

# GDPR and Data Protection Policy

## Adoption Arrangements

All statutory policies in the Trust are ultimately the responsibility of the Trust Board. To enable it to discharge this responsibility appropriately and in collaboration with the constituent schools, the Trust Board will

1. set a full Trust wide policy,
2. set a 'policy principles' document (a framework within which Headteachers develop a full and appropriately customised policy),
3. or delegate to Headteachers or LGBs the power to develop their own policy.

<b>Approval Body:</b>	<b>Board of Trustees</b>
<b>Adopted:</b>	<b>8 July 2021</b>
<b>Leadership Grp Responsibility:</b>	<b>Data Protection Officer</b>
<b>Review period:</b>	<b>Annual</b>
<b>Date of next review:</b>	<b>July 2022</b>

**This is a Level 1 Policy against the Trust Governance Plan.**

This policy was adopted by the Trust Board, for implementation in Tenax Schools Trust on the date above and supercedes any previous policy on data protection.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) is the law that protects personal privacy and upholds individual's rights. It applies to anyone who handles or has access to people's personal data.

This policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with properly and securely and in accordance with the legislation. It will apply to personal information regardless of the way it is used, recorded and stored and whether it is held in paper files or electronically.

## **Policy Objectives**

The Tenax Schools Trust, as the Data Controller, is required to keep and process personal information in accordance with its obligations under the GDPR and DPA. This policy is in place to ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of their responsibilities and outlines how the Trust complies with the core principles of the GDPR.

All staff must have a general understanding of the law and understand how it may affect their decisions in order to make an informed judgement about how information is gathered, used, stored, shared and ultimately deleted. All staff must read, understand and comply with this policy.

## **Scope of the Policy**

For the purpose of this policy, personal data refers to information that relates to an identifiable, living individual. This includes factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of a living individual. Sensitive personal data is referred to in the GDPR as 'special categories of personal data', which specifically include the processing of genetic data, biometric data and data concerning health matters.

The Trust and its schools collect a large amount of personal data every year including pupil records and staff records. In addition, it may be required by law to collect and use certain types of information to comply with statutory obligations of Local Authorities (LAs), government agencies and other bodies.

There is a separate Records Management Policy and Records Retention Schedule.

## **Data Protection Officer (DPO)**

A DPO must be appointed in order to:

- Inform and advise the Trust and its employees about their obligations to comply with the GDPR and other data protection laws.
- Monitor the Trust's compliance with the GDPR and other laws, including managing internal data protection activities, advising on data protection impact assessments, -and providing the required training to staff members.

Act as a contact point for data subjects and supervisory authority

The Trust Board has appointed Mrs Catherine Dottridge as the Trust's DPO:

Mrs C Dottridge, Chief Finance Officer, Tenax Schools Trust c/o Bennett Memorial Diocesan School,  
Culverden Down, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9SH

[DPO@tenaxschoolstrust.co.uk](mailto:DPO@tenaxschoolstrust.co.uk)

## The Principles

In accordance with the requirements outlined in the GDPR, personal data will be:

1. Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner (**lawfulness, fairness and transparency**)
2. Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes (**purpose limitation**)
3. Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed (**data minimisation**)
4. Accurate and, where necessary, kept up-to-date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay (**accuracy**)
5. Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purpose for which the personal data is processed (**storage limitation**)
6. Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures (**integrity and confidentiality**).

The GDPR also requires that "the controller shall be responsible for, and able to demonstrate, compliance with the principles".

## Transfer Limitation

In addition, personal data will not be transferred to a country outside the EEA unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.

Staff should contact the DPO if they require further assistance with a proposed transfer of personal data outside of the EEA.

## Lawful Processing

Under the GDPR, data will be lawfully processed under the following conditions:

- The consent of the data subject has been obtained
- Processing is necessary for:
  - Compliance with a legal obligation

- The performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller
- For the performance of a contract with the data subject or to take steps to enter into a contract.
- Protecting the vital interests of a data subject or another person.
- For the purposes of legitimate interests pursued by the controller or a third party

Before any processing activity starts for the first time, and then regularly afterwards, the purpose(s) for the processing activity and the most appropriate lawful basis (or bases) for that processing must be identified and documented.

When determining whether legitimate interests are the most appropriate basis for lawful processing (only where appropriate outside the school's public tasks) a legitimate interests assessment may need to be carried out and recorded. Where a significant privacy impact is identified, a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) may also need to be conducted. Staff should refer to the DPO for support and guidance.

### **Sensitive Personal Information**

Sensitive personal information is data which reveals racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, health, sex life or orientation or is genetic or biometric data which uniquely identifies a natural person.

