SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL
DATA PROTECTION POLICY

Approved by:	Headmaster Chair of Governors	**Date:** 12th November 2024
Last reviewed on:	November 2022 November 2024	
Next review by:	November 2025	

This policy Is reviewed and updated annually to ensure compliance with current requirements and regulations

Note: This policy applies to all sections of the School including EYFS

Contents

1. Aims

Our school aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with UK data protection law.

This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) – the EU GDPR was incorporated into UK legislation, with some amendments, by The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020
- Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018)

It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the UK GDPR and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on Generative artificial intelligence in education.

It meets the requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 when referring to our use of biometric data.

It also reflects the ICO's guidance for the use of surveillance cameras and personal information.

In addition, this policy complies with regulation 5 of the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005, which gives parents the right of access to their child's educational record.

3. Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Personal data	Any information relating to an identified, or identifiable, living individual. This may include the individual's: › Name (including initials) › Identification number › Location data › Online identifier, such as a username It may also include factors specific to the individual's physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.

TERM	DEFINITION
Special categories of personal data	Personal data which is more sensitive and so needs more protection, including information about an individual's: › Racial or ethnic origin › Political opinions › Religious or philosophical beliefs › Trade union membership › Genetics › Biometrics (such as fingerprints, retina and iris patterns), where used for identification purposes › Health – physical or mental › Sex life or sexual orientation
Processing	Anything done to personal data, such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, using, disseminating, erasing or destroying. Processing can be automated or manual.
Data subject	The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
Data controller	A person or organisation that determines the purposes and the means of processing personal data.
Data processor	A person or other body, other than an employee of the data controller, who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.
Personal data breach	A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data.

4. The data controller

Our school processes personal data relating to parents and carers, pupils, staff, governors, visitors and others, and therefore is a data controller.

5. Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to **all staff** employed by our school, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf. Staff who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

5.1 Governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for ensuring that our school complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

5.2 Data protection officer (DPO)

The data protection officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, monitoring our compliance with data protection law, and developing related policies and guidelines where applicable.

They will provide an annual report of their activities directly to the governing board and, where relevant, report to the board their advice and recommendations on school data protection issues.

The DPO is also the first point of contact for individuals whose data the school processes, and for the ICO.

Full details of the DPO's responsibilities are set out in their job description.

Our DPO is the IT Manager and is contactable via email: dpo@saintnicholasschool.net

5.3 Headmaster

The headmaster is the SIRO and acts as the representative of the data controller on a day-to-day basis.

5.4 All staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy
- Informing the school of any changes to their personal data, such as a change of address
- Contacting the DPO in the following circumstances:
    - With any questions about the operation of this policy, data protection law, retaining personal data or keeping personal data secure
    - If they have any concerns that this policy is not being followed
    - If they are unsure whether or not they have a lawful basis to use personal data in a particular way
    - If they need to rely on or capture consent, draft a privacy notice, deal with data protection rights invoked by an individual, or transfer personal data outside the UK
    - If there has been a data breach
    - Whenever they are engaging in a new activity that may affect the privacy rights of individuals
    - If they need help with any contracts or sharing personal data with third parties

6. Data protection principles

The UK GDPR is based on data protection principles that our school must comply with.

The principles say that personal data must be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary to fulfil the purposes for which it is processed
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- Kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which it is processed
- Processed in a way that ensures it is appropriately secure

This policy sets out how the school aims to comply with these principles.

7. Collecting personal data

7.1 Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

We will only process personal data where we have 1 of 6 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **fulfil a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked the school to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **comply with a legal obligation**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person i.e. to protect someone's life
- The data needs to be processed so that the school, as a public authority, can **perform a task in the public interest or exercise its official authority**
- The data needs to be processed for the **legitimate interests** of the school (where the processing is not for any tasks the school performs as a public authority) or a third party, provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden
- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has freely given clear **consent**

For special categories of personal data, we will also meet 1 of the special category conditions for processing under data protection law:

- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has given **explicit consent**
- The data needs to be processed to perform or exercise obligations or rights in relation to **employment, social security or social protection law**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The data has already been made **manifestly public** by the individual
- The data needs to be processed for the establishment, exercise or defence of **legal claims**
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of **substantial public interest** as defined in legislation
- The data needs to be processed for **health or social care purposes**, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health or social work professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law
- The data needs to be processed for **public health reasons**, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law
- The data needs to be processed for **archiving purposes**, scientific or historical research purposes, or statistical purposes, and the processing is in the public interest

