

Privacy Policy

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that in the course of Ascham's activities, personal information is managed and protected in accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act and the Office of the Australian Government Information Commissioner (OAIC) Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).

2. SCOPE

This policy outlines the circumstances in which the Ascham School obtains personal information, how that information is used and how requests to access and/or change that information are managed.

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers and contractors of Ascham and its related bodies.

3. WHAT IS PERSONAL INFORMATION?

Personal information is information or an opinion about an individual from which they can be reasonably identified. Depending on the circumstances, Ascham may collect personal information from the individual in their capacity as a student, parent, prospective parent, alumni, contractor, volunteer, stakeholder, and job applicant or in some other capacity.

In the course of providing services and as part of our recruitment processes for employees, contractors and volunteers we may collect and hold the following types of personal information:

- **Personal Information** - including names, addresses and other contact details, dates of birth; next of kin details, citizenship, employment references, regulatory accreditation, media, directorships property ownership and drivers licence information, financial information, photographic images and attendance records.
- **Sensitive Information** - including religious beliefs, languages spoken at home, government identifiers (such as TFN), nationality, country of birth, languages spoken at home, professional or union memberships, family court orders and criminal records
- **Health Information** - (particularly in relation to student, prospective staff and parent records) including medical records, disabilities, immunisation details and psychological reports, individual health care plans, nutrition and dietary requirements

4. COLLECTION AND USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The collection of personal information depends on the circumstances in which Ascham is collecting it. If it is reasonable and practical to do so, we collect personal information directly from the individual.

Generally, we will seek consent from the individual in writing before we collect their sensitive information (including health information).

4.1. Solicited Information

Ascham has, where possible, attempted to standardise the collection of personal information by using specifically designed forms. However, given the nature of our operations, we often also receive personal information by email, letters, notes, over the telephone, in face to face meetings, through financial transactions and through surveillance activities such as the use of CCTV security cameras or email monitoring.

We may also collect personal information from other people (e.g. a third-party administrator, referees for prospective employees) or independent sources. However, we will only do so where it is not reasonable and practical to collect the personal information from the individual directly.

4.2. Information Collected From The Ascham Website

Information based on how individuals use the Ascham website may be collected. 'Cookies' and other data collection methods are used to collect information on website activity such as the number of visitors, the number of pages viewed and the internet advertisements which bring visitors to our website. This information is collected to analyse and improve our website, marketing campaigns and to record statistics on web traffic. We do not use this information to personally identify individuals.

4.3. Unsolicited Information

Ascham may be provided with personal information without having sought it through our normal means of collection. This is known as 'unsolicited information' and is often collected by:

- Misdirected postal mail – letters, notes and documents
- Misdirected electronic mail – emails and electronic messages
- Employment applications sent to us that are not in response to an advertised vacancy
- Additional information provided to us which was not requested

Unsolicited information obtained by Ascham will only be held, used and/or disclosed if it is considered as personal information that could have been collected by normal means. If that unsolicited information could not have been collected by normal means then we will destroy, permanently delete or de-identify the personal information as appropriate.

5. COLLECTION AND USE OF SENSITIVE AND HEALTH INFORMATION

Sensitive information is only collected if it is:

- Reasonably necessary for one or more of our functions or activities (the primary purpose), and we have the individuals consent
- Necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to life, health or safety
- Another permitted general situation
- Another permitted health situation

The School may share sensitive information with other related entities but only if necessary for us to provide our services.

6. HOW DO WE USE PERSONAL INFORMATION?

Ascham only uses personal information that is reasonably necessary for one or more of our functions or activities (the primary purpose) or for a related secondary purpose that would be reasonably expected by the individual for an activity or purpose to which the individual has consented, or to which you have consented.

The School's primary uses of personal information include but are not limited to:

- Providing education, pastoral care, extra-curricular and health services
- Satisfying our legal obligations including our duty of care and child protection obligations
- Keeping parents informed as to school community matters through correspondence, newsletters and magazines
- Marketing, promotional and fundraising activities
- Supporting the activities of school associations such as Ascham Old Girls Union (AOGU)
- Supporting the activities of the Ascham Foundation Ltd
- Supporting community based causes and activities, charities and other causes in connection with the School's functions or activities
- Helping us to improve our day to day operations including training our staff
- Systems development; developing new programs and services; undertaking planning, research and statistical analysis school administration including for insurance purposes
- The employment of staff
- The engagement of volunteers.

7. STORAGE AND SECURITY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ascham stores personal, sensitive and health Information in a variety of formats including, but not limited to:

- Databases
- Hard copy files
- Personal devices, including laptop computers
- Third party storage providers such as cloud storage facilities
- Paper based files
- Mobile phones, cameras and other recording devices

Ascham School takes all reasonable steps to protect the personal, sensitive and health information we hold from misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

These steps include, but are not limited to:

- Restricting access and user privilege of information by staff depending on their role and responsibilities
- Ensuring staff do not share personal passwords
- Ensuring hardcopy files are stored in lockable filing cabinets in lockable rooms. Staff access is subject to user privilege
- Implementing physical security measures on Ascham premises to prevent break-ins
- Ensuring our IT and cyber security systems, policies and procedures are implemented and up to date
- Ensuring staff comply with internal policies and procedures when handling the information
- Undertaking due diligence with respect to third party service providers who may have access to personal information, including cloud service providers, to ensure as far as practicable that they are compliant with the Australian Privacy Principles or a similar privacy regime.
- The destruction, deletion or de-identification of personal information we hold that is no longer needed or required to be retained by any other laws

Our public website may contain links to other third-party websites outside of Ascham. Ascham is not responsible for the information stored, accessed, used or disclosed on such websites and we cannot comment on their privacy policies.

