Cookies & Website

Cookie policy

EU regulations require us to provide site visitors with a description of the purpose of cookies and how they are used on our website. The regulations also require site visitors to consent to cookies being stored on their computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile device.

We use cookies to monitor how our website is used and to ensure that we give visitors the best experience we can. These cookies are anonymous and do not collect or hold personal information.

If you continue to use our website without changing your browser-based cookie settings, we will assume that you are happy for us to store our cookies on your device – by using our website, you are giving your consent for the deployment of our cookies.

Should you choose to, you can change your cookie settings at any time – please read the '*how can I control cookies*' section of this policy for advice on how to do this.

If you choose to block our cookies, some of the functionality of the website will not be available and this may adversely affect the performance and experience of the site.

If at any time we change the cookies, we will make sure you are aware by updating this policy. We recommend you re-visit this policy from time to time to ensure you remain up to date.

Please read the rest of this policy for information on the types and uses of cookies, and for a detailed description of the cookies we use.

What is a cookie?

A cookie is a small text file that is created and stored on your web browsing device by a website (or certain functional elements of a website).

Only the website (or function) that created the cookie can retrieve or read the contents within it. When you re-visit a website that uses cookies, it will check for its cookies on your device and read the information within them. Depending on the purpose of the cookie, the website will usually use that information to 'tailor' itself to suit you.

Each cookie contains anonymous information (typically a unique identifier, the website name, and some digits and numbers), and is specific to your web browser.

Cookies can be used for a wide variety of tasks, such as storing your website preferences, enhancing navigation between pages and improving your user experience. Cookies help make the interaction between you and the website simpler, smoother and more intuitive.

Without cookies or similar technologies, websites would not easily be able to 'remember' who has previously visited them – logging into a website or adding items to a shopping basket would be much more complicated.

Types of cookies

Cookies can be created by the main website you are visiting ('*first party cookies*'), or by other websites that are contributing (or 'feeding') content to the page you are viewing ('*third party cookies*').

Regardless of their source, cookies are given a lifespan when they are created – they will either exist for the duration of your visit on the website ('*session cookies*'), or they will exist for a defined period after your visit ('*persistent cookies*') so that they are available if you return to the site.

A third 'level' of categorisation exists which groups cookies as:

- '*strictly necessary*': enabling websites to provide certain core features or functions that are expected/requested.
- '*performance*' orientated: improving the performance of the website, and the experience of the user.
- '*functionality*' orientated: enhancing or adding non-essential functionality to website (for example, storing your preferences for return visits).
- '*targeting*' orientated: enabling websites to 'target' advertising, marketing or other content based on the location and/or browsing habits (among others) of the user.

First party cookies and third party cookies

First party cookies are created, governed and accessed only by the main website you are visiting.

Third party cookies are created, governed and accessed by 'external' websites that are contributing content or functionality to the main website. The third party organisation responsible for these cookies may use them to track your journey or store your preferences across multiple websites.

Examples of typical third party content or functionality that may deploy their own cookies:

- user access tracking from external analytics companies, such as Google Analytics;
- embedded videos from sites such as YouTube or Vimeo;
- social sharing options from sites such as Facebook and Twitter;
- content 'feeds' from sites such as Flickr and Twitter.

Some websites also use third party advertising services to deliver targeted advertising – and some of these advertising services use cookies to track your browsing across multiple sites to assess which advertisements should be displayed to you. We do not use any such services and there are no advertising cookies on this site. In fact, we do not use any cookies which track your behaviour outside of this website.

Third party cookies are not, by default, governed or controlled by the first party website – setting cookie preferences on the website itself will only affect the deployment of first party cookies and not third party cookies.

To manage third party cookies, you should check the relevant third party website for advice. (Alternatively, use your browser settings to control the deployment of third party cookies.)

A note about Flash cookies

Adobe Flash Player is commonly used to deliver media rich content, such as video and interactive entertainment. (Visit the [Adobe Flash Player website](#) for more information.)

Adobe deploy their own third party cookies for use by the Flash Player and these are not manageable through the normal browser settings. (Flash cookies work in a different way to 'standard' web browser cookies, and are not stored within the browser.)

Some web browser developers are preparing solutions to allow the control of Flash cookies through their browsers, but until these options are available we suggest visiting the Flash Player website to find out how to restrict or block Flash cookies.

Session cookies

Session cookies are temporary and only exist during your browsing session – once the browser is closed, they are deleted from the browsing device.

Session cookies are used for features like:

- 'remembering' the contents of a shopping basket;
- ensuring uninterrupted but secure access to user accounts (for example, internet banking and email).

Persistent cookies

Persistent cookies are semi-permanent – they are saved to the browsing device for a fixed period (which could be a month, a year, or longer) and are retained when the browser is closed.

Persistent cookies are used for features like 'remembering' a user and their preferences across multiple browsing sessions.

Strictly necessary cookies

Cookies that provide features or functionality that are specifically requested/required (for example, enabling visitors to navigate through the site) are classed as 'strictly necessary'.

Without these cookies, the website would not be able to provide site visitors with the service that they expect or need.

Features such as automatic sign in (which is typically requested using a 'remember me' option) would use a 'strictly necessary' cookie.

If browser settings are used to deactivate strictly necessary cookies, the website may become unusable. At the very least, it will no longer be possible to guarantee security or predict how the website will perform.

Performance cookies

Cookies that help to improve the performance and/or user experience on a website are classed as 'performance' cookies.

Performance cookies can include those that collect information about how a visitor interacts with the website. These cookies do not collect any information that could be used to identify the visitor, or that could be used for marketing/advertising purposes.

The collected information is anonymous and used only to improve the relevant organisations' understanding of how the website works, how effective it is at presenting its content and to help improve the understanding of what its visitors require.

Functionality cookies

Cookies that enhance the features, functionality and user experience are classed as 'functionality' cookies.

Functionality cookies can include those that store details of your site preferences, allowing a website to 'remember' you and ensure that, when you have chosen a specific option on the site, your choices are retained for each visit.

If you have requested that content be tailored to your requirements, it is possible that a functionality cookie has been used to record this preference (for example, specifying your location to receive information specific to your area).

Targeting cookies

Cookies that attempt to automatically tailor content based on the visitors journey and interactions on a website are classed as 'targeting' cookies.

Targeting cookies are typically used for marketing and advertising purposes, delivering content which is relevant to the visitors' interests and their browsing habits.

Targeting cookies are often governed by third party services.

How we use cookies on this website

This website uses cookies:

- to monitor site visits and understand your usage of the website using Google Analytics.

This website may also feature content from the following third party websites that may use cookies (please visit the respective website for more information on the cookies they use):

- YouTube (video);
- Twitter (Twitter feed, 'following' and sharing options;
- Flickr (images);
- Facebook ('liking' and sharing options);
- Google ('plus one' and sharing options).

We do not collect any personal information in our cookies, we do not sell any of the information we collect and we do not disclose the information to third parties (except where required by law – for example, to government bodies and law enforcement agencies).

The table below describes the cookies we use in more detail:

Cookie	Originator	Description	Lifespan	Category
__utma	Google Analytics *(third party)*		Two years *(persistent)*	Performance
__utmb	Google Analytics *(third party)*	We use Google's web analytics service (Google Analytics) to record site traffic. Google use these cookies to collect anonymous data, which we can then evaluate using their reporting tools. (For more information, please see [Google's cookie details page](#)	None *(session)*	Performance
__utmc	Google Analytics *(third party)*		None *(session)*	Performance
__utmz	Google Analytics *(third party)*		One year *(persistent)*	Performance

What to do if you don't want cookies to be set

Some users may consider the use of cookies to store information on their device as intrusive, particularly if they are uncertain of who is using that information, and for what purpose.

