

Data Privacy Policy

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This policy has been reviewed in line with the Equality Act 2010 which recognises the following categories of individual as Protected Characteristics: Age, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex (gender), Sexual orientation and Disability. We will continue to monitor this policy and to ensure that it has equal access and does not discriminate against anyone, especially any person/s listed under any protected characteristic.

Interim Review May 2025:

Changes approved by Executive on 7/07/2025:

	Section	Changes
Version 14.2	1.1f	Included reference to upload photos
Version 14.2	1.1j	Deletion of reference to Covid
Version 14.2	1.2b	Change on collection of data from date of birth to age range
Version 14.2	4	Addition of paragraph on use of data to include data to identify and communicate with students who meet eligibility criteria for opportunities with third parties
Version 14.2	7	Includes reference to previous school
Version 14.21	1.5b, 3	Added reference to Email address, who you are visiting and enhanced DBS

The Bedford College Group Data Privacy Notice

We understand that privacy and the security of your personal information is extremely important.

This policy sets out what we do with your information and what we do to keep it secure. It also explains where and how we collect your personal information, as well as your rights over the personal information we hold about you.

This policy relates to The Bedford College Group (registered Bedford College) and includes the brands Bedford College, Tresham College, Central Bedfordshire College, National College for Motorsport, Shuttleworth College, The Bedford Sixth Form and Corby Sixth Form. It also includes any other brands we add to this group in the future.

This document applies to students, prospective students and employees, and visitors who attend one of our campuses, visit our website and social media pages or contact the College by other means.

1. What sort of information do we collect?

We collect a variety of personal data and special category data.

- **Personal information** data includes information such as: contact information, such as your name, username, address, email address and phone numbers; your date of birth and national identifiers (such as your National Insurance number or passport number), information about your employment.
- **Special category** information includes information such as: information about your physical or mental health, including genetic information or biometric information, information about your race, ethnic origin and religion.

Further information on how, and why we process specific types of special category data can be found in our Policy on the Processing of Special Category data and Criminal Convictions located on our policies page.

<https://bedfordcollegigroup.ac.uk/about/policies-procedures/>

We collect the following information about you:

1.1 If you apply for a course or enrol

a) Information about you including:

- Personal details about yourself including your name, date of birth, unique learner number (if a student) and national insurance number

- Contact details including address, telephone number and email address.
 - Details of your previous qualifications, employment and educational history
 - Information about your nationality and residency, and previous address if applicable
 - Information about medical or health conditions, including whether or not you have a learning disability or difficulty, ethnicity
 - Household information (this is collected only for the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and is not used by the College)
 - Free school meals eligibility
 - Attendance marks such as sessions attended, number of absences and absence reasons
 - Information to monitor and report on student discipline and progress and support your learning
 - Your destination after College.
 - Your postcode for the provision of mapping geographical demographic information.
- b) We collect parent/carer/emergency contacts. For those over age 18 at the start of the academic year, the information is optional.
- c) We collect your bank details if you need to pay for your course or you are in receipt of a bursary. If you pay for a course online, your card information is not held by us. It is collected by our third party payment processors who specialise in the secure online capture and processing of credit/debit card transactions.
- d) We collect the name of your last school.
- e) We collect your consent to keep in touch with you about our products and services, future events and College news, and to take photography and record audio and video content to showcase the College to prospective students and the community.
- f) We take / ask you to upload your photograph to display on your College ID card.
- g) We collect data about criminal convictions.
- h) We collect your sexual orientation, gender identity and religion.

1.2 *If you make an enquiry, book to attend an event or enter a competition*

- a) We collect personal contact details including email address and mobile telephone number and postal address
- b) Your age range
- c) In some cases, we collect the name of your last school and your subject interests
- d) We collect your consent to keep in touch with you about our products and services

1.3 *If you visit our websites*

- a) We place cookies and text files on your computer to collect data on your behaviour on our websites
- b) Cookies help us to provide you with a good experience when you browse our website and allow us to improve our site. Cookies are small text files placed on your device when you visit a website. They gather information and transmit it back to the website or app owner. There are many different types of cookies, and they are used for different purposes.