8. RESPONDING TO DATA BREACHES

Ascham will take appropriate, prompt action if we have reasonable grounds to believe that a data breach may have, or is suspected to have occurred. Depending on the type of data breach, this may include a review of our internal security procedures, taking remedial internal action, notifying affected individuals and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).

If we are unable to notify individuals, we will publish a statement on our website and take reasonable steps to publicise the contents of this statement.

9. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Personal information is used for the purposes for which it was given to Ascham, or for purposes which are directly related to one or more of our functions or activities.

Personal information may be disclosed to government agencies, related entities and other recipients from time to time, if the individual:

- Has given consent or
- Would reasonably expect the personal information to be disclosed in that manner

Ascham may disclose personal information without consent or in a manner which an individual would reasonably expect if:

- We are required to do so by law
- The disclosure will lessen or prevent a serious threat to the life, health or safety of an individual or to public safety
- Another permitted general situation applies
- Disclosure is reasonably necessary for a law enforcement related activity
- Another permitted health situation exists

We will only use or disclose sensitive or health information for a secondary purpose if you would reasonably expect us to use or disclose the information and the secondary purpose is directly related to the primary purpose.

Ascham may disclose information about an individual to overseas recipients only when it is necessary, for example to facilitate a student exchange program. The School will not send sensitive or health information about an individual outside of Australia without their consent.

10. DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION TO OVERSEAS RECIPIENTS

Limited personal information about an individual may be disclosed to an overseas organisation in the course of providing our services, for example when using learning websites provided by a 'cloud service provider' which stores data outside of Australia.

The School will take all reasonable steps to limit the individual's personal information required to be disclosed to that which is only absolutely necessary to use the service, and will:

- Conduct an assessment to ensure that the overseas recipient is compliant with the Australian Privacy Principles, or a similar privacy regime, prior to disclosure.
- Take immediate and appropriate action in relation to suspected unlawful activity or serious misconduct.

11. PERSONAL INFORMATION OF STUDENTS

The Privacy Act does not differentiate between adults and children and does not specify an age after which individuals can make their own decisions with respect to their personal information.

At Ascham we take a common sense approach to dealing with a student's personal information and generally will refer any requests for personal information to a student's parents/carers. We will treat notices provided to parents/carers as notices provided to students and we will treat consents provided by parents/carers as consents provided by a student.

We are, however, cognisant of the fact that children do have rights under the Privacy Act, and that in certain circumstances (especially when dealing with older students and especially when dealing with sensitive information), it will be appropriate to seek and obtain consents directly from students. We also acknowledge that there may be occasions where a student may give or withhold consent with respect to the use of their personal information independently from their parents/carers.

There may also be occasions where parents/carers are denied access to information with respect to their children, because to provide such information would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others, or result in a breach of the School's duty of care to the student.

12. THE QUALITY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Ascham takes all reasonable steps to ensure the personal information we hold, use and disclose is accurate, complete and up to date, including at the time of using or disclosing the information.

If we become aware that the Personal Information is incorrect or out of date, we will take reasonable steps to rectify the incorrect or out of date information.

Please contact us if any of the details you have provided change. You should also contact us if you believe that the information we have about you is not accurate, complete or up to date.

13. ACCESS AND CORRECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Individuals may submit a request to the School for access to the personal information we hold, or request that we change the personal information. Upon receiving such a request, we will take steps to verify the individual's identity before granting access or correcting the information.

If the School rejects the request, you will be notified accordingly. Where appropriate, we will provide the reason/s for our decision. If the rejection relates to a request to change personal information, an individual may make a statement about the requested change and we will attach this to their record.

14. Complaints

An individual can make a complaint about how Ascham manages personal information by notifying us in writing as soon as possible. We will respond to the complaint within a reasonable time (usually no longer than 30 days) and we may seek further information in order to provide a full and complete response.

Ascham does not charge a fee for the handling of complaints.

If the individual is not satisfied with the School's response, they may refer the complaint to the OAIC using the OAIC online [Privacy Complaint form](#) or by mail, fax or email.

A referral to OAIC should be a last resort once all other avenues of resolution have been exhausted.

15. How to contact us

Ascham can be contacted about this Privacy Policy or about or about your personal information generally by:

- Emailing: privacy@ascham.nsw.edu.au
- Calling: 02 8356 7000
- Writing to our Privacy Officer at 188 New South Head Road, Edgecliff NSW 2027

If practical, you can contact the School anonymously (i.e. without identifying yourself) or by using a pseudonym. However, if you choose not to identify yourself, we may not be able to give you the information or provide the assistance you might otherwise receive if it is not practical to do so.

16. CHANGES TO THE ASCHAM PRIVACY AND INFORMATION HANDLING PROCEDURES

This Privacy Policy is subject to change at any time. Please check our Privacy Policy on our website (www.ascham.nsw.edu.au) regularly for any changes.

17. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- Government Information (Public Access) Act, 2009 (NSW)
- Privacy Act, 1998 (Commonwealth)
- Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act, 1998 (NSW)

18. KEY RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Ascham Acceptable Use Policy
- Ascham Information Security Policy

19. POLICY INFORMATION

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