

This DPA forms part of and is incorporated into the Terms of Service. Except for changes made by this DPA, the Terms of Service remains unchanged and in full force and effect. This DPA is part of the Terms of Service for the purpose of the entire agreement clause set out in the Terms of Service.

DATA PROCESSING ADDENDUM

Version: 1.2.0

Last updated: 25 August 2026

1 INTERPRETATION

1.1 In this DPA, the following terms have the meanings given to them below:

- 1.1.1 **“Data Protection Law”** means the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (**“GDPR”**) and the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018.
- 1.1.2 **“DOTS”** means the Drumcondra Online Testing System platform provided by the ERC.
- 1.1.3 **“Effective Date”** means the date that the School Coordinator accepts the DOTS terms and conditions.
- 1.1.4 **“ERC”** means Educational Research Centre, a statutory body established under section 54 of the Education Act 1998 and having its address at DCU, St Patrick’s College Campus D09 AN2F.
- 1.1.5 **“Group Level Data”** means the group-level data derived from the School Data as set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.1.6 **“Permitted Purpose”** means the provision of statistical reports to the Department of Education and fulfilment of the ERC’s statutory functions including future re-development or enhancement of ERC tests and the support of essential administrative functions of the ERC’s test department (including stock control).
- 1.1.7 **“Personal Data Breach”** means any breach of security resulting in the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure of, or access to, School Data processed by the ERC on behalf of the School.
- 1.1.8 **“School”** means the school on whose behalf the School Coordinator has created an account with DOTS.
- 1.1.9 **“School Coordinator”** means the person who, by creating an Administration Account on DOTS, has represented to the ERC that he/she has authority to bind the School to the DOTS terms and conditions, including this DPA.
- 1.1.10 **“School Data”** means any personal data provided by the School or generated by the ERC in the course of the ERC’s provision of the Services but excludes any Group Level Data.
- 1.1.11 **“Services”** means the provision of testing and scoring services through the DOTS platform.

- 1.1.12 **“Storage Period”** has the meaning given to it at the top of this DPA.
- 1.1.13 **“Terms of Service”** means the agreement between the ERC and the School dated on or around the date of this DPA for the provision of access and use of, and ordering of services through, DOTS. In this DPA, “personal data”, “process/processing”, “controller”, “processor” and “data subject” have the same meaning as set out in the GDPR.
- 1.1.14 **“Test Materials”** means any materials supplied by the ERC to the School for the purposes of enabling the school to administer, score and interpret test results including test booklets, answer sheets manuals, scoring instructions/stencils, scoring/reporting software, login credentials and test credits.
- 1.2 The term “subprocessor” means a processor engaged by the ERC in connection with the processing of School Data.
- 1.3 Each of the ERC and the School are referred to as a “Party” and together the “Parties”.
- 1.4 Any words following the terms including, include, in particular, for example or any similar expression must be construed as illustrative and do not limit the sense of the words, description, definition, phrase or term preceding those terms.
- 1.5 Any notice given under this DPA may be given: (i) by email to the Account Administrator (as defined in the Terms of Use); or (ii) through the Account Administrator’s DOTS account.
- 1.6 A reference to a statute or statutory provision is a reference to it as amended, extended or re-enacted from time to time and includes all subordinate legislation made from time to time under that statute or statutory provision.
- 1.7 References in this DPA to:
- 1.7.1 a clause is to a clause of this DPA;
- 1.7.2 an Appendix is to an appendix to this DPA.

2 HOW THIS DPA APPLIES

- 2.1 This DPA will become legally binding on the Parties as of the Effective Date and shall continue in force until either: (i) the expiration of the Storage Period; or (ii) the termination of the Services and this DPA by either Party under clause 14 of the [Terms of Service](#).
- 2.2 This DPA comprises of this document and Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1 The School’s obligations and rights are as outlined in this DPA.
- 3.2 The subject-matter and duration of the processing carried out by the ERC on behalf of the School, the nature and purpose of the processing, the type of personal data and the categories of data subjects are described in Appendix 1.

