



Plymouth CAST

Data Protection Policy

2026-2027

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1 Introduction and purpose

- 1.1 This policy sets out the Trust's commitment to handling personal data in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, together with other applicable data protection legislation (collectively referred to as the 'data protection legislation').
- 1.2 The Trust is the data controller for the personal data it processes and is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) under registration number ZA022556. Details about this registration can be found at www.ico.org.uk
- 1.3 The purpose of this policy is to explain how the Trust handles personal data under the data protection legislation, and to inform employees and other individuals who process personal data on the Trust's behalf, of the Trust's expectations in this regard.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to the processing of personal data held by the Trust. This includes personal data held about pupils, parents/carers, employees, temporary staff, governors, visitors and any other identifiable data subjects.
- 2.2 This policy should be read alongside the Trust's other policies, procedures and documentation, which refer to the handling of personal data:
 - Privacy Notice
 - Appropriate Policy Document
 - Artificial Intelligence Policy (*pending*)
 - CCTV policy
 - ICT Acceptable Use Policy (*pending*)
 - Data Retention Policy & Guidance
 - Online Safety Policy (*pending*)
 - ICT Write Offs and Disposal Policy
 - Information Security Policy
 - Personal Data Breach Handling Procedure
 - Data Protection Request Handling Procedure
 - Freedom of Information Policy
 - [Data Protection Complaints Handling Procedure](#)

3 Definitions

3.1 There are several terms used in the data protection legislation and in this policy, which must be understood by those who process personal data held by the Trust. These are:

- Personal data
- Special categories of personal data
- Processing
- Data subject
- Data controller
- Data processor

3.2 These terms are explained in Appendix 1.

4 Roles and responsibilities

4.1 Board of Directors

4.2 The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for ensuring the Trust implements this policy and continues to demonstrate compliance with the data protection legislation. This policy shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors on an annual basis.

4.3 Chief Operating Officer & Headteachers

4.3.1 The Chief Operating Officer has day-to-day responsibility for ensuring this policy is adopted and adhered to by employees and other individuals processing personal data on the Trust's behalf. Headteachers have day-to-day responsibility for ensuring that the policy is adhered to by employees working within schools.

4.4 Data Protection Officer

4.4.1 The Data Protection Officer (DPO) is responsible for carrying out the following tasks:

- Informing and advising the Trust of their obligations under the data protection legislation
- Monitoring compliance with data protection policies
- Raising awareness and providing training
- Carrying out audits on the Trust's processing activities
- Providing advice regarding Data Protection Impact Assessments and monitoring performance
- Co-operating with the Information Commissioner's Office
- Acting as the contact point for data subjects exercising their rights

4.4.2 The Trust's DPO is Firebird Data Protection Consultancy Limited, an external company who performs the role under a service contract. The DPO can be contacted through the Trust at admin@plymouthcast.org.uk or directly at DPO@firebirdltd.co.uk.

- 4.4.3 The DPO is supported in their role by a Trust employee, this person is known as the Data Protection Link Officer. All enquiries, complaints, requests and suspected breaches of security, should be referred to the Data Protection Link Officer in the first instance, who will then notify the DPO. The Trust's Data Protection Link Officer is the Chief Operating Officer.
- 4.4.4 The DPO and Data Protection Link Officer report directly to the Board of Directors and Senior Executive Leadership Team and shall provide regular updates on the Trust's progress and compliance with the data protection legislation.
- 4.5 Employees, temporary staff, contractors, visitors**
- 4.5.1 All employees, temporary staff, contractors, visitors and others processing personal data on behalf of the Trust, are responsible for complying with the contents of this policy. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action or termination of employment or service contract.
- 4.5.2 All employees, temporary staff, contractors, visitors shall remain subject to the common law duty of confidentiality when their employment or relationship with the Trust ends. This does not affect an individual's rights in relation to whistleblowing. On termination of employment, employees shall return all information and equipment to the Trust, including personal identification passes/smart cards and keys.
- 4.5.3 Unauthorised access, use, sharing or procuring of the Trust's data may constitute a criminal offence under the Data Protection Act 2018 and/or the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
- 4.5.4 Employees shall have no expectation of privacy in their use of the Trust's systems. Any correspondence, documents, records or handwritten notes created for work related purposes, may be disclosable to data subjects or the public under the UK General Data Protection Regulation, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
- 4.5.5 The school reserves the right to monitor employees' use of the school's systems and where necessary access work related emails and messages sent from work accounts, and CCTV footage following incidents or complaints. This may be done without notice. Employee monitoring and access to data and images will only be carried out where this is considered necessary and proportionate, for example to discharge the school's statutory duties in relation to safeguarding, health and safety, statutory reporting and responding to information requests. It may also be carried out for security purposes, to identify suspicious activity, compliance with school policies, quality checking and training purposes.

