



## PROTECTION OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION POLICY

### Contents:

#### Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Definitions
3. Roles and responsibilities
4. Data protection principles
5. Data protection impact assessments (DPIAs)
6. Notification and consent
7. Alternative arrangements
8. Storage and Data retention
9. Security and Breaches

### Intent:

Shirley High School Performing Arts College is committed to protecting the personal data of all its pupils and staff, this includes any biometric data we collect and process.

We collect and process biometric data in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance to ensure the data and the rights of individuals are protected. This policy outlines the procedure the school follows when collecting and processing biometric data.

### 1. Legal framework

**This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:**

- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- DfE (2022) 'Protection of biometric information of children in schools and colleges'
- DfE (2023) 'Data protection in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Data Retention Policy
- Cyber Security Policy

### 2. Definitions

#### **Biometric data:**

Personal information about an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics that can be used to identify that person, including their fingerprints, facial shape, retina and iris patterns, hand measurements and voice. All biometric data is personal data.

#### **Automated biometric recognition system:**

A system which measures an individual's physical or behavioural characteristics by using equipment that operates 'automatically' (i.e. electronically). Information from the individual is automatically compared



with biometric information stored in the system to see if there is a match in order to recognise or identify the individual. Biometric recognition systems can use many kinds of physical or behavioural characteristics, such as those listed above.

**Processing biometric data:**

Processing biometric data includes obtaining, recording or holding the data or carrying out any operation on the data including disclosing it, deleting it, organising it or altering it. An automated biometric recognition system processes data when:

- Recording pupils' biometric data, e.g. taking measurements from a fingerprint via a fingerprint scanner.
- Storing pupils' biometric information on a database.
- Using pupils' biometric data as part of an electronic process, e.g. by comparing it with biometric information stored on a database to identify or recognise pupils.

**Special category data:**

Personal data which the UK GDPR says is more sensitive, and so needs more protection – where biometric data is used for identification purposes, it is considered special category data.

**3. Roles and responsibilities**

The governing body is responsible for:

- Providing support to the DPO as necessary
- Ensuring data protection performance is monitored regularly

The Principal is responsible for:

- Ensuring the provisions in this policy are implemented consistently.
- Ensuring staff receive appropriate training on data protection annually.
- Deciding on how the school processes and uses biometric data.
- Ensuring effective network security infrastructure is in place to keep personal data protected.

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for:

- Monitoring the school's compliance with data protection legislation in relation to the use of biometric data.
- Being the first point of contact for the ICO and for individuals whose data is processed by the school and connected third parties.

**4. Data protection principles**

The school processes all personal data, including biometric data, in accordance with the key principles set out in the UK GDPR. The school ensures biometric data is:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.
- Only collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up-to-date, and that reasonable steps are taken to ensure inaccurate information is rectified or erased.
- Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.



## SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

### *Our Vision:*

*To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.*

- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the information, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

As the data controller, the school is responsible for being able to demonstrate its compliance with the provisions outlined above.

### **5. Data protection impact assessments (DPIAs)**

Prior to processing biometric data or implementing a system that involves processing biometric data, a DPIA will be carried out.

The DPO will oversee and monitor the process of carrying out the DPIA.

The DPIA will:

- Describe the nature, scope, context and purposes of the processing.
- Assess necessity, proportionality and compliance measures.
- Identify and assess risks to individuals.
- Identify any additional measures to mitigate those risks.

When assessing levels of risk, the likelihood and the severity of any impact on individuals will be considered.

If a high risk is identified that cannot be mitigated, the DPO will consult the ICO before the processing of the biometric data begins.

The ICO will provide the school with a written response advising whether the risks are acceptable, or whether the school needs to take further action. In some cases, the ICO may advise the school to not carry out the processing. The school will adhere to any advice from the ICO.