While cookies are generally harmless, you may find it preferable not to allow, for example, targeting cookies to monitor your browsing habits and display advertising that has been targeted to your interests. In these cases, it is possible to block some or all cookies and to delete cookies that have already been set.

Please note that, while we do not use any 'strictly necessary' cookies at present, if you choose to block cookies, we cannot guarantee or predict how this website will perform during your visit.

How can I control cookies?

If you want to control which cookies are sent to your device, you can configure your browser to display a notification (and/or a request for permission) when a website attempts to deploy a cookie. You can also configure your browser to refuse cookies altogether, and you can delete any cookies that have already been set.

Please use your browser's help option to find out how to perform these actions within your browser. Alternatively, comprehensive information for managing/deleting cookies on a variety of browsers/platforms is available on the [About Cookies website](#).

Further information

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the EU cookie regulations. The ICO website features a guide to the directive and various aspects of cookies.

The All About Cookies website is a free resource for marketers and consumers which explains what cookies are and how they are used.

Accessibility statement

The Beacon is committed to ensuring that our websites are accessible to everyone. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the accessibility of this site, or if you have difficulty using any part of this site, please use our contact form to let us know.

Standards compliance

This site has been developed to comply with web standards defined by the W3C, and every effort has been made to ensure each page validates as HTML.

All pages on this site follow priorities 1 & 2 guidelines of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Structure and design

This site uses semantic markup for structure, and cascading style sheets for visual layout.

Relative font sizes are used to improve legibility when text is resized. This is compatible with the user-specified "text size" option in visual browsers.

Where stylesheets are not supported or available, the content of each page is still navigable and legible.

Images

Each non decorative image used on this site has a description, either in the alt tag or on the page itself. The information and navigation contained within this site should be usable/accessible with images "off" (disabled).

Links

We try to ensure that link text makes sense out of context and that it accurately describes the pages it points to. Every effort is made to check for and correct broken links.

Forms

All form controls are appropriately and explicitly labelled. Form validation exists to ensure that relevant and necessary information is captured correctly. This validation process does not rely on client-side script.

Scripts

This site has been developed using non obtrusive client-side scripts.

PDFs

Some of the information on this site is available in Portable Document Format (PDF). To read these files, you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your system – this can be

download free of charge from the [Adobe website](#). We recommend always having the most recent version of this software installed.

Modifying your view of this site to suit your needs

Advice is available for each platform showing how best to customise and enhance your website viewing experience:

- Advice for Microsoft users: [Microsoft Accessibility website](#).
- Advice for Apple users: [Apple Accessibility website](#).
- Advice for Linux users: [KDE Accessibility project](#).

Copyright statement

Unless otherwise noted, all materials on this website including the design, text, graphics, photographs and content featured, are all intellectual property which are owned, controlled or licensed by the Beacon. The Beacon asserts all rights over its intellectual property.

Should any viewer of a document published on this website by the Beacon respond with information including feedback data such as questions, comments, suggestions, or the like regarding the content of any such material, such information shall be deemed to be non-confidential and we shall have no obligation of any kind with respect to such information and shall be free to reproduce, use, disclose and distribute the information to others without limitation.

Please [contact us](#) for permission to use the material available on site.

Legal statement

The content on this website has been prepared for the purpose of providing information about the Beacon.

Beacon has taken all reasonable care to ensure the information and facts contained on this website are accurate and up to date when first posted. However, Beacon does not undertake to update or correct such information. Beacon does not make any representation or warranty, express or implied as to the accuracy or completeness of any information included on this website. We reserve the right to change, delete or move any of the material on this website at any time without notice.

Regarding links within this site to other websites, Beacon has no control over these sites and will accept no responsibility or liability in respect of material on these sites.