5 Data protection by design and by default

- 5.1 The Trust is committed to ensuring that data protection considerations are at the heart of everything it does involving personal data, and shall ensure that it has appropriate technical and organisational measures in place which are designed to implement the Data Protection Principles in an effective manner.

- 5.2 The Trust shall ensure that by default, it will only process personal data where it is necessary to do so, and appropriate safeguards are in place to protect it. This Data Protection Policy and supplementary policies, procedures and guides demonstrate how the Trust achieves their 'data protection by design and default' obligations.

6 Data Protection Principles

- 6.1 The UK GDPR provides a set of 6 principles which govern how the Trust handles personal data. These are set out in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. All employees, temporary staff, contractors, and other individuals processing personal data on behalf of the Trust are responsible for complying with the data protection principles:

- 6.2 **1) Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner** (*'lawfulness, fairness and transparency'*).

- 6.3 This means personal data shall only be processed where there is a lawful basis which allows this; we are fair to data subjects when we use or share their personal data (i.e. we must act in a way they would reasonably expect); and are transparent in how we handle personal data by describing this in our privacy notices. The Trust's privacy notices are available on our [website](#).

- 6.4 The data protection legislation lists the different lawful bases which permit the collection, use and sharing etc of personal data. These are contained in Article 6 of the UK GDPR. At least one of these legal bases must apply when processing personal data. In summary:

- The data subject has given consent.
- It is necessary for contractual purposes.
- It is necessary to comply with a legal obligation.
- It is necessary to protect someone's life.
- It is necessary to carry out a task in the public interest or exercise our official duties.
- It is necessary to pursue the Trust's legitimate interests or a third party's legitimate interests, except where such interests are overridden by the data subject, in particular, where the data subject is a child.
- It is necessary for a recognised legitimate interest set out in data protection law, where this basis can lawfully be used by the Trust and the processing is not part of its public duties.

- 6.5 When 'special categories' of personal data are processed (i.e. data which reveals a person's racial or ethnic data; political opinions; religious or philosophical beliefs; trade union membership; genetic or biometric data; health data; sex life or sexual orientation), this shall only be done where a lawful basis has been identified from the list above, and one from the following list:

- The data subject has given explicit consent.
- The processing is necessary for employment, social security or social protection purposes (e.g. safeguarding individuals at risk; protection against unlawful acts; prevention against fraud).

- It is necessary to protect the data subject's life, and they are physically or legally incapable of giving consent.
- The data subject has made the information public.
- The processing is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims or whenever courts are acting in their judicial capacity.
- The processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest and are proportionate to the aim pursued.
- The processing is necessary for health or social care purposes.
- The processing is necessary for reasons of public interest in public health.
- The processing is necessary for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research or statistical purposes.

6.6 Although consent is one of the lawful bases that can be relied upon when processing personal data or special category data, it is not appropriate to rely on this for most of the processing the Trust does. This is because there is a high standard for achieving 'valid' consent and there are potential difficulties for the Trust should the data subject later withdraw their consent to the processing. The Trust shall therefore look for alternative lawful bases to legitimise its processing where they are more appropriate, such as *'processing is necessary to carry out a task in the public interest or exercise official duties'* and *'processing is necessary for the purposes of employment, social security or social protection'*.

6.7 There are however circumstances when the Trust is required to obtain consent to process personal data, for example:

- To collect and use biometric information (eg fingerprints and facial images) to be used for identification purposes.
- To send direct marketing or fundraising information by email or text, where the data subject would not have a reasonable expectation that their data would be used in this way or has previously objected to this.
- To take and use photographs, digital or video images and displaying, publishing or sharing these in a public arena (such as on social media, on the Trust website; in the Press; in the prospectus; newsletter etc), where the data subject would not have a reasonable expectation that their images would be used in this way, or the rights of the data subject override the legitimate interests of the Trust.
- To share personal data with third parties (e.g. professionals, agencies or organisations) where the data subject has a genuine choice as to whether their data will be shared, for example when offering services which the data subject does not have to accept or agree to receive.

6.8 Where it is appropriate for the Trust to use consent as its lawful basis, it shall ensure the person providing it has positively opted-in to the proposed activity and is fully informed as to what they are consenting to and any non-obvious consequences of giving or refusing that consent.

