

Dear NMS community,

The Internet has massively changed the way we live and learn. Since May 25th all European organisations have to adhere to the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), a new set of rules and expectations that are meant to minimize digital data streams and to make data processing a great deal more transparent. At the Nelson Mandela School, a subgroup of the IT/Media Development Group, consisting of teachers and parents, has been working hard over the summer to ensure that our school is GDPR-ready.

What does this mean for us and why is this a useful change for us as members of the school community? This means that all of us now have the right to know and control how our data is used, storage and shared. This means that sensitive information about students is now more carefully tracked and stored and privacy has increased.

You may have noticed for instance, that we asked you to re-consent to the use of your child's picture on the website. We clarified what data is collected when you use the school website or the Buzz and asked your consent before you signed up for the class email lists. The processing of student and staff data has been reviewed and reduced. NMS staff have been informed and instructed and are working carefully to abide by these European-wide rules.

As teachers and administrators, we deal with personal data on a regular basis, NMS has taken the step of using Wire, with the financial support of the Friends of Nelson Mandela School (the Förderverein). Wire is one of the very few secure messenger services in Europe as it is fully GDPR compliant, has end-to-end encryption and keeps its servers in Europe. This means that student and other sensitive data is secured during communication and storage and cannot be accessed for non-school purposes. While this may mean an extra step for communication, it also means that this extra work keeps our information safer and more secure. The school keeps using its regular mail for all general organisational and curricular data traffic.

We thank the Friends for funding the professional version (Wire Education) for our school. The Friends of NMS supports the NMS through financial contributions (mostly) from NMS parents and works to improve NMS in many ways. If you're not a member, consider joining today by sending an email to friends@nelson-mandela-school.net.