4 STATUS

- 4.1 The Parties acknowledge and agree that, for the purpose of Data Protection Law:
 - 4.1.1 the School is the controller of the School Data;
 - 4.1.2 the ERC is engaged by the School as its processor in relation to all School Data processed under this DPA; and
 - 4.1.3 the ERC is an independent controller of the Group Level Data and will process such data in accordance with clause 8.
- 4.2 The School and the ERC shall at all times during the term of this DPA comply with its respective obligations under applicable Data Protection Law in performing its obligations under this DPA.
- 4.3 The School and the ERC recognise that the Test Materials should not be released to students and/or their parents having regard to the confidentiality of the Test Materials. The School confirms that, in meeting its obligations in relation to data protection insofar as the Test Materials is concerned, the School will use its best endeavours to maintain the confidentiality of the Test Materials whilst complying at all times with its data protection obligations and will advise the ERC within 24 hours in the event of any risk of the confidentiality of the Test Materials being potentially compromised in any way'.

5 THE ERC RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 The ERC (in its capacity as a processor only) agrees with the School (as controller) that it shall:
 - 5.1.1 process School Data only in accordance with the School's documented instructions, as are set out in this DPA or agreed between the Parties as part of the Services, unless required to do so by mandatory EU or national law to which ERC is subject; in such cases ERC will inform the School of that legal requirement before processing the personal data, unless it is precluded from doing so by law;
 - 5.1.2 ensure that the ERC's personnel that process the School Data are subject to appropriate contractual or statutory obligations of confidentiality;
 - 5.1.3 implement appropriate technical and organisational measures, taking into account the state of the art, the costs of implementation and the nature, scope, context and purposes of processing as well as the risk of varying likelihood and severity for the rights and freedoms of natural persons, to ensure a level of security appropriate to the risk of the processing, in particular, the risk of accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to School Data as set out in Appendix 2;
 - 5.1.4 to the extent that the information is not directly available to the School through the Services, provide reasonable assistance (at the School's cost) to the School in respect of its fulfilment of its obligation as controller to respond to requests by data subjects under Chapter III of the GDPR, taking into account the nature of the Services and information available to the ERC;

- 5.1.5 promptly notify the School of any request or correspondence received from any data subject or data protection regulator in respect of School Data. The ERC shall not respond to any data subject unless agreed in writing with the School except to direct the data subject to the School as the controller of the School Data;
- 5.1.6 promptly (and in any event within 48 hours) notify the School of any Personal Data Breach and provide such information as the School reasonably requires in order to comply with its notification obligations under Articles 33 and 34 of the GDPR;
- 5.1.7 provide reasonable assistance (at the School's cost) to the School in ensuring the School's compliance under Articles 35 and 36 of the GDPR by providing information relating to the processing activities under this DPA that is reasonably available to the ERC;
- 5.1.8 retain the School Data for the Storage Period on behalf of the School in accordance with the terms of this DPA;
- 5.1.9 upon the School's written request, provide information regarding the ERC's compliance with the obligations in this DPA;
- 5.1.10 facilitate an audit requested in writing by the School of the systems and facilities used to process School Data on behalf of the School. Such audit may be conducted by the School or its authorized third-party auditor to assess the ERC's compliance with the terms of this DPA provided that the School: (i) shall not exercise its right of audit more than once per year (unless otherwise required by Data Protection Law or where the ERC suffers a Personal Data Breach involving School Data processed on behalf of the School); (ii) gives the ERC at least 4 weeks' written notice of intention to conduct an audit; (iii) shall conduct the audit in the least intrusive means possible and during normal business hours; and (iv) and any third-party auditor must sign any non-disclosure agreement requested by the ERC and shall comply with the ERC's security and other rules; and
- 5.1.11 promptly inform the School if the ERC is of the opinion that any instruction received from the School infringes applicable Data Protection Law, or if the ERC is unable to comply with the School's instructions.

