



PRIVACY POLICY

Rationale

Swansea College is committed to a policy of protecting the rights and privacy of individuals, including learners, staff and others, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) May 2018.

The new regulatory environment demands higher transparency and accountability in how colleges manage and use personal data. It also accords new and stronger rights for individuals to understand and control that use.

The GDPR contains provisions that the college will need to be aware of as data controllers, including provisions intended to enhance the protection of student's personal data. For example, the GDPR requires that:

We must ensure that our college privacy notices are written in a clear, plain way that staff and students will understand.

Swansea College needs to process certain information about its staff, students, parents and guardians and other individuals with whom it has a relationship for various purposes such as, but not limited to:

- The recruitment and payment of staff.
- The administration of programmes of study and courses.
- Student enrolment.
- Examinations and external accreditation.
- Recording student progress, attendance and conduct.
- Collecting fees.
- Complying with legal obligations to funding bodies and government including local government.

To comply with various legal obligations, including the obligations imposed on it by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Swansea College must ensure that all this information about individuals is collected and used fairly, stored safely and securely, and not disclosed to any third party unlawfully.

Compliance

This policy applies to all staff and students of Swansea College. Any breach of this policy or of the Regulation itself will be considered an offence and the College's disciplinary procedures will be invoked.

As a matter of best practice, other agencies and individuals working with Swansea College and who have access to personal information, will be expected to read and comply with this policy. It is expected that departments who are responsible for dealing with external bodies will take the responsibility for ensuring that such bodies sign a contract which among other things will include an agreement to abide by this policy.

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice in data management, security and control and to ensure compliance with any changes or amendments to the GDPR and other relevant legislation.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This piece of legislation came in to force on the 25th May 2018. The GDPR regulates the processing of personal data, and protects the rights and privacy of all living individuals (including children), for example by giving all individuals who are the subject of personal data a general right of access to the personal data which relates to them. Individuals can exercise the right to gain access to their information by means of a 'subject access request'. Personal data is information relating to an individual and may be in hard or soft copy (paper/manual files; electronic records; photographs; CCTV images), and may include facts or opinions about a person.

Responsibilities under the GDPR

Swansea College will be the 'data controller' under the terms of the legislation – this means it is ultimately responsible for controlling the use and processing of the personal data. The college appoints a Data Protection Officer (DPO), currently the Director who is available to address any concerns regarding the data held by college and how it is processed, held and used. Swansea College also has a nominated governor who oversees this policy.

The Principal is responsible for all data protection matters, and will be responsible for ensuring that all members of staff and relevant individuals abide by this policy, and for developing and encouraging good information handling within the college.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that the college's notification is kept accurate. Details of the College's notification can be found on the Office of the Information Commissioner's website. Our data registration number is: ZA120013

Compliance with the legislation is the personal responsibility of all members of the College who process personal information.

Individuals who provide personal data to the College are responsible for ensuring that the information is accurate and up-to-date.

Data Protection Principles

The legislation places a responsibility on every data controller to process any personal data in accordance with the eight principles. Please follow this link to the ICO's website

(www.ico.org.uk)

In order to comply with its obligations, Swansea College undertakes to adhere to the eight principles:

1. Process personal data fairly and lawfully

Swansea College will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that individuals who are the focus of the personal data (data subjects) are informed of the identity of the data controller, the purposes of the processing, any disclosures to third parties that are envisaged; given an indication of the period for which the data will be kept, and any other information which may be relevant. For example,

2. Process the data for the specific and lawful purpose for which it collected that data and not further process the data in a manner incompatible with this purpose.

Swansea College will ensure that the reason for which it collected the data originally is the only reason for which it processes those data, unless the individual is informed of any additional processing before it takes place.

3. Ensure that the data is adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose for which it is processed.

Swansea College will not seek to collect any personal data which is not strictly necessary for the purpose for which it was obtained. Forms for collecting data will always be drafted with this mind. If any irrelevant data are given by individuals, they will be destroyed immediately.

4. Keep personal data accurate and, where necessary, up to date.

Swansea College will review and update all data on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of the individuals giving their personal data to ensure that this is accurate, and each individual should notify the College if, for example, a change in circumstances mean that the data needs to be updated. It is the responsibility of the College to ensure that any notification regarding the change is noted and acted on.

5. Only keep personal data for as long as is necessary.

Swansea College undertakes not to retain personal data for longer than is necessary to ensure compliance with the legislation, and any other statutory requirements. This means SWANSEA COLLEGE will undertake a regular review of the information held and implement a weeding process.

Swansea College will dispose of any personal data in a way that protects the rights and privacy of the individual concerned (e.g. secure electronic deletion, shredding and disposal of hard copy files as confidential waste). A log will be kept of the records destroyed.

6. Process personal data in accordance with the rights of the data subject under the legislation.

Individuals have various rights under the legislation including a right to:

- be told the nature of the information the College holds and any parties to whom this may be disclosed.
- prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress.
- prevent processing for purposes of direct marketing.
- be informed about the mechanics of any automated decision taking process that will significantly affect them.
- not have significant decisions that will affect them taken solely by automated process.
- sue for compensation if they suffer damage by any contravention of the legislation.
- take action to rectify, block, erase or destroy inaccurate data.
- request that the Office of the Information Commissioner assess whether any provision of the Act has been contravened.

Swansea College will only process personal data in accordance with individuals' rights.

