UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

LEVELLING THE SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC ARENA

PRIVACY NOTICE
PUPILS, PARENTS AND CARERS

Mission Statement

The Levels School exists to provide a nurturing environment in which students with specific learning difficulties and co-occurring diagnoses can develop their self-esteem and aspire to be independent young adults who value the rights, responsibilities and rules that exist to promote and support their future welfare. Our approach toward establishing this ideology is predicated on trauma-informed practice and an obligation to develop the social skills required to build their future aspirational communities. We exist to help them find their level.

This policy covers all premises known as The Levels School.

The Board of Governors acknowledge their responsibility to ensure that this policy is effective and follows regulatory requirements. Governors undertake a review to satisfy themselves that the implementation of this policy is effective.

The Board of Governors ensures the establishment of familiarity with and the effective operation through monitoring, of school policies, approving those requiring GB sign-off in line with a regular cycle of school policy reviews. This occurs through a cycle of governor committee meetings and full board meetings.

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Date of policy	January 2025
Next review date	January 2027
Frequency of policy review (annually, every two years)	Every Two years
Policy owner	Gian Floris
Published policy	Yes ☒ No ☐
List of connected policies	Data breach, Data retention, Website privacy, Digital use, Curriculum, Safeguarding, Privacy notices (employees, workers, contractors and candidates)
Approved / Date	

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What is the purpose of this document?

The Levels School Limited is a "data controller". This means that we are responsible for deciding how we hold and use personal information about pupils. You are being sent a copy of this privacy notice because you are either a child, parent or carer. It makes you aware of how and why your personal data will be used, and how long it will usually be retained for. It provides you with certain information that must be provided under the General Data Protection Regulation (*(EU) 2016/679*) (GDPR).

Data protection principles

We will comply with data protection law and principles, which means that pupil data will be:

- Used lawfully, fairly and in a transparent way.
- Collected only for valid purposes that we have clearly explained to you and not used in any way that is incompatible with those purposes.
- Relevant to the purposes we have told you about and limited only to those purposes.
- Accurate and kept up to date.
- Kept only as long as necessary for the purposes we have told you about.
- Kept securely.

The kind of information we hold about you

We may hold the following information about pupils:

- Personal identifiers and contacts (such as name, unique pupil number, contact details and address)
- Characteristics (such as ethnicity, language, and free school meal eligibility)
- Safeguarding information (such as court orders and professional involvement)
- Special educational needs (including the needs and ranking)
- Medical and administration (such as doctors information, child health, dental health, allergies, medication and dietary requirements)
- Attendance (such as sessions attended, number of absences, absence reasons and any previous schools attended)
- Assessment and attainment records (such as key stage results)
- Behavioural information (such as exclusions and any relevant alternative provision put in place)

How is personal information collected?

We collect personal information about pupils from the following sources:

- Pupils, parents and carers.
- Registration forms.
- Records from previous schools.

Pupil data is essential for the schools' operational use. Whilst the majority of pupil information you provide to us is mandatory, some of it requested on a voluntary basis. In order to comply with the data protection legislation, we will inform you at the point of collection, whether you are required to provide certain pupil information to us or if you have a choice in this and we will tell you what you need to do if you do not want to share this information with us.

How we will use information about you

The personal data collected is essential, for the school to properly and lawfully fulfil its official functions and meet legal requirements.

We collect and use pupil information, for the following purposes:

- To support pupil learning.
- To monitor and report on pupil attainment progress.
- To provide appropriate pastoral care.
- To assess the quality of our services.
- To keep children safe (food allergies, or emergency contact details).
- To meet the statutory duties placed upon us by the Department for Education

Data sharing

We routinely share pupil information with:

- Local authorities - We may be required to share information about our pupils with the local authority to ensure that they can conduct their statutory duties.
- The Department for Education (DfE) - The Department for Education (DfE) collects personal data from educational settings and local authorities via various statutory data collections. We are required to share information about our pupils with the Department for Education (DfE) either directly or via our local authority for the purpose of those data collections.

We do not share information about our pupils with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so.