6 SUBPROCESSORS AND TRANSFERS OF DATA

- 6.1 The School agrees that the ERC shall have general authorisation to engage subprocessors subject to this clause 6. A list of the subprocessors used by the ERC as at the date of this DPA is set out in Appendix 3 and the ERC shall be entitled to continue to use those subprocessors.
- 6.2 The ERC may engage a new subprocessor or change the role of its existing subprocessors provided it gives the School notice of this change. Any notice to the School under this clause 6.2 shall be given by email using the details given at the top of this DPA. The School shall have 14 days to notify the ERC of any reasonable grounds of objection to the change. Where the School objects to the change, the ERC may (but is under no obligation) to find a suitable workaround to avoid the use of the objected-to subprocessor. Where an alternative solution is not promptly agreed, either Party may terminate the affected Services.

- 6.3 If a subprocessor engaged by the ERC fails to fulfil its data protection obligations, the ERC shall remain fully liable for the performance of the subprocessor's obligations provided that such responsibility shall not increase the ERC's liability under this DPA.
- 6.4 Where ERC engages any subprocessor under this DPA it shall impose on the subprocessor, through a legally binding contract between the ERC and subprocessor, data protection obligations materially equivalent to those set out in this DPA.

7 TRANSFERS

- 7.1 As at the Effective Date, the ERC transfers data to the countries set out in Appendix 3.
- 7.2 The ERC shall:
 - 7.2.1 provide prior notice to the School of any intended processing of School Data outside the EEA beyond that processing set out in Appendix 3; and
 - 7.2.2 process School Data outside the EEA only:
 - (A) in an Adequate Country; or
 - (B) if the country or territory in which the School Data is processed is not an Adequate Country, if Appropriate Safeguards are in place in respect of the processing of the School Data by the ERC and, as applicable, its subprocessors.
- 7.3 For the purpose of this clause 7:
 - 7.3.1 **"Adequate Country"** means a country or territory in respect of which the European Commission, in accordance with European Data Protection Law, has declared there is an adequate level of protection for personal data, provided and only for so long as such decision of the European Commission remains in force and the recipient of the personal data satisfies the relevant adequacy conditions under that decision.
 - 7.3.2 **"Appropriate Safeguards"** means appropriate safeguards in respect of the processing of the personal data and on condition that enforceable data subject rights and effective legal remedies for data subjects are available with respect to any processing of personal data, in each case within the meaning of, and as determined by, Data Protection Law.

8 ERC AS INDEPENDENT CONTROLLER

- 8.1 The School acknowledges and agrees that the ERC shall generate and process Group Level Data as an independent controller. The Parties acknowledge and agree that they do not act as a joint controller in this regard.
- 8.2 The ERC shall process the Group Level Data for the Permitted Purpose only and for no other purpose.

9 DELETION OF SCHOOL DATA

- 9.1 Without affecting the School's right to request deletion of School Data at any time, on the expiration of the Storage Period or termination of this DPA, the ERC shall securely delete the School Data unless otherwise previously agreed in writing with the School.
- 9.2 The ERC shall retain a copy of any School Data which the ERC is required to retain by law.
- 9.3 The ERC shall, at the request of the School, provide written confirmation that all School Data has been deleted from the ERC's systems.

10 GENERAL

- 10.1 Any notifications provided under this DPA shall be sent to the email address of the party stated at the beginning of this DPA or such other email address as may be notified by a Party to the other from time to time. Notice shall be deemed to have been effected immediately upon transmission.
- 10.2 Each of the sections of this DPA operates separately. If any court or relevant authority decides that any of them are unlawful, the remaining sections will remain in full force and effect.
- 10.3 Any failure by either Party to exercise or any delay by either Party in exercising a right or remedy does not constitute a waiver of that right or remedy or of any other rights or remedies. A waiver by either Party of any breach of, or any default under, any provision of the DPA is not a general waiver or a waiver of any subsequent default or breach and in no way affects the other terms of this DPA.
- 10.4 The ERC may transfer its rights and obligations under this DPA to another entity or statutory body. The School may not transfer its rights and obligations under this DPA without the prior written consent of the ERC.
- 10.5 This DPA constitutes the entire agreement between the ERC and the School in relation to its subject matter and supersedes and extinguishes all previous agreements, promises, assurances, warranties, representations and understandings between the Parties, whether written or oral, relating to the processing of personal data in connection with the Services. Each Party may execute this DPA by any form of electronic signature. An electronic signature is conclusive evidence of a Party's intention to be bound by this DPA and has the same legal validity and enforceability as a wet ink signature for all purposes.
- 10.6 If a Party stores a duly executed copy of the DPA in an electronic format that maintains its integrity and allows unchanged reproduction of the stored information, this constitutes an original of this DPA and may be relied on as evidence of this DPA.
- 10.7 This DPA and any dispute or claim (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with it or its subject matter, existence, formation, interpretation, repudiation or termination are governed by, and construed in accordance with, the law of Ireland and the parties irrevocably agree that the courts of Ireland have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any such dispute or claim.

