

Dear Parents / Carers

RE: The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and The Coleshill School

As you may already be aware, the 25th May 2018 marks the enforcement of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR will replace the Data Protection Act 1998 and is designed to strengthen the safety and security of all data held within an organisation, and make sure processing and storage procedures are consistent.

I am writing to you today to inform you of the work that The Coleshill School is conducting to ensure that we meet this new regulation.

First and foremost, it is important that you understand your rights under the GDPR; you have the right to:

- Be informed about how we use your personal data.
- Request access to the personal data that the 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.

The GDPR will result in some significant changes for the school, which I would now like to take a moment to explain. The school will have to prove their compliance with the GDPR, by having effective policies in place. There have also been some changes to the rights that individuals have – such as the right to have your information erased.

Privacy notices must also include new information, such as an individual's right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Officer (ICO). The GDPR takes into account the information of children too – parental consent is needed for children up to the age of 13, at which point, the child may be able to consent for themselves. Privacy notices must be given to children and have to be written using age-appropriate language.

A data breach notification duty is applied to all schools, and those that are likely to cause damage, e.g. identity theft, have to be reported to the ICO within 72 hours – failure to do so can result in a fine. A data protection impact assessment will be completed, which will likely be carried out when using new technologies and the processing is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

One of the biggest changes has been in terms of consent; consent must be a 'positive indication', which means that it has to be opted into, clear and unambiguous. Any consent given under the Data Protection Act 1998 will be reviewed and reobtained if necessary. This means the school may have to ask for you to consent to things again.

The GDPR will require changes to be made to some school policies and procedures. While some policies will need small updates, others will require re-writes. Over the course of the next few weeks and months, we will be reviewing the consents that we have from parents/carers so please do look out for emails and respond where required.

When policies have been checked and ratified, they will be published on the school's website.

Finally, schools are required to appoint a data protection officer (DPO) – the DPO for The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership is Mrs N Lawton and she can be contacted on nlawton@arthurterry.bham.sch.uk or 0121 323 2221.

If you have any questions about GDPR, you can contact the ICO on 0303 123 1113 or by using their [live chat](#), or you can visit their [Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation](#) webpage. You are also welcome to direct any questions you have to the DPO, Mrs N Lawton.

Yours faithfully

Ian Smith-Childs

Ian Smith-Childs
Headteacher