

Privacy Notice for Applicants

About this Privacy Notice

This privacy notice explains how we collect, store and use personal data about individuals who apply for jobs with Forward Education Trust, or our community of schools.

Personal data is any information that can be used to identify you. It may include information you provide as part of an application process, information we already hold about you if you are already an employee, or information we collect from other organisations as part of pre-employment checks. When we use your personal data, this is known as “processing”.

Under data protection law, individuals have a right to be informed about how we collect, use and share personal data in relation to these processes. We comply with this right by publishing a privacy notice and making this available to you before you take part in our recruitment process.

Forward Education Trust is registered as a ‘data controller’ with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO), meaning that we are responsible for determining how your personal data is used.

We have a Data Protection Officer (DPO) to help us comply with our data protection responsibilities. Our DPO is provided by Services4Schools and they can be contacted at DPO@FET.ac. You can contact them directly, if you need any further information about how we use your personal data.

What information do we collect?

Forward Education Trust and our community of schools will only collect information about you that is necessary to support our recruitment and candidate management processes. This includes:

- your name, address and contact details, including email address and telephone number;
- details of your qualifications, skills, experience and employment history;
- information about your current level of remuneration, including benefit entitlements;
- whether or not you have a disability for which we need to make reasonable adjustments during the recruitment process;
- information required to conduct statutory safeguarding checks;
- information relating to your performance and conduct from current and previous employers in the form of references;
- information about your entitlement to work in the UK; and
- equal opportunities monitoring information, including information about your ethnic origin, sexual orientation, health, and religion or belief.

How do we collect your information?

When you apply for a job with us, we collect your information in a variety of ways. For example, data might be contained in application forms, obtained from your passport or other identity documents, or collected through interviews or other forms of assessment.

Forward Education Trust will also collect personal data about you from third parties, such as references supplied by former employers, information from employment background check providers and information from criminal records checks via the Disclosure & Barring Service.

In line with Part Three: Safer recruitment (Keeping Children Safe in Education)

Shortlisting Process – Due Diligence

All shortlisted candidates will complete a self-declaration of their criminal record or information that would make them unsuitable to work with children. An electronic signature will be replaced by a physical signature at the point of interview. The self-declaration will allow candidates the opportunity to share relevant information and allow this to be discussed and considered at interview before an Enhanced DBS certificate is received.

An online search will be undertaken for all shortlisted candidates as part of our due diligence processes. This may help identify any incidents or issues that have occurred and are publicly available online. Any related information will be shared with the interview panel to allow discussion with the candidate(s) at interview.

Where will your data be stored?

Data will be stored in a range of different places, including on your application record, in paper records, on our management systems, on our cloud-based IT infrastructure and on other internal IT systems (including email).

Why we process your personal data?

Forward Education Trust needs to process your personal data as part of the recruitment process. In some cases, we need to use your information to ensure we are complying with our legal obligations. For example, it is required to check a successful applicant's eligibility to work in the UK before employment starts. We also have statutory duties to undertake in relation to safeguarding and safer recruitment guidance such as *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.

We have a legitimate interest in processing personal data during the recruitment process and for keeping records of the process. Processing data from job applicants allows us to manage the recruitment process, assess and confirm a candidate's suitability for employment, and decide to whom to offer a job. We may also need to process data from job applicants to respond to and defend against legal claims.

Where we have relied on legitimate interests as a reason for processing data, we have considered whether or not those interests are overridden by the rights and freedoms of applicant and potential employees and have concluded that this is not the case.

Forward Education Trust processes health information if it needs to make reasonable adjustments to the recruitment process for candidates who have a disability. This is to carry out its obligations and exercise specific rights in relation to employment.

Where we process other special categories of data, such as information about ethnic origin, sexual orientation, health or religion or belief, this is for equal opportunities monitoring purposes.

As an education provider, Forward Education Trust is obliged to seek information about criminal convictions and offences. Where we seek this information, it does so because it is necessary for us to carry out our obligations and exercise specific rights in relation to employment.

We will not use your data for any purpose other than the recruitment exercise for which you have applied.

Who has access to your data?

Your information will be shared internally for the purposes of the recruitment exercise. This includes members of the HR and recruitment panel, interviewers involved in the recruitment process, managers in the area with a vacancy and IT staff if access to the data is necessary for the performance of their roles.

Other than to request references in line with safer recruitment practices and to obtain relevant background and right to work checks, or where the process requires additional scrutiny, Forward Education Trust will not share your data with third parties, unless your application for employment is successful and it makes you an offer of employment.

Forward Education Trust will share the personal data of successful job applicants with the vetting and barring service to obtain necessary criminal records checks.

Forward Education Trust will share your data with our legal representatives if you are engaged in a dispute or appeal process that determines it necessary to do so, or we are required to do so by a UK court.