Sensitive data will only be processed under the following conditions:

- Explicit consent of the data subject, unless reliance on consent is prohibited by EU or Member State law.
- Processing carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided the processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes) and provided there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.
- Processing relates to personal data manifestly made public by the data subject.
- Processing is necessary for:
  - Carrying out obligations under employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement.
  - Protecting the vital interests of a data subject or another individual where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent.
  - The establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims or where courts are acting in their judicial capacity.
  - Reasons of substantial public interest on the basis of Union or Member State law which is proportionate to the aim pursued and which contains appropriate safeguards.
  - The purposes of preventative or occupational medicine, for assessing the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or management of health or social care systems and services on the basis of Union or Member State law or a contract with a health professional.
  - Reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of healthcare and of medicinal products or medical devices.

- Archiving purposes in the public interest, or scientific and historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1).

## **Consent**

Consent must be a positive indication. It cannot be inferred from silence, inactivity or pre-ticked boxes.

Consent will only be accepted where it is freely given, specific, informed and an unambiguous indication of the individual's wishes.

Where consent is given, a record will be kept documenting how and when consent was given.

Where the standard of consent cannot be met, an alternative legal basis for processing the data must be found, or the processing must cease.

Consent can be withdrawn by the individual at any time.

## **The right to be informed**

The privacy notice supplied to individuals in regards to the processing of their personal data will be written in clear, plain language which is concise, transparent, easily accessible and free of charge.

The school will issue privacy notices as required, informing data subjects (or their parents, depending on age of the pupil, if about pupil information) about the personal information that it collects and holds relating to individual data subjects, how individuals can expect their personal information to be used and for what purposes.

The school will issue a minimum of two privacy notices, one for pupil information, and one for workforce information, and these will be reviewed in line with any statutory or contractual changes. Current versions are available on the school website.

## **The right of access**

Individuals have the right to obtain confirmation that their data is being processed. Individuals have the right to submit a subject access request (SAR) to gain access to their personal data in order to verify the lawfulness of the processing.

The Trust will verify the identity of the person making the request before any information is supplied.

A copy of the information will be supplied to the individual free of charge; however, the Trust may impose a 'reasonable fee' to comply with requests for further copies of the same information.

Where a SAR has been made electronically, the information will be provided in a commonly used electronic format. Where a request is manifestly unfounded, excessive or repetitive, a reasonable fee will be charged. All fees will be based on the administrative cost of providing the information.

All requests will be responded to without delay and at the latest, within one month of receipt. In the event of numerous or complex requests, the period of compliance will be extended by a further two months. The individual will be informed of this extension, and will receive an explanation of why the extension is necessary, within one month of the receipt of the request. Where a request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, the Trust holds the right to refuse to respond to the request. The individual will be informed of this decision and the reasoning behind it, as well as their right to complain to the supervisory authority, within one month of the response.

In the event that a large quantity of information is being processed about an individual, the Trust will ask the individual to specify the information the request is in relation to.

If the school receives a SAR, the Headteacher and DPO should be informed.

## **Documentation**

Written records of processing activities will be kept by the school and recorded in the school's Data Audit. The school should have an identified named person responsible for maintaining and updating the Data Audit.

As part of the school's record of processing activities the school will document:

- information required for privacy notices
- records of consent
- the location of personal information
- retention periods
- DPIAs
- records of data breaches

The school should conduct regular reviews of the personal information it processes and update its documentation accordingly. This may include:

- Carrying out information audits to find out what personal information is held
- Talking to staff about their processing activities
- Reviewing policies, procedures, contracts and agreements to address retention, security and data sharing.

## **Individual Responsibilities**

During their employment, staff may have access to the personal information of pupils and students, parents and carers, other members of staff, suppliers, clients or the public. The school expects staff (and volunteers) to help meet its data protection obligations to those individuals.

Staff with access to personal information, must follow the “Keeping data safe” guidance available from the school office.

Staff may only process data when their role requires it. Staff must not process personal data for any reason unrelated to their role.

All staff are responsible for keeping information secure in accordance with the legislation and must follow their school’s acceptable usage policy.

Staff must take all reasonable steps to destroy or delete all personal data that is held in its systems when it is no longer required in accordance with the Records Management Policy and Records Retention Schedule.

Staff must guard against unlawful or unauthorised processing of personal data and against the accidental loss of, or damage to, personal data. Staff must exercise particular care in protecting sensitive personal data from loss and unauthorised access, use or disclosure.

Staff must follow all procedures and technologies put in place to maintain the security of all personal data from the point of collection to the point of destruction. Staff may only transfer personal data to third-party service providers who agree in writing to comply with the required policies and procedures and who agree to put adequate measures in place, as requested.

