

Overarching Data Protection Policy

Whole School & EYFS

Regulation ISSR:

Reviewed and updated by: Mrs C Wood

Approval: Full Governor Board

Last Review: August 2025

Next Review: Summer 2026



Purpose

This document outlines the framework that the School has in place to help ensure compliance with data protection law, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (**UK GDPR**) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (**DPA 2018**).

Any references to staff include all staff working in the School (whether directly or indirectly), whether paid or unpaid, whatever their position, role or responsibilities, which includes employees, governors, contractors, agency staff, peripatetic staff, work experience / placement students and volunteers.

Roles, Responsibilities and Governance

The governors have appointed the Headmistress as the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer is responsible for managing the School's compliance with data protection law. The governors have ensured that the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer has sufficient time and resources to fulfil their tasks.

The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer regularly reports to the School's governors who are responsible for the School's data protection compliance. Data protection is a standing item on the agenda at governors' meetings.

The School has appointed Rita Price as the governor with particular responsibility for data protection.

All staff have a role to play in our data protection compliance. Staff are encouraged to ask questions and raise concerns with the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer or their line manager. This allows us to regularly review and strengthen the data protection measures that we have in place.

Compliance measures

The School helps to ensure compliance with data protection law using the measures outlined at paragraphs in this policy.

Training

All staff receive data protection training as part of their induction and refresher training is provided annually. The training may be online or delivered in person by the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer or an external expert.

The training includes (but is not limited to) the practical application of the UK GDPR's principles in a school context, guidance on how to keep personal data secure and when staff should speak to the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer.

The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer attends external training annually which is appropriate to their role as the senior individual who leads on the School's data protection compliance.

Policies and guidance

All staff at the School are required to comply with the following documents:

- Data Protection Policy: Practical Guidance for Staff;
- Information Security Policy; and
- Guidance for Staff on the use of images.

The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for implementing the:

- Data Breach Policy and Procedure;
- Information and Records Retention Policy;
- CCTV Policy; and
- Appropriate Policy Document for special category personal data.

Documentation

Documenting how we comply with data protection law is a key part of our compliance. In addition to the documents listed above we:

- maintain a record of how we use personal data as required under Article 30 of the UK GDPR. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer is responsible for maintaining this record;
- document our lawful bases for using personal data through our privacy notices;
- keep a record of our legitimate interests assessments;
- carry out risk assessments and when required a Data Protection Impact Assessment;
- retain records of any consents obtained to use personal data;
- maintain a register of any data breaches. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer is responsible for completing this. All staff understand that they must inform the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer of any suspected breach so that the register can be kept up to date;
- record when staff complete data protection training to ensure that all staff have received the appropriate level of training; and
- maintain an Appropriate Policy Document regarding our processing of special category personal data and criminal offence data as required by the DPA 2018.

Privacy notices

The School has privacy notices, which are published on the School's website.

We are mindful that some of our pupils are competent to exercise their own data protection rights. Considering this, we have developed a privacy notice for pupils which is age appropriate and addressed directly to the pupils.

In addition, the School explains how personal data will be used on a case by case basis as appropriate. For example, forms that are used to collect personal data will include a brief description of how and why it will be used, and cross refer to the applicable privacy notice.

Data protection by design and default

The School has built the data protection principles into its practices by implementing appropriate technical and organisation measures. This is known as data protection by design. We also ensure that we only use the minimum amount of personal data to achieve our purposes - known as data protection by default.

More specifically we do the following:

- at the start of any new project, or new activity, which involves using personal data (e.g. working with a new external activity provider, implementing new software or hardware) the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer considers how we will comply with the data protection principles;
- we make it clear on any data collection forms what personal data must be provided and what is optional;
- we proactively consider data protection risks and adopt appropriate measures to protect personal data (e.g. encryption, physical security);
- our external facing documents (e.g. privacy notices) are accessible and age appropriate;
- before we share personal data externally, we check that we have a lawful basis and that the sharing is fair;
- we regularly review the measures which are in place to ensure that they are still appropriate;
- we have developed a culture where staff understand the importance of data protection; and
- if there has been a problem, or a "near miss", we will look at what has happened to improve our practices, for example, by providing additional staff training and awareness.

The School has various internal written procedures in place to comply with our obligations under the UK GDPR. This includes in relation to:

- computer and network security;
- the secure destruction of personal data - both electronic and paper copies;
- individuals exercising their rights;
- ensuring that we only use processors who comply with the UK GDPR; and
- physical security when the School site is used by external parties.

The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer determines whether a Data Protection Impact Assessment is required before the School begins any new type of processing activity. For example, before the School introduces new software to store pupil records.

Individuals' rights

We are committed to allowing individuals to exercise their rights under the UK GDPR, when applicable. These rights are as follows:

- right of access (i.e. making a subject access request);
- right to rectification;
- right to erasure;
- right to restriction;
- right to data portability; and
- right to object; and
- rights in relation to automated decision-making and profiling.

Staff are trained to recognise when an individual is exercising a right under the UK GDPR and to pass this immediately to the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer.

The School keeps a log of all requests to exercise rights with the applicable deadline for our response. This log is maintained by the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer.

To ensure that we meet our obligations the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer co-ordinates our response to all requests. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer has detailed knowledge of how to respond to individuals' rights and has received external training. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer will involve other members of staff, as appropriate, in formulating the School's response.

Consideration is given to at least the following issues when responding to rights requests:

- the importance of responding within the statutory timeframe, usually one calendar month (but this can be extended by up to two months for complex requests);
- whether a pupil's consent should be sought before responding to their parent or guardian;
- whether further engagement with the requester is needed, e.g. to ask for ID or to seek clarification of their request;
- the exemptions under the DPA 2018;
- the provision of supplementary information (e.g. sources and purposes) under a subject access request;
- whether the request can be refused, or a reasonable fee charged, because it is manifestly unfounded or excessive; and
- how to securely send our response to the requester.

Information security

The School has put in place technical and organisational measures to ensure the confidentiality, availability and integrity of personal data. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer is responsible for determining the appropriate organisational measures, for example, staff training and guidance.

The Director of Technical Services leads on the technical side of our information security, for example, network security. The School follows guidance from the National Cyber Security Centre and DfE. The School keeps up to date with the latest cyber security news and alerts.

The School has implemented an Information Security Policy for staff.

We appreciate that prompt action is vital when handling information security incidents. Staff are trained to report any suspicions or concerns regarding potential personal data breaches to the Director of Technical Services or Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer immediately.

The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer will carry out an initial investigation and determine if the incident constitutes a personal data breach. If so, the procedure outlined in the Data Breach Policy and Procedure will be followed.

Processors

The School has procedures in place to check that the organisations acting as our processors are complying with the UK GDPR. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer and IT Development Manager are responsible for implementing these procedures.

The School has contracts in place with our processors which include the specific terms required by the UK GDPR. Legal advice is sought as required regarding these contracts.

Staff are trained to speak to the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer if they need to share information with an organisation which may act as the School's processor so that the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer can check that the appropriate measures are in place.

International transfers

The School maintains a record of when it transfers personal data outside of the UK and what adequacy decision, safeguard or derogation is relied on under the UK GDPR. The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer is responsible for maintaining this record.

Staff are trained to speak to the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer before transferring personal data outside of the UK.

Data Protection Fee

The School has procedures in place to ensure that the data protection fee is paid to the Information Commissioner's Office for all controllers connected to the School.

The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer is responsible for ensuring the fee is paid on time.

Monitoring and review

The Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer will ensure that the content and implementation of the procedures set out in this policy are reviewed regularly.

Any personal data breaches at the School will be followed by a review of the relevant procedures by the Data Protection Lead / Privacy Officer and a report made to the governors.