For criminal offence data, we will meet both a lawful basis and a condition set out under data protection law. Conditions include:

- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has given **consent**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The data has already been made **manifestly public** by the individual

- The data needs to be processed for or in connection with legal proceedings, to obtain legal advice, or for the establishment, exercise or defence of **legal rights**
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of **substantial public interest** as defined in legislation

Whenever we first collect personal data directly from individuals, we will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law.

We will always consider the fairness of our data processing. We will ensure we do not handle personal data in ways that individuals would not reasonably expect, or use personal data in ways which have unjustified adverse effects on them.

7.2 Limitation, minimisation and accuracy

We will only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate reasons. We will explain these reasons to the individuals when we first collect their data.

If we want to use personal data for reasons other than those given when we first obtained it, we will inform the individuals concerned before we do so, and seek consent where necessary.

Staff must only process personal data where it is necessary in order to do their jobs.

We will keep data accurate and, where necessary, up to date. Inaccurate data will be rectified or erased when appropriate.

In addition, when staff no longer need the personal data they hold, they must ensure it is deleted or anonymised. This will be done in accordance with the school's record retention schedule.

8. Sharing personal data

We will not normally share personal data with anyone else without consent, but there are certain circumstances where we may be required to do so. These include, but are not limited to, situations where:

- There is an issue with a pupil or parent/carer that puts the safety of our staff at risk
- We need to liaise with other agencies – we will seek consent as necessary before doing this
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to our staff and pupils – for example, IT companies. When doing this, we will:
    - Only appoint suppliers or contractors that can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with UK data protection law
    - Establish a contract with the supplier or contractor to ensure the fair and lawful processing of any personal data we share
    - Only share data that the supplier or contractor needs to carry out their service

We will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies where we are legally required to do so.

We may also share personal data with emergency services and local authorities to help them to respond to an emergency situation that affects any of our pupils or staff.

Where we transfer personal data internationally, we will do so in accordance with UK data protection law.

9. Subject access requests and other rights of individuals

9.1 Subject access requests

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that the school holds about them. This includes:

- Confirmation that their personal data is being processed
- Access to a copy of the data
- The purposes of the data processing
- The categories of personal data concerned
- Who the data has been, or will be, shared with
- How long the data will be stored for, or if this isn't possible, the criteria used to determine this period
- Where relevant, the existence of the right to request rectification, erasure or restriction, or to object to such processing
- The right to lodge a complaint with the ICO or another supervisory authority
- The source of the data, if not the individual
- Whether any automated decision-making is being applied to their data, and what the significance and consequences of this might be for the individual
- The safeguards provided if the data is being transferred internationally

Subject access requests can be submitted in any form, but we may be able to respond to requests more quickly if they are made in writing using our preferred form and include:

- Name of individual
- Correspondence address
- Contact number and email address
- Details of the information requested

If staff receive a subject access request in any form they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

9.2 Children and subject access requests

Personal data about a child belongs to that child, and not the child's parents or carers. For a parent or carer to make a subject access request with respect to their child, the child must either be unable to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request, or have given their consent.

Children below the age of 12 are generally not regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, most subject access requests from parents or carers of pupils at our school may be granted without the express permission of the pupil. This is not a rule and a pupil's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Children aged 12 and above are generally regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, most subject access requests from parents or carers of pupils at our school may not be granted without the express permission of the pupil. This is not a rule and a pupil's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

9.3 Responding to subject access requests

When responding to requests, we:

- May ask the individual to provide 2 forms of identification
- May contact the individual via phone to confirm the request was made
- Will respond without delay and within 1 month of receipt of the request (or receipt of the additional information needed to confirm identity, where relevant)
- Will provide the information free of charge
- May tell the individual we will comply within 3 months of receipt of the request, where a request is complex or numerous. We will inform the individual of this within 1 month, and explain why the extension is necessary

We may not disclose information for a variety of reasons, such as if it:

- **Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual**
- **Would reveal that the child is being or has been abused, or is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child's best interests**
- **Would include another person's personal data that we can't reasonably anonymise, and we don't have the other person's consent and it would be unreasonable to proceed without it**
- **Is part of certain sensitive documents, such as those related to crime, immigration, legal proceedings or legal professional privilege, management forecasts, negotiations, confidential references, or exam scripts**

If the request is unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee to cover administrative costs. We will take into account whether the request is repetitive in nature when making this decision.

