

COVID-19: Data Protection and the NHS 'Track and Trace' scheme

The Government has introduced the NHS Test and Trace Service (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>) to trace the spread of the virus and isolate new infections. The scheme is seen as key to helping 'return life more to normal, in a way that is safe and protects our NHS and social care'.

As our schools continue to re-open, we must respond to the latest Coronavirus advice from the Government and we may be asked by NHS Contact Tracers to provide an individual's personal details, for example, if there is a suspected case Coronavirus in the school or to keep you informed about potential or confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The safety and wellbeing of all our pupils, staff and their families continues to be our priority. We will only share data on request and will not provide more information than is necessary. This is in line with [advice](#) from the information Commissioner's Office (ICO) which states that organisations must take a proportionate and sensible approach and must take account the risks to the wider public which may be caused by failing to share information.

If requested, we will share data under the basis of [Public Task](#) under data protection legislation. We will keep a record of any data that we are asked to share and your rights, as outlined under our privacy notice (available on our website), still apply.

Further Background

The Government has published a variety of documentation regarding data protection and COVID-19 which can be accessed from links below if you would like to understand more about the Government's approach to data protection and Coronavirus:

- [Guidance: Testing for coronavirus: privacy information \(Updated 1 May 2020\)](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): notification to organisations to share information](#)
- [COVID-19 Information governance advice for IG professionals](#)