- 6.9 Consent shall not be assumed as being given if no response has been received e.g. a consent form has not been returned. Where consent is sought in relation to a child's personal data, the Trust shall consider whether the child has sufficient understanding and maturity to provide valid consent themselves. Where a child does not have sufficient understanding, consent shall normally be sought from a person with parental responsibility.
- 6.10 The Trust shall ensure that where consent is obtained, there is a record of this. Where possible, consent shall be obtained in writing. All forms requesting consent shall include a statement informing the person of their right to withdraw or amend their consent, and instructions on how to do this easily.
- 6.11 **2) Personal data shall be collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes ('purpose limitation').**
- 6.12 This means the Trust shall only collect and use personal data for the reasons specified or described in its privacy notices and shall not process this data in any way which could be considered incompatible with those purposes, in other words, using the data for a different or unexpected purpose.
- 6.13 **3) Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purpose it was processed ('data minimisation').**
- 6.14 This means the Trust shall ensure that any personal data collected, used or shared etc. is fit for purpose, relevant and not excessive or disproportionate for the purpose it was intended.
- 6.15 **4) Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that inaccurate personal data are erased or rectified without delay ('accuracy').**
- 6.16 This means the Trust shall take all reasonable efforts to ensure the personal data it holds is accurate and where necessary kept up to date, and where personal data is found to be inaccurate, this information shall be corrected or erased without delay.
- 6.17 The Trust shall send reminders, on at least an annual basis, to parents/carers, pupils and employees, asking them to notify the Trust of any changes to their contact details or other information. The Trust shall also carry out periodic sample checks of pupil and employee files to ensure the data is accurate and up to date.
- 6.18 **5) Personal data shall be kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which they are processed ('storage limitation').**
- 6.19 This means the Trust shall not keep personal data for any longer than it needs to. Personal data may be stored for longer periods where it is solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes, provided that appropriate technical and organisational measures are in place to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject.

- 6.20 The Trust shall maintain and follow a Record Retention Schedule which sets out the timeframes for retaining and disposing of personal data. This schedule shall be published alongside the Trust's privacy notices on our [website](#).
- 6.21 The Trust shall designate responsibility for record retention and disposal to Headteacher, who shall adhere to the Trust's Data Retention Policy & Guidance and ICT Write Offs and Disposal Policy and ensure the timely and secure disposal of the data.
- 6.22 **6) Personal data shall be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures. ('integrity and confidentiality)**
- 6.23 This means the Trust shall have appropriate security in place to protect personal data. The following are examples of the minimum technical and organisational measures that shall be in place to protect personal data:
- 6.24 **Technical security measures:**
- Security patches shall be applied promptly.
 - Access to systems shall be restricted according to role-based requirements.
 - Strong password policies shall be enforced in accordance with current DfE/NCSC guidance. Passwords shall be unique, appropriately strong and changed immediately where they are known or suspected to have been compromised. Password managers shall be used where appropriate.
 - Portable devices (such as laptops) storing personal data shall be encrypted.
 - The use of USB sticks and other portable media is discouraged and cloud-based storage systems should be used.
 - The Trust's disaster recovery and business continuity plans shall be regularly tested to ensure data can be restored in a timely manner in the event of an incident.
 - Multi-factor authentication (MFA) shall be enabled for staff accounts accessing cloud services or remotely accessing school systems, IT administrative accounts, and other accounts where required by the Trust's cyber security standards.
- 6.25 **Organisational security measures:**
- Employees shall sign confidentiality clauses as part of their employment contract.
 - Mandatory data protection awareness training shall be provided to employees and governors during on-boarding and annually thereafter.
 - Cyber security training, guidance or advice shall be cascaded to employees on a regular basis.
 - Policies and guidance shall be communicated to employees and governors on the secure handling of personal data in Trust and when working remotely.

- Data protection compliance shall be a regular agenda item in Board, LCB and Senior Executive Leadership Team meetings. All employees shall be given the opportunity to raise compliance queries or concerns at any meeting.
- Cross cutting shredders and/or confidential waste containers will be available on the Trust's premises and used to dispose of paperwork containing personal data.
- Appropriate equipment and guidance will be available for employees to use and follow when carrying confidential paperwork off Trust premises.
- The Trust's buildings, offices and where appropriate classrooms, shall be locked when not in use.
- Paper documents and files containing personal data shall be locked in cabinets/cupboards when not in use, and access restricted on a need-to-know basis.
- Procedures shall be in place for visitors coming onto the Trust's premises. These will include signing in and out at reception, wearing a visitor's badge and being escorted where appropriate.
- The Trust shall have procedures in place to identify, report, record, investigate and manage personal data breaches in the event of a security incident.
- The school shall have procedures in place to effectively wipe all data from redundant computer equipment (to include smartphones, tablets, cameras, memory cards, photocopiers, multi-function devices, CDs, USBs etc) prior to their decommissioning, re-use or disposal. The equipment shall be stored in a secure area pending their collection by disposal companies.

6.26 The Trust shall have appropriate records in place to demonstrate compliance with each of these data protection principles ('accountability').

7 Data subjects' rights

7.1 Data subjects have several rights under the data protection legislation. The right to:

- be told how their personal data is being processed;
- request access to their personal data;
- request that inaccurate or incomplete personal data is rectified;
- request the erasure of personal data in certain circumstances;
- request the processing of their personal data is restricted in some circumstances;
- request that their personal data is transferred from one organisation to another or given to them, in certain circumstances;
- object to their personal data being used for public interest or direct marketing purposes;
- be protected from important decisions made solely by automated systems, including the right to human review and to challenge the decision;
- complain to the Trust about how their personal data or data protection rights have been handled.