When we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO or they can seek to enforce their subject access right through the courts.

9.4 Other data protection rights of the individual

In addition to the right to make a subject access request (see above), and to receive information when we are collecting their data about how we use and process it (see section 7), individuals also have the right to:

- Withdraw their consent to processing at any time
- Ask us to rectify, erase or restrict processing of their personal data (in certain circumstances)
- Prevent use of their personal data for direct marketing
- Object to processing that has been justified on the basis of public interest, official authority or legitimate interests
- Challenge decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (i.e. making decisions or evaluating certain things about an individual based on their personal data with no human involvement)
- Be notified of a data breach (in certain circumstances)
- Make a complaint to the ICO
- Ask for their personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format (in certain circumstances)

Individuals should submit any request to exercise these rights to the DPO. If staff receive such a request, they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

10. Parental requests to see the educational record

There is no automatic parental right of access to the educational record for children in independent schools, but at Saint Nicholas we endeavour to work with our parents if such a request is made.

The school will respond to any request by parents, or those with parental responsibility, for their child's educational record (which includes most information about a pupil) within 15 school days of receipt of a written request.

If the request is for a copy of the educational record, the school may charge a fee to cover the cost of supplying it.

There are certain circumstances in which this right can be denied, such as if releasing the information might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual, or if it would mean releasing exam marks before they are officially announced.

11. CCTV

We use CCTV in various locations around the school site to ensure it remains safe. We will follow the ICO's guidance for the use of CCTV, and comply with data protection principles.

We do not need to ask individuals' permission to use CCTV, but we make it clear where individuals are being recorded. Security cameras are clearly visible and accompanied by prominent signs explaining that CCTV is in use.

Any enquiries about the CCTV system should be directed to Mr Peter Jackson, Estates Manager, via his email address p.jackson@saintnicholasschool.net

13. Photographs and videos

As part of our school activities, we may take photographs and record images of individuals within our school.

We will obtain written consent from parents/carers for photographs and videos to be taken of their child for communication, marketing and promotional materials. We will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carer and the pupil.

Any photographs and videos taken by parents/carers at school events for their own personal use are not covered by data protection legislation. However, we will ask that photos or videos with other pupils are not shared publicly on social media for safeguarding reasons, unless all the relevant parents/carers have agreed to this.

We will obtain written consent from parents/carers, or pupils aged 18 and over, for photographs and videos to be taken of pupils for communication, marketing and promotional materials.

Where we need parental consent, we will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carer and the pupil. Where we don't need parental consent, we will clearly explain to the pupil how the photograph and/or video will be used.

Any photographs and videos taken by parents/carers at school events for their own personal use are not covered by data protection legislation. However, we will ask that photos or videos with other pupils are not shared publicly on social media for safeguarding reasons, unless all the relevant parents/carers (or pupils where appropriate) have agreed to this.

Where the school takes photographs and videos, uses may include:

- Within school on notice boards and in school magazines, brochures, newsletters, etc.
- Outside of school by external agencies such as the school photographer, newspapers, campaigns
- Online on our school website or social media pages

Consent can be refused or withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, we will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

When using photographs and videos in this way we will not accompany them with any other personal information about the child, to ensure they cannot be identified.

14. Artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard. Saint Nicholas School recognises that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but also poses risks to sensitive and personal data.

To ensure that personal and sensitive data remains secure, no one will be permitted to enter such data into unauthorised generative AI tools or chatbots.

If personal and/or sensitive data is entered into an unauthorised generative AI tool, Saint Nicholas will treat this as a data breach, and will follow the personal data breach procedure outlined in appendix 1.