7. Put appropriate technical and organisational measures in place against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data, and against accidental loss or destruction of data.

All members of staff are responsible for ensuring that any personal data which they hold is kept securely and not disclosed to any unauthorised third parties.

Swansea College will ensure that all personal data is accessible only to those who have a valid reason for using it.

Swansea College will have in place appropriate security measures e.g.

- ensuring that hard copy personal data is kept in lockable filing cabinets/cupboards with controlled access (with the keys then held securely in a key cabinet with controlled access):
- keeping all personal data in a lockable cabinet with key-controlled access.
- password protecting personal data held electronically.
- archiving personal data which are then kept securely (lockable cabinet).
- placing any PCs or terminals, CCTV camera screens etc. that show personal data so that they are not visible except to authorised staff.
- ensuring that PC screens are not left unattended without a password protected screen-saver being used.

In addition, Swansea College will put in place appropriate measures for the deletion of personal data - manual records will be shredded or disposed of as 'confidential waste' and appropriate contract terms will be put in place with any third parties undertaking this work. Hard drives of redundant PCs will be wiped clean before disposal or if that is not possible, destroyed physically. A log will be kept of the records destroyed.

This policy also applies to staff and students who process personal data 'off-site', e.g. when working at home, and in circumstances additional care must be taken regarding the security of the data.

- 8. Ensure that no personal data is transferred to a country or a territory outside the European Economic Area (EEA) unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.**

Swansea College will not transfer data to such territories without the explicit consent of the individual.

This also applies to publishing information on the Internet - because transfer of data can include placing data on a website that can be accessed from outside the EEA - so Swansea College will always seek the consent of individuals before placing any personal data (including photographs) on its website.

If the College collects personal data in any form via its website, it will provide a clear and detailed privacy statement prominently on the website, and wherever else personal data is collected.

Consent as a basis for processing

Although it is not always necessary to gain consent from individuals before processing their data, it is often the best way to ensure that data is collected and processed in an open and transparent manner.

Consent is especially important when Swansea College is processing any sensitive data, as defined by the legislation.

Swansea College understands consent to mean that the individual has been fully informed of the intended processing and has signified their agreement (e.g. via the enrolment form) whilst being of a sound mind and without having any undue influence exerted upon them. Consent obtained on the basis of misleading information will not be a valid basis for processing. Consent cannot be inferred from the non-response to a communication.

Personal Details

For the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) you consent to the College holding and processing personal data including sensitive personal data of which you are the subject, details of which are specified in the College's data protection policy. This will include marketing images and the College CCTV.

Swansea College will ensure that any forms used to gather data on an individual will contain a statement (**fair collection statement**) explaining the use of that data, how the data may be disclosed and also indicate whether or not the individual needs to consent to the processing.

How We Use Your Personal Information

Your information may be shared with third parties for education, training, employment and well-being related purposes, including for research. This will only take place where the law allows it and the sharing is in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Swansea College will ensure that if the individual does not give his/her consent for the processing, and there is no other lawful basis on which to process the data, then steps will be taken to ensure that processing of that data does not take place.

Subject Access Rights(SARs)

Individuals have a right to access any personal data relating to them which are held by the College. Any individual wishing to exercise this right should apply in writing to the Director. Any member of staff receiving a SAR should forward this to the Director.

The College reserves the right to charge a fee for data subject access requests (currently £30).

Under the terms of the legislation, any such requests must be complied with within 40 days.

For detailed guidance on responding to SARs, see the CoP.

Disclosure of Data

Only disclosures which have been notified under the College's DP notification must be made and therefore staff and students should exercise caution when asked to disclose personal data held on another individual or third party.

SWANSEA COLLEGE undertakes not to disclose personal data to unauthorised third parties, including family members, friends, and government bodies and in some circumstances, the police.

Legitimate disclosures may occur in the following instances:

- the individual has given their consent to the disclosure.
- the disclosure has been notified to the OIC and is in the legitimate interests of the College.
- the disclosure is required for the performance of a contract.

There are other instances when the legislation permits disclosure without the consent of the individual.

For detailed guidance on disclosures see the Code of Practice (CoP).

In no circumstances will Swansea College sell any of its databases to a third party.

Publication of College Information

Swansea College publishes various items which will include some personal data, e.g.

- event information.
- photos and information in marketing materials.

It may be that in some circumstances an individual wishes their data processed for such reasons to be kept confidential, or restricted College access only. Therefore it is Swansea College policy to offer an opportunity to opt-out of the publication of such when collecting the information.

Email

It is the policy of Swansea College to ensure that senders and recipients of email are made aware that under the DPA, and Freedom of Information Legislation, the contents of email may have to be disclosed in response to a request for information. One means by which this will be communicated will be by a disclaimer on the College's email.

Under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, Lawful Business Practice Regulations, any email sent to or from the College may be accessed by someone other than the recipient for system management and security purposes.

Procedure for review

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice or future amendments made to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) May 2018 and Data Protection Act 1998.

Please follow this link to the ICO's website (www.ico.org.uk) which provides further detailed guidance on a range of topics including individuals' rights, exemptions from the Act, dealing with subject access requests, how to handle requests from third parties for personal data to be disclosed etc. In particular, you may find it helpful to read the Guide to Data Protection which is available from the website.

For help or advice on any data protection or freedom of information issues, please do not hesitate to contact:

The Data Protection Officer (DPO): Aisha Rasul, Principal.

Updated November 2022