



Plymouth CAST

Plymouth CAST Data Retention Policy & Guidance
2026-2028

Version 2

Policy Date: September 2026
Approved by SELT: 14th September 2026
Next Review Date: September 2028

Plymouth CAST Data Retention Policy & Guidance

Including:

Annual review of School records and safe data destruction checklist.

This document contains Plymouth CAST's retention periods for the different records maintained by Schools and the Trust. The schedule refers to all information regardless of the media in which it is stored. Some of the retention periods are governed by statute, other guidelines are best practice.

This guide and checklist has been developed to enable School staff to carry out an efficient annual review and safe destruction of school records and information.

Details of school completing checklist	
School name:	
Review completed by:	
Date:	
Approved by Line Manager:	
Date:	

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Document Control

Review Frequency	Biennial
Review Date	September 2028
Ratified By	CAST Senior Executive Leadership Team
Date of Ratification	14th September 2026
Lead/Owner	Chief Operating Officer & Director of Education
Target Audience	CAST Directors CAST Local Governors Senior Leadership Teams at Trust and School Level All staff (Teaching & Non-Teaching) Pupils & Students Visitors Contractors
Document Version	2.0

The electronic version is the definitive version of this document.

The content of this procedure may be subject to revision from time to time in line with the policy review schedule or when legislation changes or operational reasons arise. Consultation with the recognised trade unions will be completed before any changes are made.

Version Changes

Policy Version	Clause / Ref	Basic File Description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of administrative life	Agreed By	Date
1.0	New Policy					SELT	
1.1	Cyclical biennial review - no changes					SELT	Nov 2024
2.0	4.1.8	Policy documents created and administered by the Governing Body / Trust	No	Life of the policy + 3 years. Mandatory Review Requirement: All business-critical safeguarding, safer recruitment, volunteer, and data protection policies must be placed on an annual review cycle in accordance with statutory guidance.	SECURE DISPOSAL	SELT	14/09 /26

2.0	4.3.4	Register of Admissions	Yes	Every entry in the admission register (and any associated backup copies) must be preserved for six years beginning with the day on which the entry was made, in accordance with Regulation 7 of <i>The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024</i> .	REVIEW / SECURE DISPOSAL Schools may consider keeping admission registers permanently as historical records. If destroyed, this must be carried out via secure disposal after 6 years.	SELT	14/09 /26
2.0	5.3.3 (New)	Low-Level Concerns and 'Staff Safe' Incident Logs	Yes	Termination of Employment + 6 years (or until normal retirement age / 10 years if linked to a wider safeguarding case. Operational Requirement: All low-level concerns must be documented using a standardised reporting form before being logged on 'Staff Safe'. Logs must clearly state the rationale, decision-making trail, and status (Open, Monitored, Closed, No Further Action).	SECURE DISPOSAL Records must be unlinked or shredded/deleted securely. Maintain an audit trail of the decision to dispose.	SELT	14/09 /26

2.0	5.4.9	CCTV Images & Access Records[cite: 1, 2]	Yes	Images: 30 days or only as long as required for an active investigation. CCTV Access Log: A formal register logging the name of every individual viewing or exporting CCTV footage, along with the date, time, and purpose of access, must be maintained. Retain Access Log for Current Year + 1 year in line with Surveillance Commissioner guidance.	OVERWRITING AND/OR SECURE DISPOSAL	SELT	14/09/26
2.0	8.1.1	Pupil's Educational Record	Yes	Primary: Retain whilst the child remains at primary school. Secondary: DOB + 25 years.	TRANSFER COMPLIANCE: Where a pupil transfers to another school, the record must be transferred within 5 school days. If a transfer cannot be completed within 5 days, a self-referral/exception log must be recorded and reported to the Governing Board/IAB as part of the termly safeguarding report.	SELT	14/09/26