We will share your personal data with other official bodies (for the purposes of preventing and investigation of criminal activities, including fraud).

We will share your personal data with the Department for Education, Teaching Regulation Authority, OfSTED, or Local Authority Designated Safeguarding Officer, where this is necessary as part of a formal investigation process.

Forward Education Trust will not transfer your data outside the UK before ensuring there are appropriate contractual and security provisions in place.

How does the Trust protect personal data?

Forward Education Trust takes the security of your data seriously. It has internal policies such as a Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy in place to ensure that your data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused or disclosed, and is not accessed except by our employees in the proper performance of their duties. These policies can be viewed on the “Key Information” page of the Trust website: <https://fet.ac/key-information/fet-policies>.

How long do we keep recruitment data?

If your application for employment is unsuccessful, we will hold your data on file for 6 months after the end of the relevant recruitment process. At this point it will be disposed of securely in line with our Trust Retention Schedule and Records Management Policy.

If your application for employment is successful, personal data gathered during the recruitment process will be transferred to your HR file and retained during your employment.

The periods for which your data will be held will be provided to you in a new privacy notice once you are employed by Forward Education Trust.

What if you do not provide your personal data?

You are under no statutory or contractual obligation to provide data to Forward Education Trust during the recruitment process. However, if you do not provide the information, we may not be able to process your application properly, or at all.

You are under no obligation to provide information for equal opportunities monitoring purposes and there are no consequences for your application if you choose not to provide such information.

Your Information Rights

Data Protection law provides you with certain rights.

Requesting access to your personal data

You (or an authorised official representative) have the right to request access to information about you that we hold.

If we do hold information about you, we will:

- Give you a description of it
- Conduct reasonable and proportionate searches to locate the information you have asked for
- Tell you why we are holding and using it, and how long we will keep it for
- Explain where we got it from, if not from you
- Tell you who it has been, or will be, shared with
- Let you know if we are using your data to make any automated decisions (decisions being taken by a computer or machine, rather than by a person)
- Give you a copy of the information

To make a request to access your personal information, please contact our Data Protection Officer by emailing DPO@fet.ac,

or in writing to: Forward Education Trust, c/o Leycroft Academy, Leycroft Avenue, Tile Cross, Birmingham, B33 9UH.

When making a request you will need to confirm:

- The types of records you wish to access
- any date periods these relate to

If you are unable to specify the types of records you wish to access or the relevant time periods, we will ask you to clarify your request. We may also extend the time period we have for complying with a request, or refuse it if we determine it is manifestly unfounded or excessive.

Please address letters: For the attention of the Data Protection Officer.

We may require you to provide proof of your identity, before we can comply with your request.

Your Other Information Rights:

- **The right to know how your information is being used** – We uphold this by publishing Privacy Notices and letting you know how your information will be used when we collect it.

- **The right to have inaccurate information amended** - We uphold this right by asking your to review the information we hold on record and updating information if you provide evidence to show it has changed
- **The right to have information removed or deleted from your records** – We uphold this right by removing or deleting your information that we are no longer required to keep
- **The right to temporarily restrict how your information is used** - We uphold this right by not using information until we have confirmed what is accurate, unless it is necessary to do so
- **The right to object to us using your data for certain purposes** – We uphold this by asking for your consent or permission to use your information for these purposes (including direct marketing and for scientific/historical research and statistics)
- **The right to request data is transferred in recognisable (portable) format** – We uphold this by using systems and technologies suitable for the education sector or approved by the DfE. This applies where we process data in an automated form that has been supplied by you and our processing is based on your consent or a contract we have agreed to uphold
- **The right for important decisions about you not to be made solely by automated systems that use your information (like computer algorithms and AI)** – We uphold this right by letting you know if these systems are used and giving you a choice for these types of decisions to be reviewed.

Who to Contact

The Trust has a Data Protection Officer (provided by Services 4 Schools Ltd). Their role is to oversee and monitor our data protection procedures, and to make sure we are compliant with data protection legislation.

The Data Protection Officer is responsible for helping employees and other individuals uphold their information rights.

You can contact our Data Protection Officer by emailing: DPO@fet.ac

or by writing to:

Forward Education Trust, c/o Leycroft Academy, Leycroft Avenue, Tile Cross, Birmingham, B33 9UH

Please address letters: For the attention of the Data Protection Officer.

Complaints or Concerns

If you have a concern or complaint about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with our Data Protection Officer in the first instance (see contact details above).

We will respond to your request within 30 days.

If you are still unsatisfied after the Data Protection Officer has considered your complaint, you have the right to raise a concern with the Information Commissioner's Office at: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/data-protection-complaints/>

Complaints that do not relate to the handling of personal data will be handled under the terms of the Trust Complaints Policy, which can be viewed here: <https://fet.ac/key-information/fet-policies/>

Revisions and last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically, so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time.

This version was last updated December 2025