1.4 *If you apply for a job*

- a) We collect personal information, such as name, address, contact details, employment history, and qualifications
- b) We also collect special categories of data such as gender, age, ethnic group, religious beliefs, disability and sexual orientation, and information about your health

1.5 *If you attend one of our campuses*

- a) We may capture your image on our CCTV systems, and in some cases times you came in and out of buildings
- b) If you are a visitor, we will also collect your name, email address, who you are visiting, company (if applicable), car registration and if you have an enhanced DBS.

1.6 *If you access our computer systems*

- a) We monitor your internet browsing by filtering any sites deemed inappropriate and block the install of certain types of software to prevent viruses.

1.7 **Information held on our systems.**

- a) Any information stored on our computer systems, may be monitored for viruses and used by Artificial Intelligent tools for the development of material.

2. **How do we collect information from you?**

For students, most of the information above is collected directly from you via forms on our websites, application forms, enrolment forms or in person over the telephone or face-to-face. However, some information such as previous qualifications, or special needs, may be collected from other organisations such as the DfE, the Local Education Authority, or your previous school.

For staff, most of the information above is collected directly from you via application forms and submissions on to the HR systems in operation, in person, over the telephone or face-to-face. However, some information such as medical information, DBS checks, pension's information and references may be collected from other organisations such as the Pensions authorities/provider, the payroll provider or named referees.

3. **Why do we collect your information?**

The Bedford College Group needs to collect and process data so we can provide you with the highest standards of service we are able to give, and to meet its legal obligations from government organisations such as the DfE and Office for Students (OfS)

More specifically, we collect the following data for the following reasons:

How we use your information		Legal (Lawful) basis
If you apply for a Course	Information about you (See section 1.1a above)	In order to meet our legal obligations with the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Office for Students (OfS) /Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA part of JISC https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection/notices). They are also necessary in order for us to carry out our public task to provide education and training.

		With regards, to your email address, to support you (i.e. your legitimate interest), we will share this with awarding bodies (if able to) to enable you to receive an e–certificates from them. This will facilitate timely receipt of your results.
	Parent/carer/eme rgency contacts	We collect this so that we can communicate with them if it is in your vital interest or legitimate interest to do so. For under 18-year olds, we collect this as part of our public task in order to support your education and learning as fully as possible
	Bank details (if you need to pay for your course or you are in receipt of bursary)	We collect this so that we can fulfil our contract with you. If you pay for a course online, your card information is not held by us. It is collected by our third-party payment processors who specialise in the secure online capture and processing of credit/debit card transactions
	The name of your last school	As part of our Legitimate Interests so that we can monitor progression from our feeder schools
	Your consent	To keep in touch with you about our products and services, future events and College news, and to take photography and record audio and video
	Take your Photograph to display on your college ID card	As part of our legitimate interests to ensure the safety of all our students and provide you access to our facilities.
	Criminal Convictions	As a part of our Public Task in order to carry out our duty to safeguard our staff and students.
	Information regarding your Sexual orientation, gender identity and religion	As part of our Public Task to ensure that you are not discriminated against in any way You do however have the option not to provide this information (by using the prefer not to say option)

If you make an enquiry. This may be in relation to booking to attend an event or enter a competition	Personal contact details (email address, mobile telephone number and postal address) In some cases the call may be recorded.	As part of our legitimate interests so that we can respond to you. (This does not only apply to current students)
	Date of birth	As part of our legitimate interests so that we can uniquely identify you if you wish to follow up your enquiry. (This does not only apply to current students)
	The name of your last school and your subject interests	As part of our legitimate Interests so that we can monitor progression from our feeder schools
	Your consent	To keep in touch with you about our products and services, future events and College news
If you visit our websites	We place cookies and text files on your computer to collect data on your behaviour on our websites	We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience. By clicking “accept” you consent to our cookie policy. For more information on how we use cookies see our Cookies and Remarketing Policy via the following link: https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/cookies-and-re-marketing-policy/
If you apply for a job	Personal information, such as name, address, contact details, employment history, qualifications achieved	We collect this under our legitimate interest so that we can process your job application.