- 7.2 Data subjects may exercise their data protection rights by contacting the Trust in writing or verbally. Data subjects are recommended to submit their request in writing and send this to The Chief Operating Officer, Plymouth CAST, The Edmund Rice Building, St Boniface College, 21 Boniface Lane, Plymouth, PL5 3AG or by email to admin@plymouthcast.org.uk. The Trust shall handle all Data Protection Requests in line with the Data Protection Request Handling Procedure.
- 7.3 Individuals have the right to complain to the Trust where they consider that their personal data has not been handled in accordance with the data protection legislation. The Trust shall provide an accessible means for individuals to make a data protection complaint, including electronically.
- 7.4 The Trust shall acknowledge a data protection complaint within 30 days of receipt, take appropriate steps to investigate the complaint, keep the complainant informed of progress where appropriate and provide the outcome without undue delay.
- 7.5 Data protection complaints shall be referred to the Data Protection Officer for advice and handled in accordance with the Trust's Data Protection Complaints Handling Procedure. Individuals who remain dissatisfied may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office.

8 Personal data breaches

- 8.1 The Trust shall follow the Personal Data Breach Handling Procedure in the event of a personal data breach. A personal data breach is a:

'breach of security which leads to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed'.

- 8.2 Examples of personal data breaches include, but are not limited to:

- Entering or uploading personal data about identifiable individuals into artificial intelligence (AI) tools which have not been assessed and approved by the school.
- Emailing a group of parents and failing to insert their private email addresses into the 'Bcc' field, thus revealing those email addresses to all recipients.
- Emailing or posting confidential information to the wrong person.
- Not storing or disposing of confidential paperwork securely.
- Loss or theft of IT equipment which has personal data stored on it eg a laptop, iPad, mobile phone or a USB.
- Altering, sharing or destroying personal data records without permission from the Trust.
- Using another person's login credentials to gain higher level access to records.
- Sharing login details or having insufficient access controls to systems, which result in unauthorised viewing, use, modification or sharing of personal data.
- Hacking into a system containing personal data.
- A social engineering incident whereby a person uses deception to manipulate individuals into divulging confidential or personal information eg a phishing email.
- A cyber-attack resulting in loss of access to personal data (eg a ransomware attack).
- Environmental incidents such as a fire or flood which damage or destroy important personal data records, prior to their scheduled disposal.

- An employee abusing their access privileges to look at someone else's records out of personal curiosity or gain.
- 8.3 All personal data breaches and suspected breaches (including cyber incidents) shall be reported to the Data Protection Officer immediately, via the Trust's Data Protection Link Officer, by emailing admin@plymouthcast.org.uk or telephone 01752 686710.
- 8.4 All incidents shall be recorded on the Trust's personal data breach log and investigated by a member of the Senior Leadership Team (or other person as appropriate), under the support and direction of the Data Protection Officer. Cyber incidents shall be reported to and investigated by the Trust's IT Manager who shall keep the Data Protection Officer informed of their findings where personal data has been compromised.
- 8.5 Notification to the ICO and Data Subjects**
- 8.5.1 The Data Protection Officer shall determine whether the Trust must notify the Information Commissioner's Office and data subjects following a personal data breach.
- 8.5.2 A personal data breach is required to be reported to the ICO within 72hrs of the Trust becoming aware of the breach, where the breach is likely to result in a risk to the data subject or someone else, for example if they are likely to suffer damage, discrimination, disadvantage or distress.
- 8.5.3 Data subjects are required to be informed without undue delay, where the breach is likely to result in 'high risks', for example if the breach could lead to identity theft, psychological distress, humiliation, reputational damage or physical harm.
- 8.5.4 The Data Protection Officer shall notify the ICO (following consultation with the Trust) where a personal data breach meets the 'risk' threshold. The Headteacher or other delegated employee shall notify data subjects (or their parents) following a 'high risk' breach.

9 Sharing data

- 9.1 The Trust regularly shares personal data internally and externally with partner agencies and third parties for legitimate purposes. Employees shall follow to the Trust's policies and procedures when sharing personal data and adhere to the statutory and non-statutory guidance as set out in the:
- HM Government: Information Sharing Advice for Safeguarding Practitioners (2024)
 - Change "Department for Education: Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)" to Department for Education: Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026).
 - Information Commissioner Office: Data Sharing Code of Practice (2021)
- 9.2 When sharing personal data with third parties the Trust shall adhere to the following principles:
- Data subject(s) shall be made aware of the sharing through privacy notices or specific communications regarding the sharing.
 - An appropriate lawful basis shall be identified prior to the sharing.

