

Medr

Y Comisiwn Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

Post 16 Data Collection Privacy Notice

April 2026
Version 1.0

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg |
This document is also available in Welsh
www.medr.cymru



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government

Introduction

The learning programme you are studying is funded by Medr. Medr is the name for Wales's Commission for Tertiary Education and Research.

Your participation in the programme is dependent on you providing personal data. Under UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK-GDPR), the lawful basis we rely on to process your personal data is Article 6(1)(e) public task where processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or the exercising of official authority. This allows us to meet our legal duties and administer and monitor the funding we provide. Where you provide special category information, such as ethnicity, this will be processed for reasons of substantial public interest (under Article 9(2)(g)), and for archiving, historical research, and statistical purposes (under Article 9(2)(j)). Under the Data protection Act 2018 (DPA-2018), special category data is processed under Schedule 1, Part 1, Paragraph 4, for archiving, historical research, and statistical purposes in accordance with Article 84B of the UK GDPR and is in the public interest, and Schedule 1, Part 2, Paragraph 6 for reasons of substantial public interest in the exercise of Medr's statutory functions.

Medr will be the data controller for the personal information you provide from the 1st of April 2026.

What will Medr use your information for?

Medr will use your data for funding, planning and policy development as well as monitoring pupil outcomes (such as achievement of qualifications, progress and destinations).

Additionally, your data will be used in official statistics and research about post 16 learning, including how individual circumstances affect the educational outcomes of learners in Wales. Our official statistics reports give an overall picture of learners in Wales, what they study, their achievements and their destinations after they leave learning. They include, for example, information on patterns in learners' gender, ages, and the qualifications, subjects and levels they are studying. Individual learners cannot be identified in these publications.

Research organisations will also use post 16 learner data to evaluate Welsh education policies and programmes. As part of these evaluations, they may also conduct optional learner surveys, which will assess the impact of a programme on the individual learner as well as contribute to future Medr and Welsh Government policy development.

In order for Medr to evaluate the impact of its programmes on certain groups of learners, we will link your data with other educational records we hold, such as the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census, Welsh Examinations Database, Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) and Higher Education Statistics Authority. We use this linked data to help us understand the progress and outcomes of learners in Wales, to inform our research, performance measures and statistical publications. We may also share this linked data with researchers and with our partners, including Estyn to help them carry out their own data analysis to inform inspections and reviews. Individual learners cannot be identified in the linked data we share with our partners.

A detailed list of how your data is used can be referenced below.

What personal information about you is collected and used by the Medr?

Personal data is collected by schools and local authorities via a secure online data transfer portal managed by Welsh Government and securely transferred to Medr. As defined in the UK General Data Protection Regulation, your personal data is:

Unique pupil number (UPN)	A unique number allocated to each pupil to facilitate statistical analysis purposes
Unique learner identifier (ULN)	A unique number allocated to each pupil for examination purposes
Former UPN	To record any former UPNs
Surname	
Forename	
Middle name(s)	
Postcode	
Sex	
Date of birth	

Medr also processes special category data on pupils:

LLDD learner	To monitor pupils with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and whether they are learning in a discrete or mainstream environment
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Please see [Annex A](#) for a list of the non-personal data fields Medr collect.

How will your data be used by Medr internally?

- In evaluations of programmes and projects, to inform decision on future policies for post 16 learning.
- To measure the outcomes of post 16 learning, including pupils' achievement of qualifications, progress and destinations.
- To allocate and monitor funding of post 16 learning.
- To promote equality and diversity on post 16 learning across Wales, to help ensure that we comply with the Equality Act 2010.
- To produce anonymous official statistics on post 16 learning in Wales.

- To link to other datasets for statistical and research purposes, including the production of the Matched Education Dataset (MED). MED links the Post 16 Data Collection to the Pupil Level Annual Schools Census, Educated Other Than at School census, Welsh Examinations Database, Lifelong Learning Wales Record and Higher Education Statistics Authority data, which in turn is used by Medr to understand pupils progress through the education system and their destinations once they leave learning.

