

## What cookies are

Cookies are small files of text which are stored on your computer hard drive, smart phone or other internet device by a website. The cookies we use on our site cannot harm your computer, nor can they store personally identifiable information. We do sometimes use the encrypted information gathered from cookies to help us improve your experience of our website.

This information on cookies and how we use them within our site is being provided to comply with the recent European legislation regarding the use of cookies. We are giving you this in a clear and honest way, enabling you to make an informed decision about your privacy when using our website.

## Why and how we use cookies on our site

We use cookies on our site to provide all our users with a secure and safe website. The cookies allow customers to visit, buy, browse, search, explore, apply for and log in to the website. This Cookie Policy explains what cookies are, how we use them and what benefits they bring. The recent legislation requires websites to gain visitors consent to use certain cookies. **If you continue to use our website, your consent is implied for the use of cookies. If you do not agree with our cookie policy then you must terminate use of our website immediately.**

Once you consent to use a website with cookies, cookies will be added to your device which enables us to analyse web traffic or lets you know when you visit a particular site.

The recent European legislation requires websites to gain visitors consent to use certain cookies. These same cookies allow us to respond to you as a unique individual and tailor our operations to suit you; with your needs, likes and dislikes taken into account. This is done by gaining and remembering information about your preferences and past visits.

The traffic log cookies are used to show which pages you have been visiting and using. This is then used to analyse data on webpage traffic, which enables us to improve our website in tailoring it to suit your, or the customers' needs. All information is used for statistical analysis purposes only, once completed the data is removed.

Cookies allow us to provide you with a better level of service and website, allowing us to see and indentify the pages you visit online; with sites you find useful and others that you may not. Cookies do not and will not allow us to gain information about you. They will only allow us to gain the data you have chosen to share with us from your computer or other internet device. It is your choice if you accept or decline the use of cookies; remember than most web browsers will automatically accept on your behalf.

## Types of cookies

### Session cookies/transient cookies

these are used to store your current browsing session, and are erased once you close the

Web browser/Internet Explorer. This is done by the cookie being stored in the temporary memory. Most on-line ordering sites require session cookies to conduct a transaction and to help ensure both parties safety; these cookies do not collect information from your computer. They typically will store information in the form of a session identification that does not personally identify the user.

#### Permanent cookie/stored cookie

these are stored as a file on your computer, and will remain there once you close your Web browser/Internet Explorer. These cookies are stored on your hard drive until they expire (these types of cookies are set with expiration dates), or until you delete the cookie. These cookies are used to collect information about the user, such as Web surfing behaviour or user preferences for a specific Web site.

We use analytics cookies which help us improve our website for regular visitors. These cookies are used to help us work out what users like or do not, and how we can improve and develop the website for you.

#### **Your choice**

You can choose to accept or decline cookies, it is your choice. Most web browsers/internet explorer will automatically accept cookies and you will not be asked, with some websites that have pop up's, you will have to accept or decline; if you would not like to automatically accept cookies then you will have to change your browser settings to decline cookies. This may prevent you from taking full advantage of many websites, which will include ours.

#### Different cookies that Wiltshire and Somerset Colleges' Partnership Ltd use on their website:

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