	Special categories of data such as gender, age, ethnic group, religious beliefs, disability and sexual orientation, and information about your health	<p>As part of our legal obligations in relation to equalities and non-discrimination. For example, to provide reasonable adjustments, where it is appropriate to do so.</p> <p>Further information is contained within our Policy on processing special categories of personal data and criminal convictions data located via the following link: https://bedfordcollegigroup.ac.uk/about/policies-procedures/</p>
	Criminal Convictions	This is to undertake a background check on all new staff members, so as to ensure the safety of both staff and students. This data will be collected and processed under the lawful basis of public interest.
If you attend one of our campuses	Capture your image on CCTV	It is in the public's interest to ensure the safety of our students, staff and visitors, and the protection of our buildings and assets.
	Name, company (if applicable), who you are visiting, email address, car registration and if an enhanced DBS has been completed (if you are a visitor)	As part of our legitimate interest to ensure the safety of our students, staff and visitors, and the protection of our buildings and assets

If you access the college's computer systems	Your internet access is monitored for any inappropriate material by filtering any sites deemed inappropriate and blocking the install of certain types of software to prevent viruses.	As part of our legitimate interests to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The safeguarding duty of schools and colleges is set out in section 175 of the Education Act 2002, the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, and the Non-Maintained Special Schools (England) Regulations 2015.
Information held on our servers	Any information stored on our computer systems, may be monitored for viruses and scanned by Artificial Intelligent tools for the development of material.	As part of our public task to support staff and students developing materials.

4. How do we use your information?

We are committed to being transparent about what we collect, how we use your data and meeting our data protection obligations.

We collect and process your personal data to:

- Meet our statutory obligations as a Further Education (FE) College
- Deal with and respond to any enquiries you have made with us about our products and services
- Process application or enrolment forms you've submitted for a course, study programme or apprenticeship programme
- Effectively manage your learning, including:
 - monitoring and reporting on your progress
 - providing pastoral care
 - registering with awarding bodies (so that they provide your certification), and
 - administering learning loans

- Deal with and respond to any events you have booked on to or competitions you've entered into
- Seek your views, comments and feedback on our products and services, and notify you of changes
- Send you communication which you have requested and that may be of interest on our products, services, news and events
- Personalise your visits to our websites, including remarketing activities
- Conduct market research, either ourselves or through reputable agencies
- Support statistical analysis
- Ensure the safety of our students, staff and visitors, and the protection of our buildings and assets
- Process application forms you've submitted for a job vacancy.
- Access catering facilities and provide free school meals using our cashless catering system.
- Support your university application using online tools such as Unifrog.
- Identify and communicate with students who meet eligibility criteria for opportunities provided by third sector organisations that support widening participation in higher education. Effectively manage your learning, including monitoring and reporting on your progress, providing pastoral care, registering with awarding bodies (so that they can provide your certification), and administering learning loans.

The Bedford College Group needs to collect and process data so we can provide you with the highest standards of service we are able to give, and to meet its legal obligations from government organisations such as the DfE and OfS. Data regarding employment status and benefits is required to assess your eligibility for fee discounts, support or access to student bursaries.

Where the organisation processes other special categories of personal data, such as information about age, gender, ethnic origin, disability or health, this is done for the purposes of equal opportunities monitoring and monitor our service provision to improve our services to specific groups. We also use the data so we can personalise the provision to each student to provide them with the best possible opportunities to succeed.

5. What if you do not provide the personal information we require?

For Students: If you do not provide the data required to meet legal obligations, we will not be able to enrol you as a student.

For Staff: If you do not provide the data required to meet legal obligations, we will not be able to engage you at the college and/ or fulfil any contract between us.

If you do not provide the other information we request, for example whether you have a learning difficulty or disability, it may result in us being unable to provide support for any additional needs and may compromise on a high standard being met.

6. Where do we store your personal information?

Your personal information is stored securely in a range of different places, including student information and recruitment management systems, on electronic documents within a secure network and on paper, stored in secure places and with restricted access by only those authorised.

7. Who has access to your personal information?

7 (a) Sharing data within the Bedford College Group (Internally)

Your information may be shared internally, including with any staff from The Bedford College Group, or consultants acting on the instructions of the Bedford College Group, who need access to the personal data to provide services to students or members of the public. This will include special categories of data where appropriate.

7 (b) Sharing data with Third Parties

The College will only share your data with third parties such as the Department of Education (DfE) / ESFA, OfS, Learner Records Service (LRS), awarding and examination bodies, Student Loans Company (SLC) and local authorities, your previous school, etc where there is a legal basis to do so.

Where the Group receives a request from an appropriate body, we may share your personal data for law enforcement purposes, i.e. for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, including the safeguarding against and the prevention of threats to public security.