15. Data protection by design and default

We will put measures in place to show that we have integrated data protection into all of our data processing activities, including:

- Appointing a suitably qualified DPO, and ensuring they have the necessary resources to fulfil their duties and maintain their expert knowledge
- Only processing personal data that is necessary for each specific purpose of processing, and always in line with the data protection principles set out in relevant data protection law (see section 6)
- Completing data protection impact assessments where the school's processing of personal data presents a high risk to rights and freedoms of individuals, and when introducing new technologies (the DPO will advise on this process)
- Integrating data protection into internal documents including this policy, any related policies and privacy notices
- Regularly training members of staff on data protection law, this policy, any related policies and any other data protection matters; we will also keep a record of attendance
- Regularly conducting reviews and audits to test our privacy measures and make sure we are compliant
- Appropriate safeguards being put in place if we transfer any personal data outside of the UK, where different data protection laws may apply
- Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:
    - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of our school and DPO, and all information we are required to share about how we use and process their personal data (via our privacy notices)
    - For all personal data that we hold, maintaining an internal record of the type of data, type of data subject, how and why we are using the data, any third-party recipients, any transfers outside of the UK and the safeguards for those, retention periods and how we are keeping the data secure

16. Data security and storage of records

We will protect personal data and keep it safe from unauthorised or unlawful access, alteration, processing or disclosure, and against accidental or unlawful loss, destruction or damage.

In particular:

- Paper-based records and portable electronic devices, such as laptops and hard drives that contain personal data, are kept under lock and key when not in use
- Papers containing confidential personal data must not be left on office and classroom desks, on staffroom tables, or left anywhere else where there is general access
- Where personal information needs to be taken off site, staff must sign it in and out from the school office
- Passwords that are at least 10 characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access school computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Staff and pupils are reminded that they should not reuse passwords from other sites
- Encryption software is used to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices
- Staff, pupils or governors who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for school-owned equipment
- Where we need to share personal data with a third party, we carry out due diligence and take reasonable steps to ensure it is stored securely and adequately protected (see section 8)

17. Disposal of records

Personal data that is no longer needed will be disposed of securely. Personal data that has become inaccurate or out of date will also be disposed of securely, where we cannot or do not need to rectify or update it.

For example, we will shred or incinerate paper-based records, and overwrite or delete electronic files. We may also use a third party to safely dispose of records on the school's behalf. If we do so, we will require the third party to provide sufficient guarantees that it complies with data protection law.

18. Personal data breaches

The school will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches.

In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, we will follow the procedure set out in appendix 1.

When appropriate, we will report the data breach to the ICO within 72 hours after becoming aware of it. Such breaches in a school context may include, but are not limited to:

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on the school website, which shows the exam results of pupils eligible for the pupil premium
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person
- The theft of a school laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about pupils

19. Training

All staff and governors are provided with data protection training as part of their induction process.

Data protection will also form part of continuing professional development, where changes to legislation, guidance or the school's processes make it necessary.

20. Monitoring arrangements

The DPO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

This policy will be reviewed annually and approved by the full governing board.

21. Links with other policies

This data protection policy is linked to our:

- CCTV Policy
- Acceptable use of ICT policy
- Privacy notices
- Child protection and safeguarding policy

Appendix 1: Personal data breach procedure

This procedure is based on guidance on personal data breaches produced by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

- On finding or causing a breach or potential breach, the staff member, governor or data processor must immediately notify the data protection officer (DPO) by email
- The DPO will investigate the report and determine whether a breach has occurred. To decide, the DPO will consider whether personal data has been accidentally or unlawfully:
    - Lost
    - Stolen
    - Destroyed
    - Altered
    - Disclosed or made available where it should not have been
    - Made available to unauthorised people
- Staff and governors will co-operate with the investigation (including allowing access to information and responding to questions). The investigation will not be treated as a disciplinary investigation
- If a breach has occurred or it is considered to be likely that is the case, the DPO will alert the headmaster and the chair of governors
- The DPO will make all reasonable efforts to contain and minimise the impact of the breach. Relevant staff members or data processors should help the DPO with this where necessary, and the DPO should take external advice when required (e.g. from IT providers). (See the actions relevant to specific data types at the end of this procedure)
- The DPO will assess the potential consequences (based on how serious they are and how likely they are to happen) before and after the implementation of steps to mitigate the consequences
- The DPO will work out whether the breach must be reported to the ICO and the individuals affected using the ICO's self-assessment tool
- The DPO will document the decisions (either way), in case the decisions are challenged at a later date by the ICO or an individual affected by the breach. Documented decisions are stored electronically by the DPO in a secure folder
- Where the ICO must be notified, the DPO will do this via the 'report a breach' page of the ICO website, or through its breach report line (0303 123 1113), within 72 hours of the school's awareness of the breach. As required, the DPO will set out:
    - A description of the nature of the personal data breach including, where possible:
        - The categories and approximate number of individuals concerned
        - The categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned
    - The name and contact details of the DPO
    - A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
    - A description of the measures that have been, or will be taken, to deal with the breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned

- If all the above details are not yet known, the DPO will report as much as they can within 72 hours of the school's awareness of the breach. The report will explain that there is a delay, the reasons why, and when the DPO expects to have further information. The DPO will submit the remaining information as soon as possible
- Where the school is required to communicate with individuals whose personal data has been breached, the DPO will tell them in writing. This notification will set out:
    - A description, in clear and plain language, of the nature of the personal data breach
    - The name and contact details of the DPO
    - A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
    - A description of the measures that have been, or will be, taken to deal with the data breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned
- The DPO will consider, in light of the investigation and any engagement with affected individuals, whether to notify any relevant third parties who can help mitigate the loss to individuals – for example, the police, insurers, banks or credit card companies
- The DPO will document each breach, irrespective of whether it is reported to the ICO. For each breach, this record will include the:
    - Facts and cause
    - Effects
    - Action taken to contain it and ensure it does not happen again (such as establishing more robust processes or providing further training for individuals)

  Records of all breaches will be stored electronically by the DPO in a secure folder
- The DPO and headmaster will meet to review what happened and how it can be stopped from happening again. This meeting will happen as soon as reasonably possible
- The DPO and headmaster will meet regularly to assess recorded data breaches and identify any trends or patterns requiring action by the school to reduce risks of future breaches

Appendix 2

Subject Access Request

Pupil authorisation for their parent/carer's subject access request

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- Use this form to allow pupils to choose whether to authorise a subject access request for their personal data from their parent/carer (i.e. anyone with parental responsibility for them)
- Adapt the text highlighted in yellow as appropriate
- Seek this authorisation when a parent/carer makes a subject access request for their child's personal data but you believe their child is mature enough to understand their own rights and the implications of making a request, and it isn't evident that disclosing information to their parent/carer is in the best interests of the child
- If the parent/carer is requesting data that can be found in their child's educational record and you are a maintained school, they can be given this data without the child's authorisation, so long as the child is under 18. This is a separate right to the UK GDPR and subject access requests, and you can find more details about that right in guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office

[Insert your school's name and address] [Insert date]

Re: your parent/carer's request for your data

Dear [name of child],

[Name of parent/carer] has asked us to provide personal data about you. As you're old enough, it is up to you to decide whether we should give this information over to them.

They have asked to see:

[Insert details of the personal data that the parent/carer has requested]

Please tick a box below to let us know your response:

I am happy for the school to supply the information set out above to [name of parent/carer].	
I am not happy for the school to supply the information set out above to [name of parent/carer].	

If you need any more information from me to help you make your decision, please let me know as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Supplying data in response to a subject access request

- Adapt the text highlighted in yellow as appropriate for your school, to help you supply data in response to a subject access request

[Insert your school's name and address] [Insert date]

Re: subject access request

Dear [insert the name of the individual who submitted the subject access request]

Please find enclosed the information that you requested under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Your name	[Insert requester's name]
Your relationship with the school	[Pupil / parent / carer/ employee / governor / volunteer / other (specify)]
Details of the information you requested/enclosed	[Insert details of the specific information requested, such as: - Your personnel file - Your child's medical records - Your child's behaviour record, held by [insert class teacher's name] - Emails between 'person A' and 'person B' between [date]]
Date you requested the information	[Insert date]
Date we supplied the information	[This must be within 1 month of the above date, except in the case of an extension or delay, e.g. in receiving ID]
Format we supplied the information	[For example, encrypted USB stick accompanying this letter]

If you need any further advice relating to your subject access request, you can contact:

[Insert name and method for contacting the data protection officer at your school]

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Letter to extend subject access request response deadline

Use this template to acknowledge receipt of a subject access request and, where necessary, notify the recipient of an extended response time.

