

May 2018

Dear Parent / carer,

RE: The GDPR and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

As you may already be aware, the 25th May 2018 marks the enforcement of the *General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)*. The GDPR will supersede 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 St Patrick's Catholic Primary School 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 must 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 must be given to children and have to be written using age-appropriate language.

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 - failure to do so can result in a fine. 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; consent must be a 'positive indication', which means that it has to be opted into, clear and unambiguous. 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 St Patrick's Catholic Primary School is Sue Longhorne (acting) and they can be contacted on DPO@stpatrc.bham.sch.uk or 0121 247 3947.

The GDPR will require changes to be made to some school policies and procedures. While some policies will need no changes or small updates, others will require re-writes. For example, the school's Photography and Videos at School Policy will need quite a few changes and, for this reason, I would like to ask you to complete the permission slip and return it to the **school office**, once you have read and understood the school's privacy notice (which will be sent separately.) 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 on www.stpatrc.bham.sch.uk.

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 acting DPO, Sue Longhorne.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs M O'Friel
Executive Head Teacher