

Template letter to be used in preparation of right to object

Instructions

1. Please amend the letter to include your own contact and reference numbers, so that the identity of your school is very clear.
2. Please follow these steps if you wish to find your URN, Local Authority Number or Establishment Number:

Go to <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/>

1. Select "Search by Location" and enter your school's postcode in the box labelled 'Postcode, town or city'
2. Click on the 'Search' button
3. Select your school from the list on the next page
4. You will be taken to a page where all three numbers are shown

Submit your letter directly to the School as your Data Controller.

School address

[your contact details]

Dear [insert school responsible owner],

I am writing to you as parent/guardian with responsibility for

[insert child's name], at [insert school name],

As the school is a joint Data Controller with the Department for Education ("DfE") for the personal data collected in the **School Census**, we ask to exercise a:

1. Right to Object to the distribution from the school to the Department for Education of all of the optional items of personal data collected in the School Census (ethnicity, military status, any optional language codes) and ask for confirmation what these are;
2. Right to Object to the processing of any pupil data collected for the purposes of the Department for Education as data controller related to commercial re-use, third-party research, DWP fraud¹, or immigration enforcement² or any other re-uses.

I ask that all national processing cease with immediate effect of personal data from the School Census for purposes beyond the direct administrative uses and to provide funding for the school. The Department publishes a list of third party External Data Shares and I wish to object to all of these.³

Basis in law for request to cease processing

The UK Data Protection Act⁴ gives individuals the right to object to the processing of their personal data for a task carried out in the public interest; and the exercise of official authority vested in you.

Any personal data provided by us, are only for educational purposes under the Education Act 1996. We object to any processing of the personal data provided to the Department, for all other purposes.

I believe that the risks to the rights and freedoms of children outweigh the third party interests, in particular solely commercial interests, and therefore the balance must be in favour of the child.

I ask that you confirm receipt of this objection and request to withdraw data, and confirm that the Department for Education and its arms length bodies have ceased processing as well.

Please contact me via email or phone for any questions you may have.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Add your name]

[Add your contact details]

¹ Schools Week (May 2024) Revealed: Secret deal to let benefit fraud squad snoop on pupil data <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/revealed-secret-deal-to-let-benefit-fraud-squad-snoop-on-pupil-data/>

² School Census reuse by the Home Office <https://defenddigitalme.org/my-school-records/boycottschoolcensus/>

³ External Data Shares third party register <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfe-external-data-shares>

⁴ Right to Object <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/section/99/enacted>