- Data shared shall be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary.
- Accuracy of the data shall be checked prior to the sharing (where possible).
- Expectations regarding data retention shall be communicated.
- Data shall be shared by secure means and measures in place to protect the data when received by the third party.
- A record shall be kept of the data sharing, including decisions not to share.
- Information sharing agreements shall be in place where required.

9.3 The Trust understands the data protection laws expressly allow organisations to share necessary and proportionate personal data with third parties to protect the safety or well-being of a child and in urgent or emergency situations to prevent loss of life or serious physical, emotional or mental harm, and is not a barrier to sensible and necessary sharing.

9.4 **Sharing data with suppliers (data processors)**

9.5 The school uses a variety of service providers to help it run effectively. These are sometimes referred to as 'data processors'. This often includes companies providing services such as IT support, professional advice, learning or teaching resources, management information systems, parent communication platforms, document storage solutions, Artificial Intelligence platforms, visitor entry systems, facial recognition and biometric data storage systems, HR and payroll platforms.

9.5.1 Using these service providers usually requires disclosing personal data to them so they can deliver the service or product the Trust has purchased. The data protection legislation requires that before sharing personal data with a service provider, the Trust must carry out due diligence checks on the company or product, to assess if they have appropriate measures in place that ensures compliance with the data protection legislation and protects the rights of data subjects.

9.5.2 Due diligence checks shall be carried out on prospective service suppliers by the Trust, alongside the Data Protection Officer. The outcome shall be recorded on the Trust's Data Processor Due Diligence Report template.

9.5.3 Employees shall not purchase a product or service which involves the disclosure of personal data, unless the appropriate due diligence checks have been carried out in consultation with the Data Protection Officer, a data processing agreement (or equivalent) is in place, and the product has been approved by a member of the Senior Executive Leadership Team LT (or other delegated person).

10 **Data Protection Impact Assessments**

10.1 The Trust is required to carry out Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIAs) on the processing of personal data, where this is likely to result in 'high risks' to the rights and freedoms of data subjects. High risk means the potential for any significant physical, material or non-material harm (e.g. distress) to individuals.

- 10.2 A DPIA is a process which helps the Trust identify, minimise and document the data protection risks of a project or plan involving personal data. It demonstrates the Trust's compliance with the data protection principles and fulfils its 'accountability' and 'data protection by design' obligations. A DPIA does not have to eradicate all risk, but should minimise risks and determine whether or not the level of risk is acceptable in the circumstances, taking into account the benefits of what the Trust wants to achieve.
- 10.3 The UK GDPR sets out three types of processing which will always require a DPIA:
- Systematic and extensive evaluation or profiling of individuals with significant effects
 - Large scale use of sensitive data (special category or criminal conviction or offence data)
 - Systematic monitoring of a publicly accessible area on a large scale
- 10.4 The Trust shall follow the Information Commissioner's Office supplementary list of processing, which also requires a DPIA:
- Use of innovative technology (such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools)
 - Denial of a service, opportunity or benefit
 - Large scale profiling
 - Processing of biometric or genetic data
 - Data matching
 - Invisible processing
 - Tracking
 - Targeting children or other vulnerable individuals
 - Risk of physical harm
- 10.5 The Trust shall also consider the European guidelines (Guidelines on Data Protection Impact Assessment), to help identify other likely high risk processing, which includes:
- Use of sensitive data or data of a highly personal nature.
 - Data concerning vulnerable data subjects.
 - Innovative use or applying new technological or organisational solutions.
- 10.6 The Trust shall use their DPIA pre-screening checklist to help identify whether a DPIA should be carried out. The results from DPIAs shall be recorded and shared with the Data Protection Officer, who will advise on any privacy risks and mitigations that can be made to reduce the likelihood of these risks materialising. The Data Protection Officer will monitor the outcome of the DPIA to ensure the mitigations are put in place. DPIAs shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

11 Records management

- 11.1 Records management is a system for managing records throughout their life cycle, from the time of creation or receipt to their destruction. The Trust recognises that good records

management plays a crucial role in the smooth running of the Trust and is also necessary to comply with its obligations under the data protection legislation and the Freedom of Information Act 2000, particularly when responding to information access requests and protecting personal data from security threats.

11.2 The Trust shall manage its electronic and paper-based records in line with the statutory Code of Practice on the Management of Records, issued under section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

11.3 Employees and governors shall be provided with advice, guidance and training on how to manage the Trust's records effectively throughout their lifecycle. This should include naming, storing, accessing, security classification, and disposal of records.

- The Trust shall maintain a Data Retention Policy and regularly review its records to ensure they are disposed of in line with the schedule. The schedule shall be communicated to data leads responsible for managing the Trust's records.

11.4 **Record of processing activities**

11.5 The Trust shall, amongst other things, know what personal data records it holds, who it shares these records with; the security in place to protect them and how long they are to be kept for. This information shall be recorded in a Record of Processing Activities Inventory (ROPA), in line with Article 30 of the UK GDPR. The ROPA shall be reviewed annually and made available to the Information Commissioner upon request.

Policy history

Policy Version and Date	Summary of Change	Amended by	Implementation Date
Version 2.5	These Data Protection Policy changes have been made to reflect recent changes in data protection legislation, including the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, and updated ICO and Department for Education guidance and standards. ● Paragraph 1.1 Replaced wording with: This policy sets out the Trust's commitment to handling personal data in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025, together with other applicable data protection legislation (collectively referred to as the 'data protection legislation'). ● Paragraph 2.2 Added Data Protection Complaints Handling Procedure to the list of related documents ● Paragraph 6.4 Added the following bullet: It is necessary for a recognised legitimate interest set out in data protection law, where this basis can lawfully be used by the Trust and the processing is not part of its public duties. ● Paragraph 6.9 Amended previous wording to:	Firebird Data Protection Consultancy (Data Protection Officer)	September 2026

	Consent shall not be assumed as being given if no response has been received e.g. a consent form has not been returned. Where consent is sought in relation to a child's personal data, the Trust shall consider whether the child has sufficient understanding and maturity to provide valid consent themselves. Where a child does not have sufficient understanding, consent shall normally be sought from a person with parental responsibility. ● Paragraph 6.24 Replaced the previous password bullet with: Strong password policies shall be enforced in accordance with current DfE/NCSC guidance. Passwords shall be unique, appropriately strong and changed immediately where they are known or suspected to have been compromised. Password managers shall be used where appropriate. Replaced the previous 2FA bullet with: Multi-factor authentication (MFA) shall be enabled for staff accounts accessing cloud services or remotely accessing Trust systems, IT administrative accounts, and other accounts where required by the school's cyber security standards. ● Paragraph 7.1 Replaced the previous automated decision-making bullet with: be protected from important decisions made solely by automated systems, including the right to human review and to challenge the decision; Replaced the previous right to complain bullet with:		
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	complain to the Trust about how their personal data or data protection rights have been handled. Added the following new sub paragraphs to the end of Section 7: 7.3 Individuals have the right to complain to the Trust where they consider that their personal data has not been handled in accordance with the data protection legislation. The Trust shall provide an accessible means for individuals to make a data protection complaint, including electronically. 7.4 The Trust shall acknowledge a data protection complaint within 30 days of receipt, take appropriate steps to investigate the complaint, keep the complainant informed of progress where appropriate and provide the outcome without undue delay. 7.5 Data protection complaints shall be referred to the Data Protection Officer for advice and handled in accordance with the Trust's Data Protection Complaints Handling Procedure. Individuals who remain dissatisfied may complain to the Information Commissioner's Office. ● Paragraph 9.1 Changed “Department for Education: Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)” to Department for Education: Keeping Children Safe in Education (2026).		
Version 2.4	● Throughout document – simplified and amended paragraph numbering ● Page 1 – date changes ● <i>Para 2.2 - insertion of: bullet points ‘privacy notice’; “Appropriate Policy Document” ‘Artificial Intelligence Policy [pending]’, ‘ICT Acceptable Use Policy (pending)’, Online Safety Policy (pending)’</i>	Firebird Data Protection Consultancy (Data Protection Officer)	September 2025

	● Para 4.5.5 – insertion of: <i>‘and CCTV footage following incidents or complaints’; ‘and images’</i> ● Para 8.2 – insertion of: <i>‘Entering or uploading personal data about identifiable individuals into artificial intelligence (AI) tools which have not been assessed and approved by the school’.</i> ● Para 9.1 – date changes ● Para 9.2 – insertion of: <i>‘including decisions not to share.’</i> ● Para 9.5.3 – insertion of: <i>‘(or equivalent)’</i> ● Para 10.4 – insertion of: <i>‘tools’</i>		
Version 2.3	● 2.2 Insertion of an additional bullet point: <i>‘Appropriate Policy Document’</i> ● 4.5.5 Insertion of new paragraph: <i>‘The school reserves the right to monitor employees’ use of the school’s systems and where necessary access work related emails and messages sent from work accounts. This may be done without notice. Employee monitoring and access to data will only be carried out where this is considered necessary and proportionate, for example to discharge the school’s statutory duties in relation to safeguarding, health and safety, statutory reporting and responding to information requests. It may also be carried out for security purposes, to identify suspicious activity, compliance with school policies, quality checking and training purposes.’</i> ● 6.23 Insertion of new bullet point:	Data Protection Officer & Chief Operating Officer	September 2024

	<i>'All accounts, where reasonably practicable, should be protected by multi-factor authentication.'</i> 6.23 Insertion of new bullet point: <i>'The use of USB sticks and other portable media is discouraged and cloud-based storage systems should be used.'</i> 6.25 Insertion of new bullet point: <i>'The school shall have procedures in place to effectively wipe all data from redundant computer equipment (to include smartphones, tablets, cameras, memory cards, photocopiers, multi-function devices, CDs, USBs etc) prior to their decommissioning, re-use or disposal. The equipment shall be stored in a secure area pending their collection by disposal companies.'</i> 8.3 Insertion of addition wording: <i>'or directly to dpo@firebirdltd.co.uk'</i> 9.1 DfE and ICO guidance dates updated 9.4.1 Paragraph amended: <i>The school uses a variety of service providers to help it run effectively. These are sometimes referred to as 'data processors'. This often includes companies providing services such as IT support, professional advice, learning or teaching resources, management information systems, parent communication platforms, document storage solutions, Artificial Intelligence platforms, visitor entry systems, facial recognition and biometric data storage systems, HR and payroll platforms.</i> 9.4.2 Insertion of <i>'or subscribed to.'</i> 9.4.3 Insertion of <i>'prior to using the service or product provided by the supplier'</i>		
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	● 9.4.4 Insertion of <i>'a data processing agreement is in place'</i> ● 10.4 Insertion of <i>'including the use of'</i>		
Version 2.2	This policy has been re-written to simplify and re-order the existing content and includes new content (Records Management). This policy replaces the Trust's existing Data Protection Policy in its entirety.	Protection Officer & Chief Operating Officer	July 2023
Version 2.1	● 5.2.2 all bullet points re-worded and simplified ● 5.2.3 all bullet points re-worded and simplified ● 5.2.6 all bullet points re-worded ● 5.8.1 insertion of new bullet point - <i>use of two factor authentication (2FA) on accounts containing sensitive data</i> ● 5.9.1 following bullets point re-worded- <i>Data protection awareness training shall be provided to employees during on-boarding and annually thereafter.</i> <i>Policies and guidance shall be in place relating to the secure handling of personal data whilst in Trust and when working remotely outside of Trust.</i> ● 5.9.1 new bullet point- <i>Cyber security training, guidance or advice shall be cascaded to employees on a regular basis.</i> ● 5.10.2 following bullet point re-worded- <i>Have inaccurate or incomplete data corrected</i>	Protection Officer & Chief Operating Officer	July 2022

	● 5.14.2 sentence re-worded – <i>Due diligence checks on prospective data processors shall be carried out alongside the Data Protection Officer. A record shall be kept of the Trust's findings.</i> ● 5.15.1 following bullet point re-worded- <i>Purposes of the processing and any recipients of the data (including data processors)</i> ● 5.17 entire section re-worded ● 5.18 insertion of a new section		
Version 2.0	● 1.1 – removal of the reference 'EU GDPR' changing this to 'UK GDPR' ● 2.2 – amended to read: <i>This policy should be read alongside the Personal Data Breach Handling Procedure, Data Protection Request Handling Procedure and [insert other relevant policies and procedures such as the E-Safety Policy; ICT Policy, CCTV Policy, Acceptable Use Policy etc].</i> ● 4.4.4 – insertion of new sentence to read - <i>All individuals who handle the Trust's data shall be made aware that unauthorised access, use, sharing or procuring of data, may constitute a criminal offence under the Data Protection Act 2018 and/or the Computer Misuse Act 1990.</i> ● 5.1.2 – insertion of new sentence to read: <i>The Trust shall have appropriate measures and records in place to demonstrate compliance with the data protection principles.</i> ● 5.1.3 – renumbering of existing paragraph ● 5.2.2 – insertion of new bullet point to read: <i>It is necessary for the legitimate interests of the Trust (where applicable) or third party, except where such interests are overridden by the data subject</i>	Data Protection Officer	July 2021

	● 5.14.2 – re-wording of paragraph to read: <i>Due diligence checks on prospective data processors shall be carried out as part of the Trust’s Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) process. A record shall be kept of the Trust and Data Protection Officer’s findings on a DPIA report.</i> ● 5.14.3 – insertion of the phrase ‘UK GDPR’ ● 5.15.1 insertion of the phrase ‘UK GDPR’ ● 5.15.2 re-wording of paragraph to read: <i>This inventory shall be reviewed annually and made available to the Information Commissioner upon request.</i> ● 5.16.1 re-wording of paragraph to read: <i>The Trust shall follow the Personal Data Breach Handling Procedure in the event of a personal data security breach. These include incidents resulting in the:</i> ● <i>unauthorised or accidental disclosure or access to personal data</i> ● <i>unauthorised or accidental alteration of personal data</i> ● <i>accidental or unauthorised loss of access or destruction of personal data</i> ● 5.16.2 re-wording of paragraph to read: <i>All personal data security breaches and suspected breaches must be reported to the Data Protection Officer immediately, via the Trust’s Data Protection Link Officer, by emailing [insert Trust email address] or telephone [insert Trust number].</i>		
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	● 5.16.6 re-wording of paragraph to read: <i>Where a breach is likely to result in a risk to the data subject, for example if they could suffer damage, discrimination, disadvantage or distress as a result of the breach, the Data Protection Officer shall notify the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), within 72hrs of the Trust becoming aware of the breach.</i> ● 5.18.1 insertion of the phrase 'UK GDPR' ● Removal of employee declaration form at the end of the policy		
Version 1.2 July 2020	● 5.2.3 – amended to read: <i>When special categories of personal data are processed (ie data which reveals a person's racial or ethnic data; political opinions; religious or philosophical beliefs; trade union membership; genetic or biometric data (eg fingerprints); health data; sex life or sexual orientation), this shall only be done where a lawful basis has been identified from the list above, and one from the following list...</i> ● 5.2.11 – amended to read: <i>The Trust's privacy notices shall be clear, concise, easily accessible and published on the Trust's website. All forms collecting personal data shall include reference to the Trust's privacy notices and a link provided to their location.</i> ● The following paragraphs have been removed: 5.2.12; 5.2.13; 5.2.14 ● 5.5.3 – amended to read: <i>The Trust shall carry out periodic sample checks of pupil and employee files containing personal data, to ensure the data is accurate and up to date.</i>	Data Protection Officer	

