



# **Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policy**

Summer 2018

Manager

**Mrs J. G. Chapman**

Review Date – Summer 2020

## **Aims & Objectives:**

The aim of this policy is to provide a model set of guidelines to enable staff, parents and pupils to understand:

- The law regarding personal data
- How personal data should be processed, stored, archived and deleted/destroyed
- How staff, parents and pupils can access personal data

In addition, there is brief guidance at the end of the policy on Freedom of Information which covers other information held by schools.

The objective of the policy is to ensure that the school acts within the requirements of the Data Protection Acts of 1998 and 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) when retaining and storing personal data, and when making it available to individuals, and that the process of responding to enquiries for other information is also legal under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (in force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005).

### **What is the GDPR?**

This is a European Directive that will be brought into UK law with an updated Data Protection Act for May 2018. Brexit will not change it.

The current Data Protection Act 1998 will be repealed and replaced with the Data Protection Act 2018.

### **What is the point of the GDPR?**

The GDPR and new DPA exist to look after individual's data. It is a series of safeguards for every individual. Information about individuals needs to be treated with respect and be secure.

The GDPR exists to protect individual rights in an increasingly digital world.

### **Who does it apply to?**

Everyone, including schools. As Public Bodies schools have more obligations than some small businesses. It is mandatory to comply with the GDPR and proposed provisions in the new Act.

We want to make sure information about pupils, parents, staff and volunteers is kept secure and within the law.

### **What is Data?**

Any information that relates to a living person that identified them. This can be by name, address or phone number for example. It also relates to details about that person, which can include opinions.

Some data is considered to be more sensitive, and therefore more important to protect. This is information about racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, data concerning health or sex life and sexual orientation, genetic data, and biometric data where processed to uniquely identify a person.

Schools often collect sensitive data for DfE and LA requirements and of course pupil data may contain information about safeguarding, SEN or health needs. Information about other family members may also be on the school file.

The school also has a Privacy / Fair Processing Notice on the website.

## **What are the key principles of the GDPR?**

### **Lawfulness, transparency and fairness**

School must have a legitimate reason to hold the data, we explain this in the Data Privacy Notices on the website. We often ask for consent to use data about a pupil for a particular purpose. If you wish to withdraw consent we have a form to complete to allow us to process your request. There are sometimes when you cannot withdraw consent as explained in 'Data Subjects Rights'.

### **Collect data for a specific purpose and use it for that purpose**

So, data cannot be used for a purpose that it was not originally collected for, or where notice has not been given about how data may be used after collection.

### **Limited collection**

Data controllers should only collect the minimum amount of data needed for a particular task or reason. If there is a breach or a hack only limited information can be lost.

### **Accuracy**

Data collected should be accurate, and steps should be taken to check and confirm accuracy. We do this when pupils join the school and check on an annual basis.

If a Data Subject feels that the information held is inaccurate, should no longer be held by the Controller or should not be held by the Controller in any event a dispute resolution process and complaint process can be accessed, using the suitable forms.

### **Retention**

The school has a retention policy which sets out how long we store records for. This is available on request.

### **Security**

We have processes in place to keep data safe. That might be paper files, electronic records or other information. We retain hard copies of personal data and sensitive personal data in files in locked cupboards and electronic data is stored on password protected computers. Laptops containing such data are encrypted to provide extra security. Staff have been trained on the requirements of GDPR and take care to ensure that they only store data that they need in order to perform their duties. Laptops are not left unattended in vehicles when staff take them to work off site Emails containing personal data are sent securely to outside agencies using the Egress system and staff send emails regarding pupil data using their school outlook accounts.

## **Who is a 'data subject' ?**

Someone whose details we keep on file. Some details are more sensitive than others. The GDPR sets out collection of details such as health conditions and ethnicity which are more sensitive than names and phone numbers.

## **Data subjects' rights**

Individuals have a right:-

- to be informed
- of access to data stored about them or their children
- to rectification if there is an error on the data stored
- to erasure if there is no longer a need for school to keep the data
- to restrict processing, i.e. to limit what is done with their data
- to object to data being shared or collected

There are other rights that relate to automated decision making and data portability that are not directly relevant to schools.