How to use this template

- Use this letter to notify individuals:
    - That you have received their subject access request (SAR)
    - Whether you expect to fulfil their request within the standard 1-month response time or whether you'll need to extend the response time due to the complex nature of their request
- Please note that you should **not** declare a blanket extension on SARs over the summer holidays, even when it may be more difficult for your school to respond to them on time over this period – read our article for practical steps to help you meet your deadlines
- Adapt the letter to suit your school's context and replace or delete the highlighted text as you go along

Dear [name],

Re: your subject access request

I can confirm that [school name] received your request on [date] to see the following data that we hold about you:

- [Summarise the data requested]

If you expect to respond within 1 month, insert*:*

We will respond to your request within 1 month, as required under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

We don't think we will need to extend the response time, which we're able to do when requests are complex. However, if it becomes clear that we do need to extend the response period by up to 2 months, we will let you know by [date – this will be 1 month from when you received the request].

If you think the request is too complex to respond within 1 month, insert:

In most cases, we respond to subject access requests within 1 month, as required under the UK GDPR. However, we are able to extend this period by up to 2 months for complex requests.

We anticipate that your request will be too complex for us to fulfil within 1 month during the summer holidays, due to the nature of your request and the lack of available staff in school at this time.

In particular, [insert more details to explain why you have judged that this request is too complex, e.g. there is data stored on teachers' laptops that you cannot access centrally, or that data will need to be extracted from a part of the IT system that will need input from members of the IT team who do not work over summer].

We will respond to your request by [date – which will be 3 months from the date the request was received] at the latest.

For further information, please contact our data protection officer, [include name and contact details of your DPO, or alternative staff member to contact over the summer holidays].

If you disagree with this decision, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office by calling 0303 123 1113, or going to the following webpage: https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/

We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause you,

Best wishes,

[Name]

Submitting a subject access request

- Make this form available for individuals to use if they wish to submit a subject access request, as per their rights under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Adapt the text highlighted in yellow as appropriate for your school. The instructions in italics are to help people making the request fill in the form
- You could make a paper copy available from the school office, and/or post a digital version on your school website. Ask individuals to hand their completed form in to the school office, so it can be passed to your data protection officer (DPO) or to email it directly to the DPO
- Please note that you can't insist individuals use this form, and you must still accept requests in other formats including those made verbally
- The form is based on guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office, and its template form

[Insert your school's name and address] [Insert date]

Re: subject access request

Dear [insert the name of your data protection officer],

Please provide me with the information about me that I am entitled to under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). This is so I can be aware of the information you are processing about me and verify the lawfulness of the processing.

Here is the necessary information:

Name:	
Relationship with the school	*Please select:* *Pupil / parent / carer/ employee / governor / volunteer* *Other (please specify):*
Correspondence address	
Contact number	
Email address	
Details of the information requested	Please provide me with: *Insert details of the information you want that will help us to locate the specific information. Please be as precise as possible, for example:* › *My personnel file* › *My child's medical records* › *My child's behaviour record, held by [insert class teacher]* › *Emails between 'person A' and 'person B' between [dates]*

If you need any more information from me, please let me know as soon as possible. Please bear in mind that, in most cases, you must supply me with the information within 1 month and free of charge.

If you need any advice on dealing with this request, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office on 0303 123 1113 or at www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

[Name]

Introduction

The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) requires data controllers to record how they process personal data. This template will help you meet the requirements for recording data processing set out in the regulations.

How to use this document

- Assign one person the responsibility for managing this record
- Circulate the record to members of staff with responsibility for each area or function of your school (such as assessment or health and safety) and ask them to record all of the processes in which they use personal data
- Delete and add to the example entries as necessary to reflect the data you process (this template is not a complete list of the data your school will process)
- To be UK GDPR-compliant, you must record the information listed in columns A to K. The information listed in columns L to AE is not statutory, but will help you carry out good data practice
- This document should be maintained and updated on an ongoing basis
- More guidance to help you complete the record is available on the 'Guidance on records processing' tab
- You can use the drop-down menus in columns 'L' and 'M' to choose the appropriate lawful bases for processing

Contents

Source

This template is based on guidance and template records from the ICO