2.0	8.1.3 & 8.1.4	Child Protection Information (Pupil File / CPOMS)	Yes	DOB of the child + 25 years. LEGAL HOLD WARNING: Notwithstanding standard retention periods, no safeguarding, child protection, or allegations records may be destroyed whilst an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) ongoing retention moratorium/legal hold remains active. Deletion must be suspended pending further Trust instructions.	SECURE DISPOSAL / SYSTEM GOVERNANCE: Records MUST be shredded/deleted. Schools must ensure all statutory categories listed in Annex B of <i>KCSIE</i> are fully enabled in CPOMS. Regular data minimisation audits must be conducted to securely weed duplicate, unlinked, or redundant temporary notes..	SELT	14/09 /26
2.0	8.2.1	Attendance Registers	Yes	Every entry in the attendance register (and any associated backup copies) must be preserved for six years beginning with the day on which the entry was made, in accordance with Regulation 7 of <i>The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024</i>.	SECURE DISPOSAL	SELT	14/09 /26

2.0	Footnote 3	Document Footer / Endnotes (Page 21)	N/A	3 Updated in accordance with <i>The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024</i> . Every entry in the admission register and attendance register (and any associated backup copies) must be retained for a minimum of 6 years beginning with the day on which the entry was made.	N	SELT	14/09/26
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1. Aims

This checklist has been produced in accordance with the guidance produced by the DFE in February 2023 in the guidance “Data Protection in schools” and is in accordance with the Data Protection rules and Freedom of Information Act (2000) legislation.

This is a checklist developed to enable School Staff to carry out an efficient annual review and safe destruction of school records and information.

2. Summary of areas reviewed

Ref	Area	Pages	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)	Reviewer Initials
1	Management of the School			
2	Human Resources			

3	Financial Management of the School			
4	Property Management			
5	Pupil Management			
6	Curriculum Management			
7	Extra-Curricular Activities			
8	Central Government and Local Authority			
9	List of School Records and Data safely destroyed			

3. Safe Destruction of data

3.1 Disposal of records that have reached the end of the minimum retention period allocated

- The fifth data protection principle as per the data protection rules (updated for GDPR) states that:
- “Personal data processed for any purpose or purposes shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes”
- In each school, leadership must ensure that records that are no longer required for business use are reviewed as soon as possible under the criteria set out so that only the appropriate records are destroyed.
- The school review will determine whether records are to be selected for permanent preservation, destroyed, digitised to an electronic format or retained by the school for research or litigation purposes.
- Whatever decisions are made they need to be documented as part of the records management policy within the school.

3.2 Safe Destruction of Records

All records containing personal information, or sensitive policy information should be made either unreadable or unreconstructable.

- Paper records should be shredded using a cross-cutting shredder
- CDs / DVDs / Floppy Disks should be cut into pieces
- Audio / Video Tapes and Fax Rolls should be dismantled and shredded
- Hard Disks should be dismantled and sanded

Any other records should be bundled up and disposed of to a wastepaper merchant or

disposed of in other appropriate ways. Do not put records in with the regular waste or a skip unless there is no other alternative.

There are companies who can provide confidential waste bins and other services which can be purchased to ensure that records are disposed of in an appropriate way.

- a) Where an external provider is used it is recommended that all records must be shredded on-site in the presence of an employee. The organisation must also be able to prove that the records have been destroyed by the company who should provide a Certificate of Destruction. Staff working for the external provider should have been trained in the handling of confidential documents.

The shredding needs to be planned with specific dates and all records should be identified as to the date of destruction.

It is important to understand that if the records are recorded as to be destroyed but have not yet been destroyed and a request for the records has been received, they **MUST** still be provided.

- b) Where records are destroyed internally, the process must ensure that all records are recorded and authorised to be destroyed by a member of the Leadership team and the destruction recorded. Records should be shredded as soon as the record has been documented as being destroyed.

3.3 Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA 2000)

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the school to maintain a list of records which have been destroyed and who authorised their destruction. Members of staff should record at least:

- File reference (or another unique identifier)
- File title (or brief description)
- Number of files and date range
- The name of the authorising person
- Date action taken.

Following this guidance will ensure that the school is compliant with the Data Protection rules and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you have any queries in completing this checklist, please contact Plymouth CAST's Chief Operating Officer.

4. Management of the School

This section contains retention periods connected to the general management of the school. This covers the work of the Governing Body, the Headteacher and the senior management team, the admissions process and operational administration.

4.1 Governing Body

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
4.1.1	Agendas for Governing Body meetings	There may be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff	One copy should be retained with the master set of minutes. All other copies can be disposed of	SECURE DISPOSAL ¹	
4.1.2	Minutes of Governing Body meetings	There may be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff			
	Principal Set (signed)		PERMANENT	If the school is unable to store these then they should be offered to the County Archives Service	
	Inspection Copies ²		Date of meeting + 3 years	If these minutes contain any sensitive, personal information they must be shredded.	
4.1.3	Reports presented to the Governing Body	There may be data protection issues if the report deals with confidential issues relating to staff	Reports should be kept for a minimum of 6 years. However, if the minutes refer directly to individual reports, then the reports should be kept permanently	SECURE DISPOSAL or retain with the signed set of the minutes	
4.1.4	Meeting papers relating to the annual parents' meeting held under section 33 of the Education Act 2002	No	Date of the meeting + a minimum of 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.1.5	Instruments of Government including Articles of Association	No	PERMANENT	These should be retained in the school whilst the school is open and then offered to County Archives Service when the school closes.	
4.1.6	Trusts and	No	PERMANENT	These should be	

¹ In this context SECURE DISPOSAL should be taken to mean disposal using confidential waste bins, or if the school has the facility, shredding using a cross cut shredder.

² These are the copies which the clerk to the Governor may wish to retain so that requestors can view all the appropriate information without the clerk needing to print off and collate redacted copies of the minutes each time a request is made.

	Endowments managed by the Governing Body			retained in the school whilst the school is open and then offered to County Archives Service when the school closes.	
4.1.7	Action plans created and administered by the Governing Body	No	Life of the action plan + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.1.8	Policy documents created and administered by the Governing Body	No	Life of the policy + 3 years. Note on Review Cycles: All business-critical safeguarding, safer recruitment, volunteer, and data protection policies must be placed on an annual review cycle in accordance with statutory guidance rather than multi-year cycles.	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.1.9	Records relating to complaints dealt with by the Governing Body	Yes	Date of the resolution of the complaint + a minimum of 6 years then review for further retention in case of contentious disputes	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.1.10	Annual Reports created under the requirements of the Education (Governor's Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	No	Date of report + 10 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.1.11	Proposals concerning the change of status of a maintained school including Specialist Status Schools and Academies	No	Date proposal accepted or declined. + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

4.2 Head Teacher and Senior Management Team

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
4.2.1	Logbooks of activity in the school maintained by the Head Teacher	There may be data protection issues if the logbook refers to individual pupils or members of staff	Date of last entry in the book + a minimum of 6 years then review	These could be of permanent historical value and should be offered to the County Archives Service if appropriate	
4.2.2	Minutes of Senior Management Team meetings and the meetings of other internal administrative bodies	There may be data protection issues if the minutes refers to individual pupils or members of staff	Date of the meeting + 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.2.3	Reports created by the Head Teacher or the Management Team	There may be data protection issues if the report refers to individual pupils or members of staff	Date of the report + a minimum of 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.2.4	Records created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	There may be data protection issues if the records refer to individual pupils or members of staff	Current academic year + 6 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.2.5	Correspondence created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	There may be data protection issues if the correspondence refers to individual pupils or members of staff	Date of correspondence + 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.2.6	Professional Development Plans	Yes	Life of the plan + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.2.7	School Development Plans	No	Life of the plan + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

4.3 Admissions Process

Ref	Basic file	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period	Action at the end	Annual
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	description		[Operational]	of the administrative life of the record	Review Completed Tick (✓)
4.3.1	All records relating to the creation and implementation of the School Admissions' Policy	No	Life of the policy + 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.3.2	Admissions – if the admission is successful	Yes	Date of admission + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.3.3	Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful	Yes	Resolution of case + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.3.4	Register of Admissions	Yes	Every entry in the admission register (and any associated backup copies) must be preserved for six years beginning with the day on which the entry was made, in accordance with Regulation 7 of <i>The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024</i> .	REVIEW Schools may wish to consider keeping the admission register permanently as often schools receive enquiries from past pupils to confirm the dates, they attended the school.	
4.3.5	Admissions – Secondary Schools – Casual	Yes	Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.3.6	Proofs of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process	Yes	Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.3.7	Supplementary Information form including additional information such as religion, medical conditions etc.	Yes			
	For successful admissions		This information should be added to the pupil file	SECURE DISPOSAL	
	For unsuccessful admissions		Until appeals process completed	SECURE DISPOSAL	

4.4 Operational Administration

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
4.4.1	General file series	No	Current year + 5 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL	

4.4.2	Records relating to the creation and publication of the school brochure or prospectus	No	Current year + 3 years	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
4.4.3	Records relating to the creation and distribution of circulars to staff, parents or pupils	No	Current year + 1 year	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
4.4.4	Newsletters and other items with a short operational use	No	Current year + 1 year	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
4.4.5	Visitors' Books and Signing in Sheets	Yes	Current year + 6 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL	
4.4.6	Records relating to the creation and management of Parent Teacher Associations and/or Old Pupils Associations	No	Current year + 6 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL	

5. Human Resources

This section deals with all matters of Human Resources management within the school.

5.1 Recruitment					
Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
5.1.1	All records leading up to the appointment of a new headteacher	Yes	Date of appointment + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.1.2	All records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff – unsuccessful candidates	Yes	Date of appointment of successful candidate + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.1.3	All records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff – successful candidate	Yes	All the relevant information should be added to the staff personal file (see below) and all other information retained for 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL	

5.1.4	Pre-employment vetting information – DBS Checks	No	The school does not have to keep copies of DBS certificates. If the school does so the copy must NOT be retained for more than 6 months		
5.1.5	Proofs of identity collected as part of the process of checking. “portable” enhanced DBS disclosure	Yes	Where possible these should be checked, and a note kept of what was seen and what has been checked. If it is felt necessary to keep copy documentation, then this should be placed on the member of staff’s personal file		
5.1.6	Pre-employment vetting information – Evidence proving the right to work in the United Kingdom	Yes	Where possible these documents should be added to the Staff Personal File [see below], but if they are kept separately then the Home Office requires that the documents are kept for termination of Employment plus not less than two years		

5.2 Operational Staff Management

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
5.2.1	Staff Personal File	Yes	Termination of Employment + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.2.2	Timesheets	Yes	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.2.3	Annual appraisal/ assessment records	Yes	Current year + 5 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

5.3 Management of Disciplinary and Grievance Processes

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
5.3.1	Allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff including where the allegation is	Yes	Until the person’s normal retirement age or 10 years from the date of the allegation whichever is the longer REVIEW. Note	SECURE DISPOSAL These records must be shredded	

	unfounded		allegations that are found to be malicious should be removed from personnel files. If found they are to be kept on the file and a copy provided to the person concerned		
5.3.2	Disciplinary Proceedings	Yes			
	Verbal warning		Date of warning + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file]	
	Written warning – level 1		Date of warning + 6 months		
	Written warning – level 2		Date of warning + 12 months		
	Final warning		Date of warning + 18 months		
	Case not found		If the incident is child protection related, then see above otherwise dispose of at the conclusion of the case	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.3.3	Low-Level Concerns and 'Staff Safe' Incident Logs	Yes	Termination of Employment + 6 years (or until normal retirement age / 10 years if linked to a wider safeguarding case)[cite: 1, 2]. <i>Operational Rule:</i> All low-level concerns must be documented using a standardised reporting form before being logged on 'Staff Safe'. Logs must clearly state the rationale, decision-making trail, and status (e.g., Open, Monitored, Closed, No Further Action).	SECURE DISPOSAL <i>Note:</i> Records must be unlinked or shredded/deleted securely. Where low-level concerns are weeded or concluded with No Further Action (NFA), ensure a clear audit trail of the decision to dispose is maintained in accordance with Data Protection/FOI rules	

5.4 Health and Safety

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
5.4.1	Health and Safety	No	Life of policy + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

	Policy Statements				
5.4.2	Health and Safety Risk Assessments	No	Life of risk assessment + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.4.3	Records relating to accident/ injury at work	Yes	Date of incident + 12 years In the case of serious accidents, a further retention period will need to be applied	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.4.4	Accident Reporting	Yes			
	Adults		Date of the incident + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
	Children		DOB of the child + 25 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.4.5	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)	No	Current year + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.4.6	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with asbestos	No	Last action + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.4.7	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with radiation	No	Last action + 50 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.4.8	Fire Precautions logbooks	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
5.4.9	CCTV Images	Yes	Images: 30 days or only as long as required for an active investigation. CCTV Access Log (New Requirement): A formal register logging the name of every individual viewing or exporting CCTV footage, along with the date, time, and purpose of access, must be maintained. Retain Access Log for Current Year + 1 year in line with Surveillance Commissioner guidance.	OVERWRITING AND/OR SECURE DISPOSAL	

5.5 Payroll and Pensions

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
5.5.1	Maternity pay records	Yes	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

5.5.2	Records held under Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995	Yes	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
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6. Financial Management of the School

This section deals with all aspects of the financial management of the school including the administration of school meals

6.1 Risk Management and Insurance

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
6.1.1	Employer's Liability Insurance Certificate	No	Closure of the school + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

6.2 Asset Management

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
6.2.1	Inventories of furniture and equipment	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.2.2	Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

6.3 Accounts and Statements including Budget Management

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
6.3.1	Annual Accounts	No	Current year + 6 years	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
6.3.2	Loans and grants managed by the school	No	Date of last payment on the loan + 12 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.3.3	Student Grant applications	Yes	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.3.4	All records relating to the creation and management of budgets including the Annual Budget statement and background papers	No	Life of the budget + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

6.3.5	Invoices, receipts, order books and requisitions, delivery notices	No	Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.3.6	Records relating to the collection and banking of monies	No	Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.3.7	Records relating to the identification and collection of debt	No	Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

6.4 Contract Management

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
6.4.1	All records relating to the management of contracts under seal	No	Last payment on the contract + 12 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.4.2	All records relating to the management of contracts under signature	No	Last payment on the contract + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.4.3	Records relating to the monitoring of contracts	No	Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

6.5 School Fund

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
6.5.1	School Fund - Cheque books	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.5.2	School Fund - Paying in books	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.5.3	School Fund – Ledger	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.5.4	School Fund – Invoices	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.5.5	School Fund – Receipts	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.5.6	School Fund - Bank statements	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.5.7	School Fund – Journey Books	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

6.6 School Meals

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
6.6.1	Free School Meals Registers	Yes	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.6.2	School Meals Registers	Yes	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
6.6.3	School Meals Summary Sheets	No	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

7. Property Management

This section covers the management of buildings and property.