## **Processing, storing, archiving and deleting personal data: guidance**

- Personal data and school records about pupils are confidential to the child. The information can be shared appropriately within the professional working of the school to enable the school to make the best educational provision for the child. The law permits such information to be shared with other educational establishments when pupils change schools.
- School records for a child should be passed on to the receiving school when a child leaves us.
- Data on staff is sensitive information and confidential to the individual, and is shared, where appropriate, at the discretion of the Head Teacher and with the knowledge, and if possible the agreement of the staff member concerned.
- Employment records form part of a staff member's permanent record. Because there are specific legislative issues connected with these (salary and pension details etc.) these records should be retained as set out by the LA.
- Interview records, CV's and application forms for unsuccessful applicants are kept for 6 months.
- All formal complaints made to the Head Teacher or School Governors will be kept for at least seven years in confidential files, with any documents on the outcome of such complaints. Individuals concerned in such complaints may have access to such files subject to data protection and to legal professional privilege in the event of a court case.
- Data subjects rights are also subject to child protection and safeguarding concerns, sharing information for the prevention and detection of crime. Schools also have legal and contractual obligations to share information with organisations such as the Department for Education, Social Care, the Local Authority and HMRC amongst others. In some cases these obligations override individual rights.

## **Subject Access Requests**

You can ask for copies of information that we hold about you or a pupil who you have parental responsibility for or are a parent of at school. This Subject Access Request process is set out separately. You need to fill out the form, and you may need to provide identification evidence for us to process the request.

We have to provide the information within a month, but this can be extended if, for example, the school was closed for holidays. The maximum extension is up to two months.

When we receive a request we may ask you to be more specific about the information that you require. This is to refine any queries to make sure you access what you need, rather than sometimes getting a lot of information that may not be relevant to your query.

In some cases we cannot share all information we hold on file if there are contractual, legal or regulatory reasons.

We cannot release information provided by a third party without their consent, or in some cases you may be better to approach them directly, e.g. school nurses who are employed by the NHS.

We will supply the information in an electronic form.

If you wish to complain about the process, please see our complaints policy and later information in this DPA policy.

## **Who is a 'data controller'?**

Our school governing board is the data controller. They have ultimate responsibility for how school manages data. They delegate this to data processors to act on their behalf.

## **Who is a 'data processor'?**

This is a person or organisation that uses, collects, accesses or amends the data that the controller has collected or authorised to be collected. It can be a member of staff, a third-party company, possibly a governor, a contractor or temporary employee. It can also be another organisation such as the police or the LA.

Data controllers must make sure that data processors are as careful about the data as the controller themselves. The GDPR places additional obligations on organisations to make sure that Data Controllers require contractual agreements to ensure that this is the case.

## **Fair processing of personal data: data which may be shared**

Schools, local education authorities and the Department for Education (DfE) all hold information on pupils in order to run the education system, and in doing so have to follow the Data Protection Act 1998. This means, among other things that the data held about pupils must only be used for specific

purposes allowed by law. The school has Privacy Notices which explain how personal data is used and with whom it will be shared. This notice is published here: <https://gaytonj.derby.sch.uk>

The Local Authority uses information about pupils to carry out specific functions for which it is responsible, such as the assessment of any special educational needs the pupil may have. It also uses the information to derive statistics to inform decisions on (for example) the funding of schools, and to assess the performance of schools and set targets for them. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them.

Information on how to access personal data held by other organisations is given below.

Pupils, as data subjects, have certain rights under the Data Protection Act, including a general right of access to personal data held on them, with parents exercising this right on their behalf if they are too young to do so themselves. If parents want to request to access the personal data held about their child, they should contact the relevant organisation in writing:

- the school as above;

#### **Publication Schemes**

- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, all schools (primary, secondary and nursery) should have a 'publication scheme' – essentially a formal list of the types of non-personal information which the school produces or holds, and which is readily accessible to staff, pupils and parents or other enquirers.
- The publication scheme should be available as a hard copy and also posted on the website (if the school has one). The model scheme supplied by the Information Commissioner's Office should have been adopted from January 2009.
- Schools can link this document via their website to a list of publications with details of contacts and costs, and any appropriate downloads.
- There should be a named person with overall responsibility for published information within each school. In Gayton Junior School this would be the Head Teacher.

#### **Processing data**

School must have a reason to process the data about an individual. Our privacy notices set out how we use data. The GDPR has 6 conditions for lawful processing and any time we process data relating to an individual it is within one of those conditions.

If there is a data breach we have a separate policy and procedure to follow to take immediate action to remedy the situation as quickly as possible.

### **The legal basis and authority for collecting and processing data in school are:-**

- consent obtained from the data subject or their parent
- performance of a contract where the data subject is a party
- compliance with a legal obligation
- to protect the vital interests of the data subject or other associated person
- to carry out the processing that is in the public interest and/or official authority
- it is necessary for the legitimate interests of the data controller or third party
- in accordance with national law.

