



PRIVACY POLICY

Statement of Context and Purpose

In the course of Huntingtower's activities, we manage and protect personal information in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the 13 Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), as well as the requirements of the Health Records Act (Vic) (the Health Privacy Principles).

This policy outlines the circumstances in which we obtain personal information, how we use and disclose that information and how we manage requests to access and/or change that information. Under the NDB scheme, Huntingtower will notify individuals whose personal information is involved in certain data breaches and the Australian Information Commissioner.

Application

This policy applies to all Huntingtower students, employees, parents, alumni, donors, applicants for employment at the School, prospective parents, the School Board, Committee members, sponsors, volunteers, visitors, and guests and any person accessing the School systems.

Collection of your Personal Information

Personal information is information or an opinion about an individual from which they can be reasonably identified. Depending on the circumstances, we may collect personal information from the individual in their capacity as a student, a staff member, contractor, volunteer, stakeholder, job applicant, visitors or others that come into contact with the School.

In the course of providing services, we may collect and hold:

- **Personal Information** including names, addresses and other contact details, dates of birth next of kin details, photographic images, attendance records, and financial information.
- **Sensitive Information** (particularly in relation to student and parent records) including government identifiers (such as TFN), religious beliefs, nationality, country of birth, professional memberships, family court orders, and criminal records.
- **Health Information** (particularly in relation to student and parent records) including medical records, disabilities, immunisation details, and psychological reports.

As part of our recruitment processes for employees, contractors and volunteers, we may collect and hold:

- **Personal Information** including names, addresses and other contact details, dates of birth, financial information, citizenship, employment references, regulatory accreditation, media, and driver's licence information.
- **Sensitive Information** including government identifiers (such as TFN), nationality, country of birth, professional memberships, family court orders, and criminal records.
- **Health Information** (particularly in relation to prospective staff and student records) including medical records, disabilities, immunisation details, and psychological reports.

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

It is noted that employee records are not covered by the Australian Privacy Principles or the Health Privacy Principles where they relate to current or former employment relations between Huntingtower and the employee.

Collection of personal information

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

Solicited information

Huntingtower has, where possible, attempted to standardise the collection of personal information by using specifically designed forms (for example, an Enrolment Form or Medical Information Form). However, given the nature of our operations, we also receive personal information by email, letters, notes, via our website, over the telephone, in face-to-face meetings, through financial transactions and email monitoring.

We may also collect personal information from other people (for example, 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.

We may collect information based on how individuals use our website. We use 'cookies' and other data collection methods 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 and to record statistics on web traffic. We do not use this information to personally identify individuals

Unsolicited information

Huntingtower School 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, documents
- misdirected electronic mail – emails, 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 Huntingtower 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.

Collection and use of sensitive information

We only collect sensitive information if it is:

- reasonably necessary for one or more of these functions or activities, and we have the individual's consent
- necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to life, health or safety
- another permitted general situation
- another permitted health situation

We may share sensitive information with other entities in our organisational structure, but only if necessary for us to provide our services.

How do we use personal information?

Huntingtower 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 you or for an activity or purpose to which you have consented.

Our 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 Parents and Friends
- supporting community-based causes and activities, charities and other causes in connection with Huntingtower'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
- Huntingtower administration including for insurance purposes
- the employment and contacting (communications with) staff
- the engagement of volunteers

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.

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

Child Safe Information

Huntingtower is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of record-keeping when it comes to child safety incidents and concerns, adhering to the guidelines outlined by the Public Record Office Victoria Recordkeeping Standards, which include specified retention periods.

The School recognises that effective record management is an essential aspect of addressing child safety incidents and concerns. The School is committed to upholding the confidentiality and privacy of students and their families in compliance with both federal and state privacy legislation.