Staff must maintain data security by protecting the **confidentiality, integrity and availability** of the personal data, defined as follows:

**Confidentiality** means that only people who have a need to know and are authorised to use the personal data can access it.

**Integrity** means that personal data is accurate and suitable for the purpose for which it is processed.

**Availability** means that authorised users can access the personal data when they need it for authorised purposes.

Staff must comply with and not attempt to circumvent the administrative, physical and technical safeguards the school has implemented and maintains in accordance with the GDPR and DPA.

### **Contracts with external organisations**

Where the school uses external organisations to process personal information on its behalf, additional security arrangements need to be implemented in contracts with those organisations to safeguard the security of personal information. Contracts with external organisations must provide that:

- the organisation may only act on the written instructions of the school
- those processing data are subject to the duty of confidence
- appropriate measures are taken to ensure the security of processing
- sub-contractors are only engaged with the prior consent of the school and under a written contract

- the organisation will assist the school in providing subject access and allowing individuals to exercise their rights in relation to data protection
- the organisation will delete or return all personal information to the school as requested at the end of the contract
- the organisation will submit to audits and inspections, provide the school with whatever information it needs to ensure that they are both meeting their data protection obligations, and tell the school immediately if it does something infringing data protection law.

Before any new agreement involving the processing of personal information by an external organisation is entered into, or an existing agreement is altered, the relevant staff must seek approval from the DPO.

### **Storage and retention of personal information**

Personal data will be kept securely in accordance with the school's data protection obligations.

Personal data should not be retained for any longer than necessary. The length of time data should be retained will depend upon the circumstances, including the reasons why personal data was obtained. Staff should adhere to the school's Records Management Policy and the Record Retention Schedule, both available via the school office.

Personal information that is no longer required must be deleted and/or securely destroyed in accordance with the Records Management Policy.

### **Data Breaches**

Staff must inform their Headteacher and DPO immediately that a data breach is discovered and make all reasonable efforts to recover the information. Staff should refer to the school's breach procedure below. The school must report a significant data breach via the DPO to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) without undue delay and where possible within 72 hours, if the breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. The school must also notify the affected individuals if the breach is likely to result in a high risk to their rights and freedoms.

### **Training**

The school will ensure that staff are adequately trained regarding their data protection responsibilities.

### **Consequences of a failure to comply**

The school takes compliance with this policy very seriously. Failure to comply puts data subjects whose personal information is being processed at risk and carries the risk of significant civil and criminal sanctions for the individual and the school and may in some circumstances amount to a criminal offence by the individual.



Any failure to comply with any part of this policy may lead to disciplinary action under the school's procedures and where proven, this action may result in sanctions up to dismissal for gross misconduct. If a non-employee breaches this policy, they may have their contract terminated with immediate effect.

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, you should contact your Headteacher or the DPO.

### **Implementation**

The Headteacher/DPO should ensure that staff are aware of the school's Data Protection policy and its requirements including the data breach procedure. This should be undertaken as part of induction and ongoing training. If staff have any queries in relation to the school's Data Protection policy and associated procedures, they should discuss this with their line manager, Headteacher or the DPO.

### **Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed every year, or updated as necessary to reflect best practice or amendments made to the GDPR or DPA.

**Types of Breach**

Data protection breaches could be caused by a number of factors. A number of examples are shown below:

Loss or theft of pupil, staff or governing body data and/ or equipment on which data is stored;  
Inappropriate access controls allowing unauthorised use;  
Equipment Failure;  
Poor data destruction procedures;  
Human Error;  
Cyber-attack;  
Hacking.

**Managing a Data Breach**

In the event that the school identifies or is notified of a personal data breach, the following steps are followed:

1. The person who discovers/receives a report of a breach must inform the Headteacher or, in their absence the Deputy Headteacher and/or the Data Protection Officer (DPO). If the breach occurs or is discovered outside normal working hours, this reporting should begin as soon as is practicable.
2. The Headteacher/DPO (or nominated representative) must ascertain whether the breach is still occurring. If so, steps must be taken immediately to minimise the effect of the breach. An example might be to shut down a system, or to alert relevant staff such as the IT technician.
4. The Headteacher/DPO (or nominated representative) must also consider whether the Police need to be informed. This would be appropriate where illegal activity is known or is believed to have occurred, or where there is a risk that illegal activity might occur in the future.
5. The Headteacher/DPO (or nominated representative) must quickly take appropriate steps to recover any losses and limit the damage. Steps might include:
  - a. Attempting to recover lost equipment.
  - b. The use of back-ups to restore lost/damaged/stolen data.
  - c. If bank details have been lost/stolen, consider contacting banks directly for advice on preventing fraudulent use.
  - d. If the data breach includes any entry codes or IT system passwords, then these must be changed immediately and the members of staff informed.