### **In addition, any special categories of personal data are processed on the grounds of**

- explicit consent from the data subject or about their child
- necessary to comply with employment rights or obligations
- protection of the vital interests of the data subject or associated person
- being necessary to comply with the legitimate activities of the school
- existing personal data that has been made public by the data subject and is no longer confidential
- bringing or defending legal claims
- safeguarding
- national laws in terms of processing genetic, biometric or health data.

Processing data is recorded within the school systems.

### **Data Sharing**

Data sharing is done within the limits set by the GDPR. Guidance from the Department for Education, health, the police, local authorities and other specialist organisations may be used to determine whether data is shared.

The basis for sharing or not sharing data is recorded in school.

### **Breaches & Non Compliance**

If there is non compliance with the policy or processes, or there is a DPA breach as described within the GDPR and DPA 2018 then the guidance set out in the Breach & Non Compliance Procedure and Process needs to be followed.

Protecting data and maintaining data subjects rights is the purpose of this policy and associated procedures.

### **Consent**

As a school we will seek consent from staff, volunteers, young people, parents and carers to collect and process their data. We will be clear about our reasons for requesting the data and how we will use it. There are contractual, statutory and regulatory occasions when consent is not required. However, in most cases data will only be processed if explicit consent has been obtained.

Consent is defined by the GDPR as “any freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes by which he or she, by a statement or by a clear affirmative action, signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her”.

## **Consent and Renewal**

On the school website we have 'Privacy Notices' that explain how data is collected and used. It is important to read those notices as it explains how data is used in detail.

Obtaining clear consent and ensuring that the consent remains in place is important for school. We also want to ensure the accuracy of that information.

## **For Pupils and Parents/Carers**

On arrival at school you will be asked to complete a form giving next of kin details, emergency contact and other essential information. We will also ask you to give consent to use the information for other in school purposes, as set out on the data collection/consent form.

We review the contact and consent form on an annual basis. It is important to inform school if details or your decision about consent changes. A form is available.

## **Pupil Consent Procedure**

Where processing relates to a child under 16 years old, school will obtain the consent from a person who has parental responsibility for the child.

Because all our pupils are aged below 13, they will not usually be asked to give consent or be consulted about how their data is obtained, shared and used.

## **Withdrawal of Consent**

Consent can be withdrawn, subject to contractual, statutory or regulatory constraints. Where more than one person has the ability to provide or withdraw consent the school will consider each situation on the merits and within the principles of GDPR and also child welfare, protection and safeguarding principles.

## **Data Protection Officer**

We have a Data Protection Officer whose role is to:-

- to inform and advise the controller or the processor and the employees who carry out processing of their obligations under the GDPR
- to monitor compliance with the GDPR and DPA
- to provide advice where requested about the data protection impact assessment and monitor its performance
- To be the point of contact for Data Subjects if there are concerns about data protection
- to cooperate with the supervisory authority and manage the breach procedure
- to advise about training and CPD for the GDPR

Our DPO is John Walker whose contact details are ... J A Walker Solicitor

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## Physical Security

In school, every secure area has individuals who are responsible for ensuring that the space is securely maintained and controlled if unoccupied, i.e. locked. Offices and cupboards that contain personal data should be secured if the processor is not present.

The School Business Manager is responsible for authorising access to secure areas along with the other members of the Senior leadership Team.

All Staff, contractors and third parties who have control over lockable areas must take due care to prevent data breaches.

## Secure Disposal

When disposal of items is necessary a suitable process must be used. This is to secure the data, to provide a process that does not enable data to be shared in error, by malicious or criminal intent.

These processes, when undertaken by a third party are subject to contractual conditions to ensure GDPR and DPA compliance.

Hardware is disposed / recycled by Mr J. Butler

Hard copy files are destroyed by any members of staff who hold them,  
but in particular by the office staff

Servers and Hard drives are cleansed by L.E.A.D. I.T.

Portable and removable storage are destroyed / cleaned/ recycled by Mr J Butler

## **Complaints & the Information Commissioner Office (ICO)**

The school Complaint Policy deals with complaints about Data protection issues.

There is a right to complain if you feel that data has been shared without consent or lawful authority.

You can complain if you have asked to us to erase, rectify, not process data and we have not agreed to your request.

We will always try to resolve issues on an informal basis, and then through our formal complaints procedure. Please complete the form, and we will contact you with more details about the timescale and process.

In the UK it is the ICO who has responsibility for safeguarding and enforcing the DPA

obligations. Email: [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk) Helpline: 0303 123 1113 web: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

**Reviewing:**

A review of the effectiveness of GDPR compliance and processes will be conducted by the Data Protection Officer every 12 months.

Date:

Review:

Signed:

Chair of Governors