

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Fair processing— further information for parents

This notice gives additional information to the notice sent to you in February 2009 and provides further information about the processing of pupils' personal data by the other organisations mentioned in that notice.

The Towers Convent School processes personal data about its pupils and is a "data controller" in respect of this for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998. It processes this data to:

- support its pupils' teaching and learning;
- monitor and report on their progress;
- provide appropriate pastoral care, and
- assess how well the school as a whole is doing

This information includes contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information, characteristics such as ethnic group, special educational needs and any relevant medical information.

From time to time the school is required to pass on some of this data to local authorities, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and to agencies that are prescribed by law, such as the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), Ofsted, the Department of Health (DH), Primary Care Trusts (PCT). All these are data controllers for the information they receive. The data must only be used for specific purposes allowed by law.

The **Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)** uses information about pupils for research and statistical purposes, to inform, influence and improve education policy and to monitor the performance of the education service as a whole. The DCSF will feed back to LAs and schools information about their pupils for a variety of purposes that will include data checking exercises, use in self-evaluation analyses and where information is missing because it was not passed on by a former school.

The **Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA)** uses information about pupils to administer the national curriculum assessments portfolio throughout Key Stages 1 to 3. This includes both assessments required by statute and those that are optional. The results of these are passed on to DCSF to compile statistics on trends and patterns in levels of achievement. The QCA uses the information to evaluate the effectiveness of the national curriculum and the associated assessment arrangements, and to ensure that these are continually improved.

www.qca.org.uk **Data Protection Officer, QCA, 83 Piccadilly, LONDON, W1J 8QA;**

Ofsted uses information about the progress and performance of pupils to help inspectors evaluate the work of schools, to assist schools in their self-evaluation, and as part of Ofsted's assessment of the effectiveness of education initiatives and policy. Ofsted also uses information about the views of children and young people, to inform children's services inspections in local authority areas. Inspection reports do not identify individual pupils.

www.ofsted.gov.uk **Data Protection Officer, Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SE;**

The **Department of Health (DH)** uses aggregate information (at school year group level) about pupils' height and weight for research and statistical purposes, to inform, influence and improve health policy and to monitor the performance of the health service as a whole. The DH will base performance management discussions with Strategic Health Authorities on aggregate information about pupils attending schools in the PCT areas to help focus local resources and deliver the Public Service Agreement target to halt the year on year rise in obesity among children under 11 by 2010, in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. The Department of Health will also provide aggregate PCT level data to the Healthcare Commission for performance assessment of the health service. www.dh.gov.uk **Data Protection Officer at Skipton House 80 London Road London SE1 6LH;**

Primary Care Trusts (PCT) use information about pupils for research and statistical purposes, to monitor the performance of local health services and to evaluate and develop them. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them. Information on the height and weight of individual pupils may however be provided to the child and its parents and this will require the PCTs to maintain details of pupils' names for this purpose for a period designated by the Department of Health following the weighing and measuring process. PCTs may also provide individual schools and LAs with aggregate information on pupils' height and weight.

<http://www.nhs.uk/England/AuthoritiesTrusts/Pct/Default.aspx>