7.1 Property Management

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
7.1.1	Title deeds of properties belonging to the school	No	PERMANENT These should follow the property unless the property has been registered with the Land Registry		
7.1.2	Plans of property belong to the school	No	These should be retained whilst the building belongs to the school and should be passed onto any new owners if the building is leased or sold.		
7.1.3	Leases of property leased by or to the school	No	Expiry of lease + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.1.4	Records relating to the letting of school premises	No	Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

7.2 Maintenance

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
7.2.1	All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by contractors	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

7.2.2	All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by school employees including maintenance log books	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
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8. Pupil Management

This section includes all records which are created during the time a pupil spends at the school. For information about accident reporting see under Health and Safety above

8.1 Pupil's Educational Record

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
8.1.1	Pupil's Educational Record required by The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005	Yes		TRANSFER COMPLIANCE: Where a pupil transfers to another school, the educational/safeguarding record must be transferred within 5 school days. If a transfer cannot be completed within 5 days, a self-referral/exception log must be recorded and reported to the Governing Board/IAB as part of the termly safeguarding report.	
	Primary		Retain whilst the child remains at the primary school	The file should follow the pupil when he/she leaves the primary school. ³	
	Secondary		Date of Birth of the pupil + 25 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
8.1.2	Examination Results – Pupil Copies	Yes			
	Public		This information should be added to the pupil file	All uncollected certificates should be returned to the examination board.	

³ Updated in accordance with *The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024*. Every entry in the admission register and attendance register (and any associated backup copies) must be retained for a minimum of **6 years** beginning with the day on which the entry was made.

	Internal		This information should be added to the pupil file		
8.1.3	Child Protection information held on pupil file		If any records relating to child protection issues are placed on the pupil file, it should be in a sealed envelope and then retained for the same period of time as the pupil file. LEGAL HOLD WARNING: Notwithstanding the standard retention period (DOB + 25 years), no safeguarding, child protection, or allegations records may be destroyed whilst an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) ongoing retention moratorium/legal hold remains in place. Deletion must be suspended pending further Trust instructions.	SECURE DISPOSAL – these records MUST be shredded	
8.1.4	Child protection information held in separate files		DOB of the child + 25 years then review This retention period was agreed in consultation with the Safeguarding Children Group on the understanding that the principal copy of this information will be found on the Local Authority Social Services record LEGAL HOLD WARNING: Notwithstanding the standard retention period (DOB + 25 years), no safeguarding, child protection, or allegations records may be destroyed whilst an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) ongoing retention moratorium/legal hold remains in place. Deletion must be suspended pending further Trust instructions.	SECURE DISPOSAL / SYSTEM GOVERNANCE: Schools must ensure all statutory categories listed in Annex B of <i>Keeping Children Safe in Education</i> are fully enabled in CPOMS. Regular data minimisation audits must be conducted to securely weed duplicate, unlinked, or redundant temporary notes, ensuring only necessary, well-evidenced case entries and chronologies are retained long-term	

8.2 Attendance

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
8.2.1	Attendance Registers	Yes	Every entry in the attendance register (and any associated backup copies) must be preserved for six years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

			beginning with the day on which the entry was made, in accordance with Regulation 7 of <i>The School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024</i> .		
8.2.2	Correspondence relating to authorized absence		Current academic year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

8.3 Special Educational Needs

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
8.3.1	Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans	Yes	Date of Birth of the pupil + 25 years	REVIEW NOTE: This retention period is the minimum retention period that any pupil file should be kept. Some authorities choose to keep SEN files for a longer period of time to defend themselves in a “failure to provide a sufficient education” case. There is an element of business risk analysis involved in any decision to keep the records longer than the minimum retention period and this should be documented. <i>N.B Any decision to keep records longer than the minimum retention period should be made in consultation with the Trust’s COO and DPO and should evidence a sound basis for retention.</i>	
8.3.2	Statement maintained under section 234 of the Education Act 1990 and any amendments made to the statement	Yes	Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]	SECURE DISPOSAL unless the document is subject to a legal hold	

			Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]	SECURE DISPOSAL unless the document is subject to a legal hold	
			Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]	SECURE DISPOSAL unless the document is subject to a legal hold	

