

Privacy Policy

Policy Statement

In carrying out its educational and welfare functions, Advance College collects personal information about students, parents/carers and staff. The school is committed to protecting the privacy of all information collected. All employees, Committee members and volunteers are required by law to protect the personal information the school collects and holds. All members of the Advance College community have the right to understand how their personal information will be stored, used and disposed of.

Guidelines

Advance College is bound by the Victorian privacy laws, the Information Privacy Act 2000 and the Health Records Act 2001, as well as other laws that impose specific obligations in regard to handling personal and health information that directly or indirectly identifies a person. The privacy policy and principles in this document are in accordance with these laws and the Department of Education and Training (DET) Information Privacy Policy.

Personal information means information or opinion that is recorded in any form and whether true or not, about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can be reasonably determined from the information or opinion. For example, this includes all paper and electronic records, photographs and video recordings.

Health information is defined as including information or opinion about a person's physical, mental or psychological health, or disability, which is also classified as personal information. This includes information or opinion about a person's health status and medical history, whether recorded or not.

Sensitive information is defined as information relating to a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religion, trade union, or other professional, or trade association membership, sexual preferences, or criminal record that is also classified as personal information about an individual.

In this policy personal information refers to personal information, health information and sensitive information unless otherwise specified.

Advance College is bound by the DET Information Privacy Policy. In broad terms, this means that it:

- collects only information which is required for a specified primary purpose
- ensures that the person supplying the information knows why the information is collected and how it will be handled
- uses and discloses information only for the primary or a directly related purpose, or for another purpose with the person's consent (unless otherwise required, permitted or authorised by law)
- stores information securely, protecting it from unauthorised access and retaining it for the period authorised by the Public Records Act 1973, and takes reasonable steps to permanently de-identify personal or health information when it is no longer needed
- provides people with access to their own personal information and permits people to seek corrections if necessary. This will usually be handled under the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

Implementation

Upon collection of personal information Advance College will:

- address the privacy issues relevant to their functions and only collect and use this information in accordance with the privacy principles
- manage this information according to privacy policies created for the area of service DET provides in accordance with the privacy principles.

The school will use and disclose personal information about a student, parent and staff when:

- it is required for general administration duties and statutory functions
- it relates to the purposes for which it was collected, and
- for a purpose that is directly related to the reason the information was collected and the use would be reasonably expected by the individual and there is no reason to believe they would object to the disclosure.

The school can disclose personal information for another purpose when:

- the person consents, or
- it is necessary to lessen or prevent a serious or imminent threat to life, health or safety, or
- is required by law or for law enforcement purposes

Where consent for the use and disclosure of personal information is required, including the use of photographs in school or other publications, the school will seek consent from the appropriate person. In the case of a student's personal information Advance College will generally seek the consent of the student's parents and will treat consent given by the parent as consent given on behalf of the student.

Any complaints received by the school about personal information privacy will be investigated in accordance with the DET privacy complaints handling policy.

Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-year review cycle or upon changes to the privacy legislation or DET practice.

References

For additional information see:

Privacy Victoria www.privacy.vic.gov.au

DET Requests for Information about Students

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/requestinfo.aspx>

DET Information Privacy Policy

<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/govrel/Policy/privacy-pol.pdf>

DET's Acceptable Use Policy for ICT systems

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/infrastructure/Pages/acceptableuse.aspx>

Advance College's Acceptable Use of Digital Technologies Agreement for Students