

## **TAKE ACTION: PROTECT CHILDREN'S SCHOOL CENSUS NATIONALITY DATA FROM MISUSE BY THE HOME OFFICE**

In June 2018, the Department for Education stated that nationality and country of birth data must no longer be collected for school census purposes. **But school census data are still being used for immigration enforcement including name, date of birth, gender, home address and school address from up to the last 5 years.** In response to parliamentary questions tabled in December<sup>1</sup>, Schools Minister Nick Gibb MP said that as of summer 2018, parents can no longer retract nationality data previously submitted. Parents and schools were not informed of this change.

For its history see <https://defenddigitalme.com/timeline-school-census/>

Now, the Department offers no way for schools to submit refusal requests in the census collection that would remove nationality data collected from children in England from 2016-2018. But you can take action to get the DfE to remove the nationality data collected and safeguard child rights at your school. Here's how:

**Download template letter/forms from our website:** <https://defenddigitalme.com/how-to-opt-out-of-the-new-school-census-data-collection/>

### **STEP ONE:**

For schools: Download and complete a template letter from our website and submit to the DfE.  
OR

For families: Complete our census opt out form and submit it to your school administrator.

Article 21 of the GDPR provides for the right to object to the processing of personal data for a task carried out in the public interest; and the exercise of official authority vested in you. Article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation, provides for a Right to Erasure.

**STEP TWO:** Please contact Jen Persson, defenddigitalme, once you have a response from the company for any questions or advice on how to proceed if they hold it.

jen@defenddigitalme.com Tel 07510 889833

**STEP THREE:** If you are unhappy how any of your census data are processed you may contact the Information Commissioners Office to make a complaint against the DfE and its processing. Contact the ICO by telephone on 0303 123 1113 or via their website <https://ico.org.uk>

**STEP FOUR: Please write to your MP.** Ask the DfE to take the following steps to make sure children's data is safeguarded:

1. *The deletion of all pupil nationality and country of birth data collected and stored by DfE.*
2. *Safeguard all pupil personal data collected through schools from Home Office requests for immigration enforcement purposes.*
3. *Revoke The Education (Pupil Information) (England) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2016*

**Spread the word.** Share this links, take action, and use the hashtag #BoycottSchoolCensus on Social Media. Follow us @defenddigitalme and Against Borders for Children @Schools\_ABC

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-11/201096/>