

## **Privacy & You**

(2010.12.16)

### **Issue on Registration Form**

Since Maggie's daughter, May, was admitted to primary school this year, she received a Registration Form from the school, requiring her to fill in the personal data of both the pupil and the parents. She noticed that not only a photocopy of the pupil's identity card was required to be submitted, but also requested answering whether or not May was a Catholic.

Maggie was rather confused, "Why do they collect so much personal data? Doesn't it mean that non-Catholic will be treated differently?" Therefore, she went to the school for enquiry.

Regarding her concerns, a class adviser, Miss Lei, answered her patiently.

In fact, for the purpose of education and school management, the school required those pupils in Primary 1, students in Form 1 and Form 4, as well as new students, to complete the enrollment procedure in order to collect and process the personal data of students and their parents; meanwhile, the school had strictly complied with the Personal Data Protection Act to process such data.

Miss Lei said, "According to the law, the school has a legal obligation to provide students' data to the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau. Moreover, if there are any updates on students' contacts such as address, phone number, etc., the parents should notify the school."

As for the religious matter, Miss Lei added, "As we're a Catholic school, it's better for us to arrange religious activities if we understand the students' background, which is whether they are Catholic. Furthermore, when we process this kind of personal data, we would abide by the principle of non-discrimination stated in the Act. There is no difference between Catholic and non-Catholic students. Besides, in light of the school's policies, the parents are not compulsory to provide this data."

Miss Lei then gave her information and said, "Here is the school's Privacy Policy mentioned in the notice. You can take it home and read it. If there is anything unclear, please feel free to ask me."

“Now I understand. Sorry for my interruption.”

“That’s fine. Privacy is a basic right of the public that both the parents and the school have the responsibilities to protect students’ personal data. Our school is planning to cooperate with the Office for Personal Data Protection to educate students how to accurately protect their personal data and the others. We are indeed very pleased that the parents are aware of it. In the future, we hope that the parents can cooperate closely with the school in this matter.”

“That’s great! I surely support the school and work together in the protection of personal data.”

*(The text is provided by the Office for Personal Data Protection. The cases presented here are based on social reality and past real-life cases. Any enquiries about personal data protection can be referred to the Office for Personal Data Protection by phone at 28716006.)*