order for them to carry out research and evaluation to inform the effectiveness of training.

WMC will ensure that if the individual does not give their consent for the processing, and there is no other lawful basis on which to process the data, then steps will be taken to ensure that processing of that data does not take place.

Subject Access Rights (SARs)

Individuals have a right to access any personal data relating to them which are held by the College. Any individual wishing to exercise this right should apply in writing to the Director of MIS & IT. Any member of staff receiving a SAR should forward this to the Director of MIS & IT.

The College reserves the right to charge a fee for data subject access requests.

Under the terms of the GDPR legislation, any such requests will normally be complied with within 1 month. If the individual has made a number or the request is complex, extra time to consider the request may be required. The individual will be notified if this is the case.

Disclosure of Data

Staff should exercise caution when asked to disclose personal data held on another individual or third party. WMC undertakes not to disclose personal data to unauthorised third parties, including family members, friends, government bodies and in some circumstances, the police. Legitimate disclosures may occur in the following instances:

- the individual has given their consent to the disclosure.
- the disclosure has been notified to the Office of the Information Commissioner and is in the legitimate interests of the College.
- the disclosure is required for the performance of a contract.

There are other instances when the legislation permits disclosure without the consent of the individual. This includes but is not exclusively for when the transfer of personal information is in relation to a safeguarding case. The college is duty bound to share relevant information with authorities that are undertaking safeguarding activities in the interest of an individual.

Email

It is the policy of WMC to ensure that senders and recipients of email are made aware that under the DPA, and Freedom of Information Legislation, the contents of email may have to be disclosed in response to a request for information. One means by which this will be communicated will be by a disclaimer on the College's email.

CCTV

There are some CCTV systems operating within WMC for the purpose of protecting College members and property. WMC will only process personal data obtained by the CCTV system in a manner which ensures compliance with the legislation.

Procedure for review

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice or future amendments made to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) May 2018 and Data Protection Act 1998.

Please follow this link to the ICO's website (ico.org.uk) which provides further detailed guidance on a range of topics including individuals' rights, exemptions from the Act, dealing with subject access requests, how to handle requests from third parties for personal data to be disclosed etc. In particular, you may find it helpful to read the Guide to Data Protection which is available from the website.

Uncontrolled document when printed, refer to staff intranet for current version

For help or advice on any data protection or freedom of information issues, please do not hesitate to contact WMC's Data Protection Officer (DPO) on FOIEnquiries@wmc.ac.uk