APPENDIX 1

Details of processing

Subject Matter	The processing is carried in connection with the provision of the Services by the ERC
Duration	As set out in clause 2.1 of the DPA.
Nature & Purpose of the Processing	ERC processes the personal data in order to provide the Services
Categories of Data Subjects	Teachers and students
Types of Personal Data, i.e. any information relating to an identified or identifiable person	• school name • school roll number • school contact details • class and/or teacher name • contact details of teacher • date of testing • pupil/student name • pupil/student date of birth • pupil/student gender • pupil/student • test item response • pupil/student test scores
Group Level data	The ERC will retain an anonymised copy of certain information for the Permitted Purpose. It will not be possible to link the test results back to the individual student that took the test. This information involves: • school roll number • school name • school contact details • counts of records • test score statistics
Storage Period	Any data entered by a school to the system during an academic year is deleted the January of the following academic year. This data includes all: • Student data – student names, student date of birth • Class data – class names, student information • Test data – test item responses from online tests, paper test • Reports data – any reports generated from completed online tests, machine-scoring or paper test scoring

	School Year	Data entered between	Cut-off download date
Data Storage Schedule	2025–2026	01/07/2025–30/06/2026	31/12/2026
	2026–2027	01/07/2026–30/06/2027	31/12/2027
	2027–2028	01/07/2027–30/06/2028	31/12/2028
School Coordinator & Teacher Information	The ERC will delete user data in relation to all schools which remain inactive on the system for a period of 2 years. All deletion of student test data and inactive School Coordinator data will take place in January of each calendar year after the completion of the retention period outlined above.		

APPENDIX 2

Security Measures

1 General Measures within the ERC

Employees of the ERC are aware of their responsibility towards the protection of data gathered and processed by the ERC. In order for the employees to be able to carry out their tasks in a secure environment, the following measures form the basis for secure data processing within the ERC:

Commitment to Confidentiality

All employees of the ERC have a confidentiality clause included in their employment contract and have a contractual obligation to ensure the security and integrity of the data they work with.

Compliance with Legislation

When working with data, whether working with digital data using IT systems and applications or working with data in hard copy formats, the ERC's employees must comply with the applicable data protection legislation as well as the ERC's policies and procedures. If employees are unsure about the application of the procedures, policies or as to whether and to what extent legislation must be observed, they should contact their Manager or the Data Protection Officer for clarification.

Employee Training and Awareness

Upon commencement of employment with the ERC, employees receive data protection training. Project Managers have also been trained on the completion of the Data Protection Impact Assessment tool and all new projects are reviewed and risk assessed for any potential concerns for personal data pertaining to the security and protection of the data. All employees receive refresher training and project team members participate in the DPIA process to ensure they are aware of the potential risks to data for the projects they work on.

Employees are required to immediately report security incidents to the Data Protection Officer, who will take care of further coordination and handling of the incident.

2 Technical and Organisational Measures

In order to ensure the confidentiality and security of the data and to protect against unauthorized access, the following measures are in place:

Entrance control

The access of unauthorized persons to the ERC buildings and to the data processing systems is denied through the following measures:

- Building access control system
- Building alarm system
- Secured IT server room (DCU, St. Patrick's Campus)
- Fire suppression system in IT server room (DCU, St. Patrick's Campus)
- Employee references checked prior to employment
- Specified cleaning and maintenance times
- Guests and external service providers are accompanied
- Sign-in at reception for non-ERC staff.

Access to systems

The unauthorized use of the data processing systems is prevented by the following measures:

- Specified user account for each employee
- Authentication with password
- Authentication via Active Directory
- Automated screen lock
- Dedicated network folders for projects and associated data
- Employee hiring and leaving processes.