Each DPIA will be treated as a 'living' document to help manage and review the risks of the processing of the biometric data and the measures put in place on an ongoing basis. DPIAs will be reviewed annually or in response to any changes

### **6. Notification and consent**

The obligation to obtain consent for the processing of biometric information of children under the age of 18 is not imposed by the Data Protection Act 2018 or the UK GDPR. Instead, the consent requirements for biometric information is imposed by section 26 of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Where the school uses pupils' biometric data as part of an automated biometric recognition system (e.g. using pupils' fingerprints to receive school dinners instead of paying with cash), the school will comply with the requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Prior to any biometric recognition system being put in place or processing a student's biometric data, the school will seek written consent from parents/carer's.

The name and contact details of the student's parents will be taken from the school's admission register.

Where the name of only one parent is included on the admissions register, the Principal will consider whether any reasonable steps can or should be taken to ascertain the details of the other parent.

The school does not need to notify a particular parent or seek their consent if it is satisfied that:

- The parent cannot be found, e.g. their whereabouts or identity is not known.
- The parent lacks the mental capacity to object or consent.
- The welfare of the student requires that a particular parent is not contacted, e.g. where a student has been separated from an abusive parent who must not be informed of the student's whereabouts.
- It is otherwise not reasonably practicable for a particular parent to be notified or for their consent to be obtained.



## SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

### *Our Vision:*

*To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.*

Where neither parent of a student can be notified for any of the reasons set out above, consent will be sought from the following individuals or agencies as appropriate:

- If a student is being 'looked after' by the LA or is accommodated or maintained by a voluntary organisation, the LA or voluntary organisation will be notified and their written consent obtained.
- If the above does not apply, then notification will be sent to all those caring for the student and written consent will be obtained from at least one carer before the student's biometric data can be processed.

Notification sent to parents and other appropriate individuals or agencies will include information regarding the following:

- Details about the type of biometric information to be taken
- How the data will be used
- The parent's and the student's right to refuse or withdraw their consent

The school will not process the biometric data of a student under the age of 18 in the following circumstances:

- The student (verbally or non-verbally) objects or refuses to participate in the processing of their biometric data
- No parent or carer has consented in writing to the processing
- A parent has objected in writing to such processing, even if another parent has given written consent

Parents and pupils can object to participation in the school's biometric system(s) or withdraw their consent at any time. Where this happens, any biometric data relating to the student that has already been captured will be deleted.

If a student objects or refuses to participate, or to continue to participate, in activities that involve the processing of their biometric data, the school will ensure that the student's biometric data is not taken or used as part of a biometric recognition system, irrespective of any consent given by the student's parent(s).

Where staff members or other adults use the school's biometric system(s), consent will be obtained from them before they use the system.

Staff and other adults can object to taking part in the school's biometric system(s) and can withdraw their consent at any time. Where this happens, any biometric data relating to the individual that has already been captured will be deleted.

Alternative arrangements will be provided to any individual that does not consent to take part in the school's biometric system(s), in line with section 7 of this policy.

## **7. Alternative arrangements**

Parents, pupils, staff members and other relevant adults have the right to not take part in the school's biometric systems.

Where an individual objects to taking part in the school's biometric systems, reasonable alternative arrangements will be provided that allow the individual to access the relevant service, e.g. where a biometric system uses pupil's fingerprints to pay for school meals, the pupil will be able to a paypoint card where funds are preloaded for the transaction instead.

Alternative arrangements will not put the individual at any disadvantage or create difficulty in accessing the relevant service, or result in any additional burden being placed on the individual or the pupil's parents, where relevant.



*Our Vision:*

*To develop aspirational learners who strive for excellence academically, creatively and culturally, benefitting from a wide range of opportunities led by inspirational educators.*

**8. Storage and data retention**

Biometric data will be managed and retained in line with the school's Data Retention policy.

The school will only store and process biometric information for the purpose for which it was originally obtained and consent provides.

If an individual (or a student's parent, where relevant) withdraws their consent for their/their child's biometric data to be processed, it will be erased from the school's system.

**9. Security and breaches**

The outcome of the DPIA will be used to identify the security measures that will be put in place to protect any unlawful and/or unauthorised access to the biometric data stored by the school.

Biometric data will not be unlawfully disclosed to third parties.

These security measures and the process that will be followed if there is a breach to the school's biometric systems are outlined in the school's Data and E-Security Breach Prevention and Management Plan

We want all at SHS to believe in and maintain the values of our school:

