Staff Privacy Notice

For Staff

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This privacy notice describes how we collect, use and process personal information about you during and after your working relationship with us, in accordance with UK data protection law.

UK data protection law currently comprises the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018, and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, each as amended from time to time.

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, the UK GDPR forms part of the domestic data protection framework. The UK GDPR sits alongside the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, which supplement and tailor the UK data protection regime, including provisions relating to regulatory powers, enforcement and specific processing activities.

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) continues to apply within the European Union and is referred to in this notice as the "EU GDPR" where relevant.

It applies to all current and former employees, workers and contractors.

Who Collects this Information?

The Aurora Group is a "data controller." This means that we are responsible for deciding how we hold and use personal information about you.

We are required under data protection legislation to notify you of the information contained in this privacy notice. This notice does not form part of any contract of employment or other contract to provide services, and we may update this notice at any time.

It is important that you read this notice with any other policies mentioned within this privacy notice, so that you understand how we are processing your information and the procedures we take to protect your personal data.

Data Protection Principles

We will comply with the data protection principles when gathering and using personal information, as set out in our data protection policy.

Categories of Information we Collect, Process, Hold and Share

We may collect, store and use the following categories of personal information about you:

- Personal information and contact details such as name, title, addresses, date of birth, marital status, phone numbers and personal email addresses;
- Emergency contact information such as names, relationship, phone numbers and email addresses;
- Information collected during the recruitment process that we retain during your employment including references, proof of right to work in the UK, application form, CV, qualifications;
- Employment contract information such as start dates, hours worked, post, roles;
- Education and training details;
- Details of salary and benefits including payment details, payroll records, tax status information, national insurance number, pension and benefits information;
- Details of any dependants;
- Your nationality and immigration status and information from related documents, such as your passport or other identification and immigration information;
- Information in your sickness and absence records such as number of absences and reasons (including sensitive personal information regarding your physical and/or mental health);
- Criminal records information as required by law to enable you to work with children;
- Your trade union membership;

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- Information on grievances raised by or involving you;
- Information on conduct and/or other disciplinary issues involving you;
- Details of your appraisals, performance reviews and capability issues;
- Details of your time and attendance records;
- Information about the use of our IT, communications and other systems, and other monitoring information;
- Details of your use of business-related social media;
- Images of staff captured by the Aurora's CCTV system;
- Your use of public social media (only in very limited circumstances, to check specific risks for specific functions, you will be notified separately if this is to occur); and
- Details in references about you that we give to other;
- Recordings of staff from the Aurora Group's video conferencing platform MS Teams;
- In-vehicle tracker data, including speed and acceleration, where relevant to staff operating school minibuses.

How we Collect this Information

We may collect this information from you in your application form, but we will also collect information in a number of different ways. This could be through the Home Office, our pension providers, medical and occupational health professionals we engage with, your trade union, and even other employees. Information is also collected through CCTV, in-vehicle tracker systems, access control systems and any IT system the service has in place.

How we use your Information

We will only use your personal information when the law allows us to. Most commonly, we will use your information in the following circumstances:

- **Consent** – Where you have given clear permission for us to use your personal information for a specific purpose. You can withdraw consent at any time. Examples include optional training, staff surveys, or marketing communications.
- **Contract** – Where processing is necessary for your employment contract or to take steps at your request before entering into a contract. Examples include payroll, benefits administration, or performance management.
- **Legal obligation** – Where we must process information to comply with the law. Examples include tax, pension, and health & safety obligations.
- **Vital interests** – Where processing is necessary to protect someone's life. Examples include emergency medical situations at work.
- **Public task** – Where processing is necessary to carry out tasks in the public interest or to exercise official authority, such as reporting to regulators, safeguarding, or providing education services.
- **Legitimate interests** – Where processing is necessary for our legitimate business interests and we have ensured it does not override the rights and freedoms of individuals. Examples include internal communications, staff monitoring for performance or security purposes, or workforce planning.
- **Recognised legitimate interests (DUAA 2025)** – In certain limited circumstances defined by law, specific activities are recognised as legitimate interests without requiring a separate balancing test.

We need all the categories of information in the list above primarily to allow us to perform our contract with you and to enable us to comply with legal obligations.

The situations in which we will process your personal information are listed below:

- To determine recruitment and selection decisions on prospective employees;
- In order to carry out effective performance of the employees' contract of employment and to maintain employment records;

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- To comply with regulatory requirements and good employment practice;
- To carry out vetting and screening of applicants and current staff in accordance with regulatory and legislative requirements;
- Enable the development of a comprehensive picture of the workforce and how it is deployed and managed;
- To enable management and planning of the workforce, including accounting and auditing;
- Personnel management including retention, sickness and attendance;
- Performance reviews, managing performance and determining performance requirements;
- In order to manage internal policy and procedure;
- Human resources administration including pensions, payroll and benefits;
- To determine qualifications for a particular job or task, including decisions about promotions;
- Evidence for possible disciplinary or grievance processes;
- Complying with legal obligations;
- To monitor and manage staff access to our systems and facilities in order to protect our networks, the personal data of our employees and for the purposes of safeguarding;
- To monitor and protect the security of our network and information, including preventing unauthorised access to our computer network and communications systems and preventing malicious software distribution;
- Education, training and development activities;
- To monitor compliance with equal opportunities legislation;
- To answer questions from insurers in respect of any insurance policies which relate to you;
- Determinations about continued employment or engagement;
- Arrangements for the termination of the working relationship;
- Dealing with post-termination arrangements;
- Health and safety obligations;
- Disciplinary Use: CCTV, in-vehicle tracker systems, may be used as evidence;
- Prevention and detection of fraud or other criminal offences; and
- To defend the Aurora Group in respect of any investigation or court proceedings and to comply with any court or tribunal order for disclosure.

Some of the above grounds for processing will overlap and there may be several grounds which justify our use of your personal information.

If you fail to provide certain information when requested, we may not be able to perform the contract we have entered into with you, or we may be prevented from complying with our legal obligations.

We will only use your personal information for the purposes for which we collected it, unless we reasonably consider that we need to use it for another reason and that reason is compatible with the original purpose.

How we use Particularly Sensitive Information

Sensitive personal information (as defined under the UK GDPR as “special category data”) require higher levels of protection and further justification for collecting, storing and using this type of personal information. We may process this data in the following circumstances:

- In limited circumstances, with your explicit written consent;
- Where we need to carry out our legal obligations in line with our data protection policy;
- Where it is needed in the public interest, such as for equal opportunities monitoring (or in relation to our pension scheme);
- Where it is needed to assess your working capacity on health grounds, subject to appropriate confidentiality safeguards. Less commonly, we may process this type of information where it is needed in relation to legal claims or where it is necessary to protect your interests (or someone else’s interests) and you are not capable of giving your consent.

We will use this information in the following ways:

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- Collecting information relating to leave of absence, which may include sickness absence or family related leave;
- To comply with employment and other laws;
- Collecting information about your physical or mental health, or disability status, to ensure your health and welfare in the workplace and to assess your fitness to work, to provide appropriate workplace adjustments, to manage sickness absence and to administer benefits;
- Collecting information about your race or national or ethnic origin, religious, philosophical or moral beliefs, or sexual life or sexual orientation, to ensure meaningful equal opportunity monitoring and reporting.
- To record trade union membership information to pay trade union premiums and to comply with employment law obligations.

Criminal Convictions

We may only use information relating to criminal convictions where the law allows us to do so. This will usually be where it is necessary to carry out our legal obligations. We will only collect information about criminal convictions if it is appropriate given the nature of the role and where we are legally able to do so.

Where appropriate we will collect information about criminal convictions as part of the recruitment process, or we may be notified of such information directly by you in the course of working for us.

Sharing Data

We may need to share your data with third parties, including third party service providers where required by law, where it is necessary to administer the working relationship with you or where we have another legitimate interest in doing so. These include the following:

- the Department for Education (DfE);
- Ofsted;
- Prospective Employers;
- Welfare services (such as social services);
- Law enforcement officials such as police, HMRC;
- LADO;
- Training providers;
- Professional advisors such as lawyers and consultants;
- Support services (including HR support, insurance, IT support, information security, pensions and payroll);
- The Local Authority;
- Occupational Health;
- DBS;
- Employee Benefit Providers
- Third-Party software providers
- Parties to a corporate transaction
- Recruitment and supply agencies; and
- other schools within the Aurora Group.

Information will be provided to those agencies securely or anonymised where possible.

The recipient of the information will be bound by confidentiality obligations; we require them to respect the security of your data and to treat it in accordance with the law.

We may share limited personal data with prospective buyers or advisors if the business or part is sold or merged. Any data shared will be protected and used only for that purpose.

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We may transfer your personal information outside the UK and the EU. If we do, you can expect a similar degree of protection in respect of your personal information.

Retention Periods

Except as otherwise permitted or required by applicable law or regulation, the Aurora Group only retains personal data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes they collected it for, as required to satisfy any legal, accounting or reporting obligations, or as necessary to resolve disputes.

Once you are no longer a staff member at the Aurora Group we will retain and securely destroy your personal information in accordance with our data retention policy. This can be found on SharePoint under Group Policies.

Security

We have put in place measures to protect the security of your information (i.e. against it being accidentally lost, used or accessed in an unauthorised way). In addition, we limit access to your personal information to those employees, agents, contractors and other third parties who have a business need to know.

You can find further details of our security procedures within our Data Breach policy and our Information Governance policy, which can be found on SharePoint under Group Policies.

It is important that the personal information we hold about you is accurate and current. Please keep us informed if your personal information changes during your working relationship with us.

Your Rights of Access, Correction, Erasure and Restriction

Under certain circumstances, by law you have the right to:

- Access your personal information (commonly known as a “subject access request”). This allows you to receive a copy of the personal information we hold about you and to check we are lawfully processing it. You will not have to pay a fee to access your personal information. However, we may charge a reasonable fee if your request for access is clearly unfounded or excessive. Alternatively, we may refuse to comply with the request in such circumstances.
- Correction of the personal information we hold about you. This enables you to have any inaccurate information we hold about you corrected.
- Erasure of your personal information. You can ask us to delete or remove personal data if there is no good reason for us continuing to process it.
- Restriction of processing your personal information. You can ask us to suspend processing personal information about you in certain circumstances, for example, if you want us to establish its accuracy before processing it.
- To object to processing in certain circumstances (for example for direct marketing purposes).
- To transfer your personal information to another party.

If you want to exercise any of the above rights, please contact the Data Protection Officer in writing.

We may need to request specific information from you to help us confirm your identity and ensure your right to access the information (or to exercise any of your other rights).

Right to Withdraw Consent

In the limited circumstances where you may have provided your consent to the collection, processing and transfer of your personal information for a specific purpose, you have the right to withdraw your consent for that specific processing at any time. To withdraw your consent, please contact your manager. Once we have received notification that you have withdrawn your consent, we will no longer process your information for the purpose or purposes you originally agreed to, unless we have another legitimate basis for doing so in law.

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We hope that your manager can resolve any query you raise about our use of your information in the first instance.

We have appointed a data protection officer (DPO) to oversee compliance with data protection and this privacy notice. If you have any questions about how we handle your personal information which cannot be resolve by your manager, then you can contact the DPO on the details below: -

Data Protection Officer: Marie Turner
Marie.Turner@the-aurora-group.com

How to Raise a Concern

If you have any concerns about how we handle your personal data, we encourage you to contact us in the first instance so we can try to resolve the issue.

You have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office, the UK supervisory authority for data protection issues.

- Report a concern online at https://ico.org.uk/concerns/
- Call 0303 123 1113
- Or write to: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Changes to this Privacy Notice

We reserve the right to update this privacy notice at any time, and we will provide you with a new privacy notice when we make any substantial updates. We may also notify you in other ways from time to time about the processing of your personal information.

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