

GDPR letter to parents

RE: The GDPR and Alsager School and Alsager Multi Academy Trust (AMAT)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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 Alsager School and AMAT 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 will 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 will be given to children and are written using age-appropriate language wherever practicable.

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. 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 and 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.

Finally, schools are required to appoint a data protection officer (DPO) – the DPO for Alsager School can be contacted on dpo@alsagerschool.org.

The GDPR has required changes to be made to some school policies and procedures. While some policies will need small updates, others have required re-writes. For example, the school's Images and Videos at School Policy has received a number of clarifications and changes so for this reason, I would like to ask you to complete the permission slip sent home via your child and return it to the school office, once you have read and understood the school's privacy notice. Before you give consent to anything, it is vital that you have read and understood the privacy notice, as the school wants to ensure that you understand what we are doing with your data and that you know we are acting legally.

When policies have been checked and ratified, they will be published on the school's website, which can be accessed <http://www.alsagerschool.org/>

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 school's DPO.

Yours faithfully,

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