

SHRN 2025 Data Collection: Data Privacy Notice

Purpose of this Data Privacy Notice

The purpose of this notice is to give assurance that The School Health Research Network's (SHRN) [2025 Data collection](#) complies with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act, 2018.

While the SHRN survey primarily collects anonymous data, some learners may choose to consent to data linkage. This process involves securely connecting survey responses with other existing data sources (e.g., educational records) to enable richer analysis. When data linkage is undertaken, personal and special category data—such as ethnicity and sex—are collected to allow for more detailed analysis and understanding of health and well-being outcomes.

This privacy notice details how we collect, use and store personal data to ensure full compliance with data protection legislation.

About The School Health Research Network (SHRN)

SHRN is a research-policy-practice partnership between [Cardiff University](#), [Welsh Government](#) and [Public Health Wales](#) which generates and translates research evidence to improve young people's health and well-being in Wales. SHRN is funded by Welsh Government.

Every two years, secondary schools in Wales, who are members of SHRN, are invited to take part in [The SHRN Student Health and Well-being Survey](#) as part of the 2025 Data Collection. Findings from this survey are fed back to schools through bespoke Health and Well-being reports to help schools base the work they do to improve learner health and well-being on robust data. Importantly, all data shared with schools are aggregated at the school level, meaning no individual learners are identifiable in the reports.

Why Do We Collect Personal Data?

Personal data are collected from consenting learners to facilitate data linkage research. This is where a learner's survey responses are securely and anonymously linked to data held about them in other databases, e.g. NHS and education records.

What Personal Information Do We Collect About You?

The SHRN Student Health and Well-being Survey invites learners to share information about aspects of their mental and physical health and social relationships and basic demographic details. We additionally collect the following personally identifiable information from learners who consent for their

survey data to be used for data linkage research:

- First name and surname.
- Date of birth.
- Postcode.

The survey also invites learners to provide the following special category data

- Ethnic origin.
- Data concerning sexual activity from learners in school years 11 to 13. Learners in Year 9 and Year 10 may also be asked questions about their sexual activity if their school has consented.
- Data concerning health

How Do We Collect Personal Data?

- The survey is managed by Ipsos (the data processor) on behalf of Cardiff University (the data controller).
- A question asking for identifiable information — name, date of birth, and postcode — appears at the end of the survey. Learners can choose not to answer this question if they prefer.

For what purpose will your Personal Data be used?

Under data protection law, we are required to specify the legal basis for processing your personal data. In this research, your data is processed under the legal basis that it is necessary for the performance of a public task — specifically, for scientific and historical research purposes. This processing is carried out in line with appropriate safeguards and is considered to be in the public interest. Cardiff University, as a public research institution established by Royal Charter, is committed to advancing knowledge and education through its teaching and research. You can find our Charter on the [Cardiff University](#) website.

How Do We Store Personal Data?

Data are collected by Ipsos, who are contractually bound to process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation, and then securely transferred to Cardiff University.

Personal data is stored in a restricted access folder on a secure university server, protected against unauthorised access by user authentication and a firewall. Identifiable information is stored in a password protected file within the folder. Only those members of staff who need access to relevant personal data will be authorized to do so.

There are no paper copies of personal data, including identifiable information.

Who Will Have Access To Your Data And How Will It Be Secured?

Personal data are only shared with a trusted third party, via secure file transfer, to support the data linkage process at the [SAIL Databank](https://saildatabank.com/). The trusted third party does not receive any other data collected from The SHRN Student Health and Well-being Survey. Personal data are used to assign a unique, non-identifiable ID number to each consenting learner. This ID is then used to anonymously link a learner's survey answers to data held about them from other trusted sources, e.g., health or education records, within the SAIL Databank. For more information on this process, please refer to our Data Linkage leaflet and recording, or visit: <https://saildatabank.com/>.

Who Will Have Access to Your Data and How Will It Be Secured?

Personal data will not be shared outside the UK and European Economic Area.

How Long Will Your Personal Data Be Held?

Personal data collected at the end of the survey to enable data linkage will be retained for a minimum of five years in accordance with [Cardiff University's](#) Records Retention Schedule.

Identity of the Data Controller

Cardiff University is the Data Controller and is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data in accordance with your expectations and Data Protection legislation. The University has a Data Protection Officer who can be contacted at inforequest@cardiff.ac.uk.

Your Data Protection Rights

Further information about Data Protection, including your rights and details about how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office should you wish to complain, can be found at the following: [Your data protection rights - Public information - Cardiff University](#)

Please note that your rights to access, modify, or transfer your personal data may be limited. This is because we must handle your information in specific ways to ensure the research remains reliable and accurate. If you choose to withdraw from the study, we will retain any data already collected about you up to that point, as permitted under data protection legislation. However, you have the right to object to the continued processing of your personal data. Where our lawful basis for processing is the performance of a task in the public interest, we will consider your objection carefully and assess whether our need to continue processing your data overrides your individual rights and freedoms. To protect your privacy, we use only the minimum amount of personally identifiable information necessary for the research.

For any queries or questions relating to this data privacy statement please email the [SHRN Team](#).

Document last updated: 4 September 2025