How will your data be used by third parties?

The Welsh Government carries out the Post 16 Data Collection on Medr's behalf and will process the data in order to collect, validate and supply the data to Medr.

Medr links your data internally and with external government bodies such as the Welsh Government and the Department for Work and Pensions, to evaluate the impact of learning programmes.

Your data will be used by:

- [Estyn](#), to undertake inspections of standards as part of its statutory duties to inspect post 16 providers. Analysis of this data is also used to inform inspection planning, thematic reviews and annual reporting.
- Local Authorities, where pupil level data is analysed and utilised.
- The UK Government Department for Education, for use in the Longitudinal Educational Outcomes Study (LEO). This involves education records being linked to employment, earnings and benefits records held by the [Department for Work and Pensions](#) and HMRC, to identify and analyse the destinations of learners into further learning and/or employment once they have left learning. Medr will analyse this linked data for statistical and research purposes. This will include using it to assess the effectiveness of policy in the area of education and training – for example looking at how many people with particular qualifications go on to get specific jobs, comparing outcomes for people who go to different education or training providers, or seeing whether particular schemes have achieved what they were supposed to achieve.
- Research organisations contracted by Medr, who undertake independent research, surveys, or analytical activities to support the development, evaluation, and monitoring of education, skills, labour market and related public policy areas in Wales and across UK. This may include contacting learners past and present to take part in surveys, although you will always have the option to take part or not in the survey if contacted.
- Accountants and auditors who ensure Medr can assess whether data returned by institutions are a reliable basis for making funding decisions.

Data Sharing Agreements

Medr has a formal data sharing agreement in place whenever we share your data with a third party. The agreement includes data security, confidentiality and retention clauses, which require third parties to implement appropriate information security measures, only use your information in prescribed ways, and destroy their copies of your data when no longer needed.

Protecting your personal information

We know how important it is to protect and manage your personal information. We have established physical, technical and organisational security measures to assist with this. Some of the measures we have taken include:

- adopting computer safeguards such as firewalls, encryption, secure transfer protocols, penetration testing, complex security credentials, multi-factor authentication protocols, and access controls including restricting access depending on job responsibilities
- Cyber Essential certification and ongoing compliance against Government and industry recognised security frameworks
- a comprehensive framework of policies relating to data protection, information security and records management
- regular training and awareness sessions for our employees to ensure understanding and compliance across the organisation
- maintenance of a data protection register that identifies all personal information held and includes details such as lawful basis for processing, location, security measures and retention
- data sharing agreements and relevant clauses in contracts that have personal data implications
- privacy notices so that individuals are aware of what personal information we hold and why
- data protection impact assessments undertaken to identify risks and ensure compliance with data protection legislation, and
- data stored within the UK and not transferred outside the European Economic Area (EEA). If there was a requirement to transfer personal information outside of the EEA, transfer would only be permitted to countries whose data protection laws have been assessed as adequate by the European Commission, and where adequate safeguards are in place to ensure compliance with relevant data protection regulations.

Your rights and choices under the UK GDPR include:

- access to the personal data the Medr holds on you
- requiring Medr to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- objecting to processing on grounds relating to your particular situation (in some circumstances)
- restricting processing (in some circumstances)
- having your data erased (in certain circumstances)

- lodging a complaint with the Information Commissioner's office (ICO) who is the independent regulator for data protection

How long will Medr keep your data for?

Your data will be retained indefinitely to enable Medr to analyse it along with that of other learners and create reports. These reports will be used to help inform, influence and improve education policy decisions, monitor performance of the education service as a whole and/or to forecast future funding requirements.