Storage and security of personal information

Huntingtower stores personal information in a variety of formats including, but not limited to:

- databases
- hard copy files
- personal devices, including iPads and laptop
- third party storage providers such as cloud storage facilities
- paper based files

Huntingtower takes all reasonable steps to protect the personal 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 hard copy files are stored in lockable filing cabinets in lockable rooms. Staff access is subject to user privilege
- ensuring access to Huntingtower's premises are secured at all times
- implementing security measures around the School buildings and grounds 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 customer identification providers and cloud service providers, to ensure as far as practicable that they are compliant with the APPs 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 Huntingtower. Huntingtower is not responsible for the information stored, accessed, used or disclosed on such websites and we cannot comment on their privacy policies.

Responding to data breaches

Huntingtower 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.

Disclosure of personal information

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

Personal information may be disclosed to government agencies, other parents, other schools, recipients of Huntingtower publications, visiting teachers, counsellors and coaches, our services providers, agents, contractors, business partners, related entities and other recipients from time to time, if the individual:

- has given consent
- would reasonably expect the personal information to be disclosed in that manner

Huntingtower 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

Disclosure of your personal information to overseas recipients

Personal information about an individual may be disclosed to an overseas organisation in the course of providing our services, for example, when storing information with a 'cloud service provider' which stores data outside of Australia.

We will however take all reasonable steps not to disclose an individual's personal information to overseas recipients unless:

- we have the individual's consent (which may be implied)
- we have satisfied ourselves that the overseas recipient is compliant with the APPs, or a similar privacy regime
- we form the opinion that the disclosure will lessen or prevent a serious threat to the life, health or safety of an individual or to public safety
- we are taking appropriate action in relation to suspected unlawful activity or serious misconduct

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 Huntingtower 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.

The quality of personal information

We take 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 Huntingtower becomes 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.

Correction of personal information

Under the Commonwealth Privacy Act and the Health Records Act, an individual has the right to obtain access to any personal information which Huntingtower holds about them and to advise Huntingtower of any perceived inaccuracy. Students will generally be able to access and update their personal information through their Parents. There are some exceptions to these rights set out in the applicable legislation.

To update any personal information Huntingtower holds about a parent or student, can be done online by the parent by logging in to their Huntingtower account. If we cannot provide the parent with access to that information they require, we will provide them with written notice explaining the reasons for refusal and the mechanisms available to complain about the refusal.

Consent and rights of access to the personal information of students

Huntingtower respects every Parent's right to make decisions concerning their child's education. Generally, Huntingtower will refer any requests for consent and notices in relation to the personal information of a student to the student's Parents. Huntingtower will treat consent given by Parents as consent given on behalf of the student and notice to Parents will act as notice given to the student.

Destruction

Personal information which is no longer required for an authorised purpose will be destroyed or permanently de-identified. Destruction of records containing personal information is done by secure means and in compliance with the Records Retention & Disposal Schedule for Non-Government Schools. Reasonable steps to destroy paper documents that contain personal information include shredding, pulping or disintegration of paper. The reasonableness of steps taken to destroy personal information contained in electronic records will depend on the medium within which the data is stored and the available methods for erasing data.

Complaints

You can make a complaint about how Huntingtower manages personal information, including a breach of the APPs or the Health Privacy Principles, 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.

If you are not satisfied with our response, you may refer the complaint to the OAIC. A complaint can be made 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.

Contacting us

If practical, you can contact us anonymously (that is, 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.

Changes to our privacy and information handling practices

This Privacy Policy is subject to change at any time. Please check our Privacy Policy on our website regularly for any changes.

Communication

This Policy will be available on the School website. In addition, relevant aspects of this Policy will be raised in staff, student and parent meetings.

Evaluation

The Principal is primarily responsible for monitoring Huntingtower's overall compliance with this policy which will be reviewed as part of the Huntingtower's policy review cycle. To accommodate changes in legislation, technologies, programs, and resources available to the School this policy may be reviewed earlier or as required.

Authorisation

This policy was authorised by the Principal in March 2018

Reviewed September 2018, August 2019, October 2023

Date of next review October 2024