Privacy policy

Privacy Notice (Fair Processing Notice)

Data Controller: The Beacon, Folkestone

Policy

Beacon may from time to time collect, hold, and process personal information (for the purposes stated below). It will not share this information with third parties or any other party that is not relevant to the services provided by Beacon. Exemptions to this policy under the Data Protection Act, 1998 (DPA, 98), may apply.

How we use your information

Beacon will only use the information that we collect through discussions, emails, and letters or via our website, for the following purposes:

- to provide information on the services we provide;
- administration of job applications and current or former employees.

Logging visitor information using Cookies

Updated EU regulations require us to provide site visitors with a description of the purpose of cookies and how they are used on our website. The regulations also require site visitors to consent to cookies being stored on their computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile device.

We use cookies to monitor how our website is used and to ensure that we give visitors the best experience we can. These cookies are anonymous and do not collect or hold personal information.

For more information, please view our full cookie policy.

Taking part in surveys

From time to time Beacon may conduct surveys for example; in order to gauge customer satisfaction. The results of these surveys will be for Beacon's business administration purposes only and will not be shared with any other party.

Job applicants, current and former employees

Job applicants

Beacon will only use the information that is supplied to it to process job applications and to monitor recruitment statistics. Where it wants to disclose information to a third party, for example when taking up a reference or to obtain a 'disclosure' from the Criminal Records Bureau, Beacon will not do so without informing the applicant beforehand unless the disclosure is required by law.

Personal information about unsuccessful candidates will be held for 12 months after the recruitment exercise has been completed, it will then be destroyed or deleted.

Current employees

For those who are employed by Beacon a file relating to their employment will be compiled. The information contained within this file will be kept secure and will only be used for purposes directly relevant to that person's employment.

Former employees

Where a person is no longer employed by Beacon, it will retain the employee file in accordance with the requirements of its retention schedule and then delete it.

Complaints

Beacon strives to meet the highest standards when collecting and using personal information. For this reason, it takes any complaints that are received about this very seriously.

Beacon encourages people to bring any concerns to its attention if they think that the collection or use of information is unfair, misleading or inappropriate.

Disclosure of personal information

Individuals can find out if Beacon holds any personal information by making a 'subject access request' under the DPA, 98. If information is held about you it will:

- give you a description of the information;
- tell you why Beacon is holding it;
- tell you who it may be disclosed to; and
- let you have a copy of the information in an intelligible form.

If you wish to make a request to Beacon for any personal information it may hold, you will need to put the request in writing addressing it to our Data Protection Officer at the address below.

If you agree and once identification has been confirmed (in-line with the DPA, 98) Beacon will try to deal with your request informally, for example by providing you with the specific information you need over the telephone.

If Beacon holds information about you, you can ask us to correct any mistakes by, once again, contacting the Data Protection Officer.

Links to other websites

This privacy notice does not cover any links to other organisations that Beacon may add to its website. You are strongly advised to read the privacy notices of these organisations.

How to contact us

Please see our [contact page](#) for ways to get in touch.

The Beacon Equality Statement

The Beacon Folkestone is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity to all pupils, staff and visitors. Our Core Values are at the foremost of everything we do and we ensure all at The Beacon are treated equally regardless of age, disability, race, colour, ethnicity, nationality, religious belief, gender, gender identity, transgender, sexual orientation or marital status.

The Beacon strives to be an all-inclusive environment and is always looking for opportunities to broaden the knowledge and experiences of everyone who is involved with both our services, and the staff and clients of those using the services of our multi-agency hub.

Our aims for this year are to ensure there are more equal opportunities for pupils, staff, their families and the wider community, regardless of their disability and this forms an integral part of our School Improvement Plan.

The aims for 2016-2019 are to build and improve schemes to help bring down barriers for disabled children and young people and to broaden the experience of life both inside and outside the school community for all staff & pupils.

UPDATE SCHEDULE

Version	Reviewed	Reason for Update	Next review date	Governor agreement
1	New Policy	New Website	Nov 17	N/A
2	Nov 17	Review	Nov 18	N/A