**Investigation**

In most cases, the next stage would be for the Headteacher/DPO (or nominated representative) to fully investigate the breach. The Headteacher/DPO (or nominated representative) should ascertain whose data

was involved in the breach, the potential effect on the data subject and what further steps need to be taken to remedy the situation. The investigation should consider:

The type of data;

Its sensitivity;

What protections were in place (e.g. encryption);

What has happened to the data;

Whether the data could be put to any illegal or inappropriate use;

How many people are affected;

What type of people have been affected (pupils, staff members, suppliers etc) and whether there are wider consequences to the breach.

A clear record should be made of the nature of the breach and the actions taken to mitigate it. The investigation should be completed as a matter of urgency due to the requirements to report notifiable personal data breaches to the Information Commissioner's Office. A more detailed review of the causes of the breach and recommendations for future improvements can be done once the matter has been resolved.

### **Notification**

Some people/agencies may need to be notified as part of the initial containment. However, the decision will normally be made once an initial investigation has taken place. The Headteacher/DPO (or nominated representative) should, after seeking expert or legal advice, decide whether anyone is notified of the breach. In the case of significant breaches, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) must be notified within 72 hours of the breach. Every incident should be considered on a case by case basis.

When notifying individuals, give specific and clear advice on what they can do to protect themselves and what the school is able to do to help them. You should also give them the opportunity to make a formal complaint if they wish (see the School's Complaints Procedure). The notification should include a description of how and when the breach occurred and what data was involved. Include details of what you have already done to mitigate the risks posed by the breach

### **Review and Evaluation**

Once the initial aftermath of the breach is over, the Headteacher/DPO (or nominated representative) should fully review both the causes of the breach and the effectiveness of the response to it. If systemic or ongoing problems are identified, then an action plan must be drawn up to put these right. If the breach warrants a disciplinary investigation, the manager leading the investigation should liaise with the Trust's HR Director for advice and guidance. This breach procedure may need to be reviewed after a breach or after legislative changes, new case law or new guidance.

## Appendix 2: Glossary

**Automated Decision-Making (ADM):** when a decision is made which is based solely on automated processing (including profiling) which produces legal effects or significantly affects an individual. The GDPR prohibits automated decision-making (unless certain conditions are met) but not automated processing.

**Automated Processing:** any form of automated processing of personal data consisting of the use of personal data to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to an individual, in particular to analyse or predict aspects concerning that individual's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movements. profiling is an example of automated processing.

**Consent:** agreement which must be freely given, specific, informed and be an unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes by which they, by a statement or by a clear positive action, which signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to them.

**Data Controller** means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data. It is responsible for establishing practices and policies in line with the GDPR. The Trust is the Data Controller of all personal data relating to its pupils, parents and staff.

**Data Subject:** a living, identified or identifiable individual about whom we hold personal data. Data Subjects may be nationals or residents of any country and may have legal rights regarding their personal data.

**Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA):** tools and assessments used to identify and reduce risks of a data processing activity. DPIA can be carried out as part of Privacy by Design and should be conducted for all major systems or business change programs involving the processing of personal data.

**Data Protection Officer (DPO):** the person required to be appointed in public authorities under the GDPR.

**EEA:** the 28 countries in the EU, and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

**Explicit Consent:** consent which requires a very clear and specific statement (not just action).

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR):** General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679). Personal data is subject to the legal safeguards specified in the GDPR.

Personal data is any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (data subject) who can be identified, directly or indirectly by reference to an identifier such as a name, identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person. Personal data includes sensitive personal data and pseudonymised personal data but excludes anonymous data or data that has had the identity of an individual permanently removed. Personal data can be factual (for example, a name, email address, location or date of birth) or an opinion about that person's actions or behaviour.

Personal data breach means a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed.

Privacy by Design: implementing appropriate technical and organisational measures in an effective manner to ensure compliance with the GDPR.

Privacy Notices: separate notices setting out information that may be provided to Data Subjects when the school collects information about them. These notices may take the form of general privacy statements applicable to a specific group of individuals (for example, school workforce privacy policy) or they may be stand-alone privacy statements covering processing related to a specific purpose.

Processing means anything done with personal data, such as collection, recording, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, use, disclosure, dissemination or otherwise making available, restriction, erasure or destruction.

Processor means a natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.

Pseudonymisation or Pseudonymised: replacing information that directly or indirectly identifies an individual with one or more artificial identifiers or pseudonyms so that the person, to whom the data relates, cannot be identified without the use of additional information which is meant to be kept separately and secure.

Sensitive Personal Data: information revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or similar beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health conditions, sexual life, sexual orientation, biometric or genetic data, and Personal data relating to criminal offences and convictions.