Data security

We have put in place appropriate security measures to prevent your personal information from being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way, altered or disclosed. In addition, we limit access to your personal information to those employees, agents, contractors and other third parties who have a business need-to-know. They will only process your personal information on our instructions and they are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We have put in place procedures to deal with any suspected data security breach and will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected breach where we are legally required to do so.

Data retention

How long will you use my information for?

We hold data securely for the set amount of time shown in our data retention policy, which is available upon request from Caroline Cook.

Rights of access, correction, erasure, and restriction

Your rights in connection with personal information

Under certain circumstances, by law you have the right to:

Request access to your personal information (commonly known as a "data subject access request"). This enables you to receive a copy of the personal information we hold about you and to check that we are lawfully processing it.

Request correction of the personal information that we hold about you. This enables you to have any incomplete or inaccurate information we hold about you corrected.

Request erasure of your personal information. This enables you to ask us to delete or remove personal information where there is no good reason for us continuing to process it. You also have the right to ask us to delete or remove your personal information where you have exercised your right to object to processing (see below).

Object to processing of your personal information where we are relying on a legitimate interest (or those of a third party) and there is something about your particular situation which makes you want to object to processing on this ground. You also have the right to object where we are processing your personal information for direct marketing purposes.

Request the restriction of processing of your personal information. This enables you to ask us to suspend the processing of personal information about you, for example if you want us to establish its accuracy or the reason for processing it.

Request the transfer of your personal information to another party.

If you want to review, verify, correct or request erasure of your personal information, object to the processing of your personal data, or request that we transfer a copy of your personal information to another party, please contact Caroline Cook in writing.

Right to withdraw consent

Where we are processing your personal data with your consent, you have the right to withdraw that consent. If you change your mind, or you are unhappy with our use of your personal data, please let us know by contacting Caroline Cook. Once we have received notification that you have withdrawn your consent, we will no longer

process your personal date and, subject to our retention policy, we will dispose of your personal data securely.

How Government uses your data

The pupil data that we lawfully share with the DfE through data collections:

- Underpins school funding, which is calculated based upon the numbers of children and their characteristics in each school.
- Informs 'short term' education policy monitoring and school accountability and intervention (for example, school GCSE results or Pupil Progress measures).
- Supports 'longer term' research and monitoring of educational policy (for example how certain subject choices go on to affect education or earnings beyond school)

To find out more about the data collection requirements placed on us by the Department for Education (for example; via the school census) go to https://www.gov.uk/education/data-collection-and-censuses-for-schools

Much of the data about pupils in England goes on to be held in the National Pupil Database (NPD).

The NPD is owned and managed by the Department for Education and contains information about pupils in schools in England. It provides invaluable evidence on educational performance to inform independent research, as well as studies commissioned by the department.

It is held in electronic format for statistical purposes. This information is securely collected from a range of sources including schools, local authorities and awarding bodies.

To find out more about the NPD, go to https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-user-guide-and-supporting-information

The law allows the Department to share pupils' personal data with certain third parties, including:

- Schools
- Local authorities
- Researchers
- Organisations connected with promoting the education or wellbeing of children in England
- Other government departments and agencies
- Organisations fighting or identifying crime

For more information about the Department's NPD data sharing process, please visit:

https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data

Organisations fighting or identifying crime may use their legal powers to contact DfE to request access to individual level information relevant to detecting that crime. Whilst numbers fluctuate slightly over time, DfE typically supplies data on around 600 pupils per year to the Home Office and roughly 1 per year to the Police.

For information about which organisations the Department has provided pupil information, (and for which project) or to access a monthly breakdown of data share volumes with Home Office and the Police please visit the following website: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfe-external-data-shares

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018, you are entitled to ask the Department:

- If they are processing your personal data
- For a description of the data they hold about you
- The reasons they're holding it and any recipient it may be disclosed to
- For a copy of your personal data and any details of its source

If you want to see the personal data held about you by the Department, you should make a 'subject access request'. Further information on how to do this can be found within the Department's personal information charter that is published at the address below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/personal-information-charter

To contact DfE: https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe

Data protection officer

We have appointed a data protection officer (DPO) to oversee compliance with this privacy notice. If you have any questions about this privacy notice or how we handle your personal information, please contact the DPO. You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the UK supervisory authority for data protection issues.

This policy was reviewed and amended by G.Floris in January 2025