9. Curriculum Management

9.1 Statistics and Management Information

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
9.1.1	Curriculum returns	No	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
9.1.2	Examination Results (Schools Copy)	Yes	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
	SATS records –	Yes			
	Results		The SATS results should be recorded on the pupil's educational file and will therefore be retained until the pupil reaches the age of 25 years. The school may wish to keep a composite record of all the whole year SATs results. These could be kept for current year + 6 years to allow suitable comparison	SECURE DISPOSAL	
	Examination Papers		The examination papers should be kept until any appeals/validation process is complete	SECURE DISPOSAL	
9.1.3	Published Admission Number (PAN) Reports	Yes	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
9.1.4	Value Added and Contextual Data	Yes	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
9.1.5	Self-Evaluation Forms	Yes	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

9.2 Implementation of Curriculum

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
9.2.1	Schemes of Work	No	Current year + 1 year	Review these records	

				at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL	
9.2.2	Timetable	No	Current year + 1 year		
9.2.3	Class Record Books	No	Current year + 1 year		
9.2.4	Mark Books	No	Current year + 1 year		
9.2.5	Record homework set	No	Current year + 1 year		
9.2.6	Pupils' Work	No	Where possible pupils' work should be returned to the pupil at the end of the academic year if this is not the school's policy then current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	

10. Extra Curriculum Management

10.1 Educational Visits outside the Classroom					
Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
10.1.1	Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom – Primary Schools	No	Date of visit + 14 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
10.1.2	Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom – Secondary Schools	No	Date of visit + 10 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
10.1.3	Parental consent forms for school trips where there has been no major incident	Yes	Conclusion of the trip	Although the consent forms could be retained for DOB + 22 years, the requirement for them being needed is low and most schools do not have the storage capacity to retain every single consent form issued by the school for this period of time.	
10.1.4	Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been a major incident	Yes	DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 25 years. The permission slips for all the pupils on the trip need to be retained to		

			show that the rules had been followed for all pupils		
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10.2 Walking Bus

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
10.2.1	Walking Bus Registers	Yes	Date of register + 3 years This takes into account the fact that if there is an incident requiring an accident report the register will be submitted with the accident report and kept for the period of time required for accident reporting	SECURE DISPOSAL [If these records are retained electronically any backup copies should be destroyed at the same time]	

10.3 Family Liaison Officers and Home School Liaison Assistants

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
10.3.1	Day Books	Yes	Current year + 2 years then review		
10.3.2	Reports for outside agencies - where the report has been included on the case file created by the outside agency	Yes	Whilst child is attending school and then destroy		
10.3.3	Referral forms	Yes	While the referral is current		
10.3.4	Contact data sheets	Yes	Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy		
10.3.5	Contact database entries	Yes	Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy		
10.3.6	Group Registers	Yes	Current year + 2 years		

11. Central Government and Local Authority

11.1 Local Authority

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
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11.1. 1	Secondary Transfer Sheets (Primary)	Yes	Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
11.1. 2	Attendance Returns	Yes	Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	
11.1. 3	School Census Returns	No	Current year + 5 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
11.1. 4	Circulars and other information sent from the Local Authority	No	Operational use	SECURE DISPOSAL	

11.2 Central Government

Ref	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	Annual Review Completed Tick (✓)
11.2.1	OFSTED reports and papers	No	Life of the report then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL	
11.2. 2	Returns made to central government	No	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
11.2. 3	Circulars and other information sent from central government	No	Operational use	SECURE DISPOSAL	

Appendix A – List of School Records and Data safely destroyed

Ref Number	File/Record Title	Description	Reference or Cataloguing Information	Number of Files Destroyed	Method of destruction	<u>Confirm</u> (i) Safely destroyed (ii) In accordance with Data Retention Guidelines Tick (✓)
<i>e.g.</i>	<i>School Invoices</i>	<i>Copies of purchase invoices dated 2011/12</i>	<i>Folders marked "Purchase Invoices 2011/12" 1 to 3</i>	<i>3 Folders</i>	<i>Shredding</i>	✓
1						
2						
3						
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