From time to time, we engage non-statutory third parties to process personal data on our behalf, for example to follow up course applications during busy periods or undertake research. Where this happens, we require these parties to do so on the basis of written instructions, under a duty of confidentiality and

an obligation to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of data, and never to use it for their own direct marketing purposes. We will only disclose personal information that is necessary to carry out the task or provide the service to you on our behalf.

7(b)(i) Data used by / shared with the Department for Education (DfE) including the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)

For the purposes of relevant data protection legislation, the DfE is the data controller for personal data processed by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Your personal information in your Individualised Learner Record (ILR) is used by the DfE to exercise its functions under article 6(1)(e) of the UK GDPR and to meet our statutory responsibilities, including under the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

The ILR collects data about learners and learning undertaken. We must collect and return the data to the ESFA each year under the terms of a funding agreement, contract or grant agreement. This helps ensure that public money distributed through the DfE / ESFA is being spent in line with government targets. It is also used for education, training, employment, and well-being purposes, including research. We retain ILR learner data for 3 years for operational purposes and 66 years for research purposes. For more information about the ILR and the data collected, please see the ILR specification at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/individualised-learner-record-ilr>

For more information about how your personal data is used by the DfE and your individual rights, please see the DfE Personal Information Charter (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments-for-education/about/personal-information-charter>) and the “Privacy Notice for key stage 5 and adult education “ issued by DfE (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-privacy-notice>).

For more information about how HESA use personal data then please access <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/website/privacy> .

7(b)(ii) Data used by / shared with the Learning Records Service (LRS)

The information you supply will be used by the Skills Funding Agency, an executive agency of the Department for Education (DfE), to issue you with a Unique Learner Number (ULN), and to create your Personal Learning Record. For more information about how your information is processed and shared refer to the Privacy Notice available on gov.uk (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lrs-privacy-notice>)

8. International transfers of your personal data

From time to time we may transfer your personal information to our service providers based outside of the UK for the purposes described in this Privacy Policy. If we do this your personal information will continue to be subject to one or more appropriate safeguards set out in the law. These might be the use of standard contractual clauses in a form approved by regulators, or having our suppliers sign up to an independent privacy scheme approved by regulators.

Developments in the law surrounding international data transfers will be monitored by the College. We will endeavour to comply with the relevant legislation

9. How do we protect your personal information?

The organisation takes the security of your personal information very seriously. We have policies and controls in place to try to ensure that your data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused or disclosed, and is not accessed except by its employees in the performance of their duties. Our Data Protection Policy is available to view on our website via the following link: <https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/about/policies-procedures/>

10. How long do we keep hold of your information?

Data Protection legislation requires that personal data is only retained for as long as it is necessary.

We keep different types of data for different lengths of time depending on need and our obligations.

The college maintains a Data Retention Schedule which outlines how long information is kept for.

We review information held and retention periods for personal information on a regular basis

11. Keeping you informed

From time to time, we would like to tell you about our products and services, events and College news we think you might be interested in. We will do this by post and, where you have consented to us doing so, we may also do this by email, text message or telephone. We will not send you marketing messages if you have not consented us to do so.

As a student, and where you have consented to us doing so, we may also take photographs, audio and video of your time here to showcase the College to prospective students and the community.

You can change your marketing preferences at any time by contacting us using the contact details outlined in the Contact us section (Section 15) below.

12. Websites and social media

Our websites contain links to other websites. This Privacy Statement only applies to this The Bedford College Group so when you link to other websites you should read their own privacy statements.

When using one of our websites, you may be able to share information through social networks like Facebook and Twitter. For example, when you 'like' or 'share' a new story. When doing this your personal information may be visible to the providers of those social networks, their other users and/or The Bedford College Group. Please remember it is your responsibility to set appropriate privacy settings on your social network accounts so you are comfortable with how your information is used and shared on them.

You can engage with us on social media through one of our official social media pages. To participate in these, you will need to like our page and can opt-out at any time.

13. Your rights

Under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) data subjects have several rights subject to certain exemptions:

- **The right to be informed:** You have the right to be informed. We will inform you of the reason for processing your data when we first contact you.
- **The right of access:** You have the right to access the personal information that we hold about you in many circumstances. This is sometimes called a 'Subject Access Request'. There is a form located via the following link to assist this. [Data Protection: Subject Access Request Form – The Bedford College Group \(collegeworkflows.co.uk\)](https://collegeworkflows.co.uk/DataProtection/SubjectAccessRequestForm.aspx)

As our students are 16+ we generally regard students as having the capacity to exercise their own rights in relation to their personal data. This means that where we consider a student to have sufficient maturity and capacity to understand their own rights, we will require a Subject Access Request to be made by the student and not their parent(s) on their behalf. This does not affect any separate statutory right parents might have to access information about their young person.

The legal timescales for the College to respond to a Subject Access Request is one calendar month. However, there may be some instances (i.e. where requests are considered complex) this may be extended up to a further two months. Where this is the case we will let you know.

To assist us in responding to your request fully and promptly, we encourage parents/ students to submit Subject Access Requests where possible during term time and to avoid sending a request during periods when the College is closed or is about to close for the holidays. This is due to the College having limited staff resources outside of term time.

NB. For students under 18, by enrolling with the College, they are agreeing to allow the College to communicate with parents/carers (named as contacts) to share progress information in addition to discussion of any concerns including attendance.

- **The right to rectification:** If any of the personal information we hold about you is inaccurate or out of date, you may ask us to correct it.
- **The right to object:** You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data where we are relying on a Legitimate Interest and there is something about your particular situation, which makes you want to object to processing on this ground as you feel it impacts on your fundamental rights and freedoms. In some cases, we may demonstrate that we have compelling legitimate grounds to process your information which override your rights and freedoms. Please refer to section 3 for the lawful basis under which we process your data and section 10, for how long we retain your information.
- **The Right to Erasure:** This enables you to ask the organisation to delete or stop processing your data, for example where the data is no longer necessary for the stated purposes of processing and where the organisation is relying on consent or its legitimate interests as the legal ground for processing. Note, however, that we may not always be able to comply with your erasure request for specific legal reasons. Please refer to section 3, for the lawful basis under which we process your data and section 10 for how long we retain your information.
- **The Right to Restrict Processing:** This enables you to ask us to suspend the processing of your personal data in the following scenarios:
 - (i) if our use of the data is unlawful but you do not want us to erase it,
 - (ii) you have objected to our use of your data but we need to

verify whether we have overriding legitimate grounds to use it,

(iii) where you need us to hold the data even if we no longer require it as you need it to establish, exercise or defend legal claims or

(iv) you have objected to our use of your data but we need to verify whether we have overriding legitimate grounds to use it.

Please refer to section 3 for the lawful basis under which we process your data.

- **The Right to Data Portability** (request to transfer): We will provide to you, or a third party you have chosen, your personal data in a structured, commonly used, machine-readable format. Note that this right may only apply to automated information which you initially provided consent for the organisation to use or where the organisation used the information to perform a contract with you.
- **The Right to object to automated decision making.** You have the right to object to any decision made by solely automated means. You can ask for human intervention on any decision, to express the Group's point of view and to obtain an explanation of the Group's decision. You also have the right to challenge the decision.

Where possible we will seek to comply with your request but we may be required to hold, retain or process information to comply with a legal obligation or as a public task.

- **If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please contact us using the details in the contact us (section 15)**

Please Note: We will need to verify your identity before we can fulfil any of your rights under data protection law. This helps us to protect your personal information against fraudulent requests.

We will monitor future guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office but currently undertake our own reasonable measures to verify the identity of data subjects. We would like to assure you that the protection of your data is our main concern, and we are committed to providing information as part of any valid request.

For more information on your rights, please refer to the website of the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

14. Changes to this policy

We may occasionally make changes to the Policy, in particular when there are significant changes in related legislation or in Group's strategy. When this happens, we will place an updated version on the Group's website and the date this has been amended.

15. Contact us

If you would like to:

- Exercise one of your rights as set out above, or
- Have a question regarding the way your personal information is processed

Please contact us using one of the methods below:

Email	Mydata@bedford.ac.uk
Post	The Data Protection Officer The Bedford College Group, Tresham College; Windmill Avenue, Kettering; NN15 6ER

Should this still not be resolved, you have the right to complain to the supervisory authority – the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Contact details for the ICO can be found on www.ico.org.uk

- If you wish to raise a concern regarding a data breach, please contact:

By Email: Dataprotection@bedford.ac.uk