	● 5.10.1 – amended to read: <i>Data subjects have several rights under the data protection legislation. The Trust shall comply with all valid requests (written or verbal) from data subjects exercising their rights without delay, and within one month at the latest.</i> ● 5.10.2 – bullet points have been re-worded in full ● 5.11.1 – amended to read: <i>Data subjects exercising their rights are recommended to put their request in writing and send it to the Trust at [insert Trust postal address and email address]. Data subjects can also exercise their rights verbally. Requests shall be handled in line with the Trust’s Data Protection Request Handling Procedure.</i> ● The following paragraphs have been removed: 5.11.2; 5.11.3; 5.11.4; 5.11.5; 5.11.6; 5.11.7; 5.11.8 ● 5.14.2 has been amended to read: <i>The Trust’s Data Protection Officer, IT Manager and Data Protection Link Officer shall assess the appropriateness of data processors before the Trust purchases their services. A record will be kept of their findings on a Data Processor Due Diligence Report.</i>		
Version 1.1 1 July 2019	● Version number and policy date (page 1) ● 2.2 amended to read <i>[insert relevant policies and procedures such as the E-Safety Policy; ICT Policy etc].</i> ● 4.2 amended to read: <i>Headteacher [or Principal]</i> ● 4.2.1 amended to read: <i>The Headteacher [or principal]</i>	Data Protection Officer	

	● 4.3.3 amended to read: <i>The DPO is Amber Badley, who can be contacted through the Trust at [insert Trust email address] or directly via DPO@firebirdltd.co.uk</i> ● 5.2.7 amended to include: <i>Where consent is being obtained for the collection or use of children's information, consent shall be obtained from a parent or guardian until the child reaches the age of 12. Consent shall be obtained directly from children aged 13 years and over, where those children are deemed by the Trust to have sufficient maturity to make the decision themselves (except where this is not in the best interests of the child. In such cases, consent will be obtained from an adult with parental responsibility for that child).</i> ● 5.2.12 amended to read: <i>This notice will be published on the Trust's website; parents will be directed to this on an annual basis.</i> ● 5.2.13 amended to read: <i>Employees will be given a privacy notice explaining how the Trust handles employee information when they join the Trust and directed to this annually thereafter.</i> ● 5.11.1 amended to read: <i>Data subjects exercising their rights are recommended to put their request in writing and send it to the Trust at [insert Trust postal address and email address]. Data subjects can also exercise their rights verbally. In such cases, the Trust will promptly write to the data subject outlining the verbal discussion/request and will ask the data subject to confirm this is accurate.</i> ● Renumbering of paragraphs in section 5.11-5.12		
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	5.11.4 amended to read: <i>Pupils can request access to their own personal data when they have sufficient maturity to understand their rights; know what it means to make such a request and can interpret the information they receive. The Information Commissioner's Office and the Department for Education guidance, suggests that children aged 13 years and above, may have sufficient maturity in these situations, however it is for the Trust to decide this on a case by case basis.</i>		
Version 1.0 25 May 2018	This policy replaces the Trust's existing Data Protection Policy	Data Protection Officer	25 May 2018

Data Protection Policy Definitions

Term Used	Summary Definition
Personal data	Personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual. This includes a name, identification number, location data, an online identifier, information relating to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that individual.
Special categories of personal data	Special categories of personal data mean personal data which reveal the racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs and the trade union membership of the data subject. It also includes the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying an individual, data concerning health, and data relating to an individual's sex life or sexual orientation.
Processing	Processing means any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data, such as the collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.
Data subject	An identifiable, living individual who is the subject of personal data.
Data controller	A data controller is an organisation who determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.
Data processor	A data processor is an individual or organisation who processes personal data on behalf of a data controller, upon their instructions.