

Tusla Education Support Service (TESS)

Data Protection Notice for the Educational Welfare Service

This notice was last reviewed in September 2025.



Tusla Education Support Services (TESS) operates under the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, which requires Tusla to promote school attendance, participation, and retention of all children in the state in the education system. TESS has three strands namely:

1. the Educational Welfare Service (EWS) and two school support services:
2. the Home School Community Liaison Scheme (HSCL) and
3. the School Completion Programme (SCP).

The three TESS strands work together collaboratively with schools, families, and other relevant services to achieve better educational outcomes for children and young people. The EWS is the only strand under the direct remit of Tusla and is subject to the agencies policies and procedures, regarding the processing of personal data.

This notice outlines the relevant processes to describe the purpose, types of personal data, and to whom information may be shared with, where there is a purpose to do so.

Process Name	Personal Data	Purpose*	Information may be shared with
Reporting (Student Absence Reports (SARs))	• Identification information including name and surname of student • Reporter job role and contact details • Age, gender, date of birth of child • Educational information • Location information (School Attended) • PPSN	To fulfil the State's national obligations, data on the attendance of children in schools is annually compiled and reported on. These anonymised reports are publicly available on Tusla's website.	• Aggregate data reports (anonymised) are provided to the Department of Education and Youth from the SAR
Referral (Notice of intention to expel, Reduced school day)	• Identification information including name and surname • Contact details of parents/guardians and referrers • Age, gender, date of birth of child • School attendance • Education information and assessments, including special educational needs • Family, lifestyle, and social circumstances information	Referrals are made using the online Tusla portal or by paper by: – Primary and post-primary schools – Parents/legal guardians – Educational Welfare Officer – Agencies, professionals, or organisations providing services to children, young people, and families	• Primary and post-primary schools • Department of Education and Youth • Ombudsman and Regulatory authorities • Department of Justice (For International Protection Accommodation Services 'IPAS' purposes) • Department of Social Protection • National Council for Special Education • National Educational Psychological Service • Medical Professionals

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- Housing status, including homelessness, or living in International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) accommodation.
- Language of communication
- Nationality, citizenship
- Health, medical, disability, or care status, racial and/or ethnic origin, religion, and religious beliefs
- Job role of referrer
- PPSN

- Community Based Organisations
- An Garda Síochána
- Schools and educational professionals
- Other education and training providers such as Youthreach, Community Training Centre

Case Work (School Attendance, Expulsion, Reduced School Day Interventions)	• Identification information including name and surname • Contact details of parents/guardians • Date of birth of child • Family, lifestyle, and social circumstances information • School attendance • Education information and assessments, including special educational needs • Housing status, including homelessness, or living in International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) accommodation. • Language of communication • Nationality, Citizenship • Health, medical, disability, or care status, racial and/or ethnic origin, religion, and religious beliefs • PPSN	When a Referral is allocated to an Educational Welfare Officer (EWO), they will develop a proactive, educational welfare plan to promote and support the attendance, participation, engagement and retention of children and young people within the education system.	• Department of Social Protection • Parents/legal guardians • Schools and educational professionals • Other education and training providers such as Youthreach, Community Training Centre • Community and voluntary based support • Department of Education and Youth • Ombudsman and Regulatory authorities • National Council for Special Education • National Educational Psychological Service • Medical professionals • Community Based Organisations • An Garda Síochána
Court and Legal Proceedings	• Identification information including name and surname • Contact details of parents/guardian • Gender and date of birth of child • Location information (School Attended) • School attendance	If a parent neglects or fails in his or her duty to ensure that their child attends school, then the Educational Welfare Officer has the power to take legal action against the parent under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.	• Legal representatives • Court • Probation Services

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*Purpose and Legal Basis

Our purpose for processing personal data is to provide educational support services to children and young people, promoting school attendance, participation, and retention.

We rely on the following legal basis for processing personal data:

- It is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which Tusla are subject, in particular:
 - Education (Welfare) Act 2000
 - Section 3 of the Child Care Act 1991
 - The Child and Family Agency Act 2013
- It is necessary for the performance of tasks carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority.

The processing of special category data is necessary:

- For reasons of substantial public interest, based on Article 9(2)(g) of the General Data Protection Regulation and Article 51 of the Data Protection Act 2018.
- For the purposes of the provision and management of social care systems and services.

Data Protection Rights

All individuals have legal rights in relation to their personal data. For further data protection information or to exercise these data rights please see the main [Tusla Data Protection Notice](#)