Under the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022, Medr is entrusted with a range of strategic responsibilities that require the indefinite retention of the Post 16 data collection. These are:

- Promoting lifelong learning: Retaining data enables Medr to track learner journeys over time, supporting its duty to promote lifelong learning.
- Equality of opportunity: The rich information collected on learners and their characteristics contributes to the long-term monitoring of this.
- Encouraging participation: enables the longitudinal tracking of learner engagement, helping to identify patterns such as sustained participation, temporary disengagement, and re-entry into education later in life. This insight is essential for understanding and supporting lifelong learning pathways.
- Contributing to a sustainable and innovative economy: Insights derived from long-term data analysis inform workforce development and economic strategy.
- Monitoring and promoting improvement in quality: Retained data supports Medr's ability to assess and improve the quality of education

Data Controller and Data Protection Officer

As data controller, we are fully committed to the processing of your personal information in line with data protection legislation. We welcome any queries relating to the processing of your data and will listen to any concerns you may have.

Please get in touch with us by email or post:

Email: dataprotectionofficer@medr.cymru

Write to:

Data Protection Officer
Medr
2 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

Our data protection registration reference is ZB552558.

Complaints about the use of your personal information

If you are unhappy with the way in which your personal information has been handled by us, please either contact info@medr.cymru or our [Data Protection Officer](#) and we will try to resolve your issue informally.

If we are unable to resolve the issue to your satisfaction, you can also make a complaint to the data protection supervisory authority. In the UK, this is the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and they can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Website: <https://ico.org.uk>

You can also contact the Wales ICO office:

Information Commissioner's Office – Wales
2nd Floor, Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Tel: 029 2067 8400

Email: wales@ico.org.uk

Notifications of changes

This Privacy notice was last updated on 1 April 2026, and we keep it under regular review to make sure it is up to date and accurate. We will always notify you of changes to the use of your data via this Privacy notice and your provider. All of the Medr's processing will comply with data protection legislation.

Annex A

Non personal data	Notes
LEA number	a reference number to identify the local authority that is associated with the school.
School number	a unique code given to the school for statistical analysis purposes.
School name	
Enrolment status	to identify the valid enrolment status of the pupil
Part time indicator	to identify if the pupil attends the school on a part time basis
Pupil NC year group	to identify the National Curriculum (NC) year group in which the pupil is taught for the majority of their time, regardless of their age
Programme identifier	a unique identifier for the programme that the pupil is undertaking in sixth form
Programme reference	This is a reference number for the programme that the pupil is undertaking in sixth form
Programme start date	This is the start date which the pupil is started the programme in sixth form
Programme expected end date	This is the expected end date which the pupil should complete the programme in sixth form
Programme actual end date	This is the actual end date which the pupil should complete the programme in sixth form
Programme completion status	This is the completion status of the pupil on census day
Guided contact hours	The planned number of guided contact hours used to monitor delivery of programme of study (PoS) specification and used to adjust programme of study (PoS) values
Length of programme	Length of programme
Year of programme	Year of programme
Learning activity ID	To identify uniquely each programme of study (PoS) and learning activity being undertaken by a pupil.
QWAD	This is the unique Qualification Wales Accreditation Number for qualifications approved by Qualification Wales undertaken by pupils in sixth form
Learning activity category	To ensure that programme of study specifications as per the programme of study directory
Date commenced learning activity	To identify the start date of the programme of study or learning activity and to be used

Non personal data	Notes
	with the end date to derive the duration of learning
Expected end date of learning activity	Expected end date of the pupil's learning activity
Actual end date of learning activity	To identify the end date of the programme of study or learning activity and to be used with the start date to derive the duration of learning
Learning activity delivered through the medium of Welsh	To monitor the medium of delivery of learning activities and if bilingually delivered in the teaching model adopted
Provider delivering learning	To identify where learning is being delivered and so the extent of franchising/sub contracting/partnership arrangements between schools and other learning providers.
Completion status	To identify those learning activities for which pupils have successfully completed the required learning and those learning activities from which pupils have withdrawn or transferred.

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