

Privacy Notice School Admissions

This notice, in conjunction with Wokingham Borough Councils overarching privacy statement, explains when as a service we collect personal information, what we use your data for, who has access, who we share it with, and what your rights are.

Who are we?

School Admissions
People Services,
Wokingham Borough Council,
Shute End,
Wokingham,
Berkshire,
RG40 1WB

What is the lawful basis for processing the information?

The lawful basis for processing your information is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation and public task in providing school places for children to ensure that they receive an education. This is as specified by the following legislation:

- School Admissions Code 2014
- School Admissions Appeals Code
- Equality act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Education Act 2011

How do we collect information from you?

Information is collected from you as the service user via online web forms, hard copy documents, e-mail, by telephone or through face-to-face discussion. This information will be collected from either you directly as the data subject, or from a representative acting on your behalf, e.g. a parent providing details for a child to be signed up to the service.

Primarily data is collected by completing application forms for school places either online or paper based forms available from the Local Authority.

What type of information is collected from you?

School Admissions collects and processes a range of information about you. The information is provided to enable the School Admissions to carry out its duty and functions, provide your child with a service, and continue to make service improvements.

We will collect the following information: Surname, Forename, Title, Age, Address, Postcode, E-mail, Phone number. Details of schools they are being applied for, Details of previous schools, Information pertaining to Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), Medical and/or social evidence, Evidence to prove address such as Disposal of previous property and Purchase/signed tenancy agreement for new property showing timelines. We may also collect information on Exclusions, Qualifications, Qualifications being studied for, Reasons for applying/change of school request, and Information relating to siblings.

You will be informed of any other data we collect, that is not listed above, orally or through email at the time of collection of the data.

How do we use the information you have provided?

All information provided is used by Wokingham Borough Council to process applications in line with the Local Authority's Published Admission Arrangements which is set in line with the Governments School Admissions Code.

Who has access to the information about you?

Your information is managed by staff employed in School Admissions. All officers responsible for allocating school places and those involved with the validation of applications would need access to this information (both primary and secondary). Your information may also be shared with officers from other service areas for assistance with these matters. All personal data is stored securely; we have in place security which are intended to ensure, as far as possible, the security and integrity of all personally identifiable information.

Your data is stored securely on our systems and accessed only by authorised officers of Wokingham Borough Council by using their own Username and Password all created in-line with pre-defined user credentials. Personal data is also held in electronic files on the Councils network drives. These are only accessible through personal logon credentials and access privileges to specific drives.

Unfortunately, the transmission of information via the internet is not completely secure. Although we will do our best to protect your personal data, we cannot guarantee the security of your data transmitted to our sites, any transmission is at your own risk. Once we have received your information, we will use strict procedures and security features to try to prevent unauthorised access, and any exchanges of information carried out once we are in receipt of your data will be done securely.

Any personal data held in paper format is held in lockable filing storage, and accessed only by authorised officers, as is data held on audio or CD/DVD media. Data may be stored in paper form and is always secured in lockable cabinets when not in use. Access to Council sites is also secure requiring a person electronic pass (lanyard) to access staff only areas.

Who we may share your information with?

When contacting School Admissions, your information will be shared with other Council staff, and external organisations, to the extent required to provide you with the service you have requested. This will include: Schools, Pre-schools, Education Welfare, Special Educational Needs, IT team, Education Management Support team, Democratic Services, Risk and Assessment team, Social Care team, Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), Children Missing Education team, School Transport team and across local authorities during the processing of the annual co-ordinated scheme.

To ensure that information is held continued to be held securely and that accuracy is maintained, there will also be instances where our system suppliers will need to access individuals personal information. This will be on a strict need to know basis and all contracts have confidentiality clauses built in.

Where the Council engages third parties to process personal data on its behalf, they do so on the basis of written instructions, are under a duty of confidentiality, and are obliged to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of data. The Council will not transfer your information to countries outside the European Economic Area (EEA) unless this is necessary, and only to countries which have sufficient safeguards in place to protect information.

Information will be shared internally if required for better performance and efficiency of Council services and the welfare of individuals.

Wokingham Borough Council may also share personal information with the police and other local authorities under Article 23 of the General Data Protection Regulations in order to prevent or detect crime.

How long do we store your information?

The duration that the Council will hold information, and what happens at the end of that period, are as described within the Councils corporate retention schedule available on our website: www.wokingham.gov.uk/council-and-meetings/information-and-data-protection/privacy-statement

Does the service utilise automated decision-making?

The co-ordinated process is an automated one. However, parents can ascertain how the process has been run by looking at published information and will always be given the formal right of appeal if we are unable to allocate to a preferred school.