The access to the systems is regulated by different user levels with different rights adapted to them:

- **Administrators:** The Administrators group has access to most resources. The systems are administrated exclusively by the IT department and the third-party service provider.
- **Selected users:** The project staff entrusted with the further processing of the data are provided with the necessary data to fulfil their work and to process the collected data.

Access to data

The following measures are taken to control access to data:

- Differentiated permissions for different transactions/ functions
- Access-rights are assigned by the IT department (or in certain limited cases, by the Project Manager) according to the specifications of the departments
- Disk encryption
- File encryption
- Secure deletion of data
- Strict password policies
- Regular password changes.

Malware protection

Each ERC user has Antivirus-Software installed. Automatic updates are enabled and monitored by IT. Infected IT systems are immediately disconnected from all networks and are no longer used productively until fully cleaned up. Depending on the extent or type of infestation, reinstallation may be necessary.

Backup and restore

The data is backed up on hard disks and tapes according to a planned and fixed schedule. The data recovery has been tested. The tapes are stored off-site in a secure storage area with a third-party provider.

Availability

To ensure the availability of the systems, the following measures are implemented:

- Connection to an uninterrupted power supply;
- Nightly backups;
- Tapes held off-site with a Third-Party Provider for business continuity purposes; and
- Monitoring of the systems, errors can be detected and fixed at an early stage.

3 Measures specific to the Services

School Data inputted by Schools through DOTS is stored on an encrypted server hosted in the EEA on the secure Microsoft Azure cloud. The ERC DOTS platform and Microsoft Azure have extensive security features and protocols to protect Personal Data including:

- Pseudonymisation and encryption of Personal Data
- HTTPS protocol and federated authentication
- Restricted Access role-based security model
- Passwords for local users are salted and hashed with a Base64 algorithm
- Layered security architecture
- Azure SQL provides built-in auditing functionality
- Azure Web Application Firewall.

The platform has multi-tiered breach protections and procedures including:

- Azure signature-based alarms such as anti-malware, intrusion detection or via algorithms designed to profile expected activity and alert upon anomalies
- Azure Advanced Threat Protection (detect and notify unusual or suspicious behaviour)
- Customer Breach Reports and notifications via Azure Security Centre
- Web based vulnerability scanning.

All data is encrypted at rest and any sensitive data is stored using a salted hash.

Microsoft Azure provides a secure foundation across physical, infrastructure, and operational security. Microsoft use a layered approach to security and their datacentres are certified to comply with the most comprehensive portfolio of internationally recognized standards and certifications.

Security controls are integrated into the firmware and hardware of Azure to ensure it is secure by default and continues to be secure throughout its lifetime.

Azure Backup is built into the Azure platform ERC DOTS is hosted on. Redundancy is built into Azure Backup through locally redundant storage (LRS), in which three copies of the data are made in data centres located in a region (Ireland in this instance), and Geo- Redundant Storage (GRS) which uses data centres located elsewhere in the world (EEA in this instance) to allow for disasters that might affect your entire region.

The platform takes advantage of the automated scaling feature of Azure to ensure that the platform is available no matter the number of concurrent users accessing the platform.

All data related to personal information on the platform is stored in an Azure SQL Database. Access to this database is authenticated at the application level and protected by a Firewall.

Only authorised and highly trained users have direct authenticated access to the database for maintenance purposes. A Role Based Access Control system is in place restricting access to storage information.

All data access is authenticated and secured by encryption and a firewall.

Azure backup is utilised to provide a backup of all data for restoration should there be any accidental loss or destruction of data.

Functionality to enable payments via credit cards is provided via an API integration with Global Payments (Realex). The ERC DOTS platform does not store any payment information.

APPENDIX 3

Subprocessors

Name of subprocessor	Nature of services provided	Location(s) from which services are provided	Transfer mechanism relied upon
Prodigy Learning Ltd.	Platform provider, technical support & storage provider	Ireland	N/A
Global Payments (Realex)	Card payment processor	Ireland	N/A
Key Answering Systems t/a Arema Connect	Customer support	Ireland	N/A
Zendesk	Customer support ticketing system	Global/ EU	Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs)