

WEBSITE SECURITY

PERSONAL INFORMATION

All personal information, like the address and phone numbers you enter on your application when joining the website, are visible only to me and not even to other website members. I like to know a potential member's address and phone number so that I can make sure they are who they say they are and in case I ever have a need to contact them if there is a problem with their Email address or similar.

The information you enter on your **Profile** page is a different matter. Some members have no problem with letting other members see where they're living or a phone number where they can be contacted. For that reason, there are sections on your Profile where you can enter contact details if you want to. It's entirely up to you whether you complete all the sections, and there's no pressure on you to reveal anything you don't want to reveal beyond your name and the years you were at Sloane. All I will say is that it's usually of interest to members, especially if they remember you from school, to be able to learn something about your life since you left the school. You also have the option whether to make your birth date visible to other members but remember that some people like to send others messages on their birthday and some people like to receive them too.

If anyone asks me for your contact details, even for what appears to be a valid reason, so that they may get in touch with you, I tell them that if you haven't included

those details on your Profile it's because you didn't want to. All I tell them is that they should send you a message via the website's messaging system to ask you if you're prepared to let them have them.

If they do go down that route, rest assured that your **Email address** is not revealed on any messages you send and the recipient's Email address isn't shown either. All messages sent by anyone can only be picked up by the recipient via the website's **Message Centre** after they've received an Email notification telling them that someone has sent them one. They can't be replied to directly so no Email addresses will be visible. If you want to keep in contact with other members via Email but don't want to have to use the website to do it, you can, of course exchange Email addresses.

PASSWORDS

Remember when you joined the website and had to create your own **Password**? The reason for that was that to view the website's pages and participate in what it has to offer, you need to **Log In** to the site. Except for the **Missing Classmates, Classmate Profiles, Become a Member, Contact Us** and **Home** pages, all the pages on the site are **Password protected** so that no one other than a registered member can view them. Those four pages are not protected because it's necessary for potential members to be able to **Contact me** and register to become a member. No information is contained in those pages that would be of

benefit to anyone other than members or potential members.

On the **Classmate Profiles** page, you'll see a **padlock symbol** alongside the names of all members which means their Profile is restricted to **Members only**. Members are asked to tick the button alongside **Profile Visibility** on their **Profile** details to ensure the general public and Search Engines from accessing the Profile. I check from time to time to make sure everyone has done it and do it for them if they haven't. There's no gain to be had in not doing it but plenty to be had if you do. Because the Classmate Profiles page is open and accessible via the Internet some of you might think it's a flaw in website security. There's nothing to worry about. Yes, the names of past, present and potential members are showing but without a Password, details about those people can't be accessed by the unscrupulous trawling the Internet intent on obtaining information they can put to profitable use. If anyone does chance their arm by clicking on a name, a **pop-up** will appear onscreen saying **"Sorry, you must be logged in to view"**.

Please also remember that, as an added precaution, you should **Log Out** of the Sloane website when you leave it by **clicking on Log Out** under the white **Head and Shoulders** image at the **top of the site**.

WEBSITE BROWSER SECURITY

Web browser manufacturers like Google (**Chrome**) and Mozilla (**Firefox**) update their browsers from time to time and the newest versions in 2020 were built to encourage their users to use 'secure' network links – those that start with **https** (**Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure**) instead of **http** (**Hyper Text Transfer Protocol**).

When viewing the website in a **browser**, you might notice a **black padlock before the site address in the Address Bar** at the top of the browser window. This padlock shows that the website is 'secure'. When it's 'not secure' the padlock might be a red colour or have been replaced by a red triangle with an exclamation mark inside it and words **Not Secure** written alongside it. It will depend on the browser you're using as to how 'secure' and 'Not Secure' are indicated.

At the time of writing this, our www.sloanegrammar.co.uk website is showing as 'Not Secure'. Don't panic! The website hasn't been hacked or infected with a virus. It simply means that the website hasn't been protected with an **SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) certificate**. SSL is the standard technology for keeping Internet connections secure and safeguarding

any sensitive data that is being sent between two systems, preventing criminals from reading and modifying any information transferred, including potential personal details. The two systems can be a server and a client (for example, a shopping website and a browser) or server to server (for example, an application with personal identifiable information or with payroll information). The SSL does this by making sure that any data transferred between users and sites, or between two systems, remains impossible to read. It uses encryption algorithms to scramble data in transit, preventing hackers from reading it as it is sent over the connection.

Individual websites with their own domain name, like ours (www.sloanegrammar.co.uk), which work through a larger organisation (in our case Class Creator, the programme builders) tend not to have SSL certificates but in the future, after the logistics of the task of acquiring one have been sorted out, this will be possible.

In the meantime, you can **rest assured that our website is perfectly secure**. After they've logged in, if a member is on a page that contains any potentially sensitive information the website automatically switches to an encrypted connection.

Despite the browser Address Bar warnings, our site – and your personal data – is secure where it needs to be.

FACEBOOK AND THE WEBSITE

The Sloane website can be accessed via Facebook using Class Connection, either by using the link to Class Connection under the white Head and Shoulders image after you Log In to the Sloane website or by using the Class Connection App that you'll find on Facebook if you're a regular user of it. A fuller explanation of how to use the App is available elsewhere on the Using This Website page of this website but just to re-assure you, if you do access the Sloane website via Facebook your Profile information is just as secure as it is when you're visiting the site directly in your browser. It's still advisable to make sure you Log Out of the website and Facebook when you leave.