

# Mill Lane Primary School



## Data Protection Policy

Adopted – June 2022  
Review – March 2024

## Data Protection Policy Mill Lane Primary School

**Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of the Governors to ensure procedures are in place to ensure that the school complies with Data Protection legislation, e.g. including, but not limited to, the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and The Data Protection Act.

**Commented [AJ1]:** Added UK to all references to GDPR

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17. Data Protection Officer

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The School shall appoint a Data Protection Officer in line with the requirements of the UK GDPR. The schools DPO is Veritau Ltd.

The DPO is a statutory position and will operate in an advisory capacity. Duties will include:

- Acting as the point of contact for the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) and data subjects;
- Facilitating a periodic review of the corporate information asset register and information governance policies;
- Assisting with the reporting and investigation of information security breaches;
- Providing advice on all aspects of data protection as required, including information requests, information sharing and Data Protection Impact Assessments; and
- Reporting to governors on the above matters

Data Protection Impact Assessments

The School shall undertake high risk Data Protection Impact Assessments in line with the requirements of the UK GDPR and as per the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance.

#### Data Breaches

All employees, governors, contractors, agents and representatives, volunteers and temporary staff shall report a security incident or data breach immediately to senior management and the School's Data Protection Officer.

The School shall report any personal data breach to the DPO who will liaise with the ICO in line with the statutory requirements (72 hours) of the UK GDPR.

#### Contracts

The School shall ensure that a legally binding contract is in place with all of its data processors in line with the requirements of the UK GDPR.

1. **Consent**
- 2.
3. **Where the School processes data with consent (for example, to publish photographs of children, to send direct marketing emails about school uniform for sale) it will ensure that the consent is freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous, and the consent is recorded.**

#### Information Society Services

Where the School offers Information Society Services (online services with a commercial element) targeted at children, it will take reasonable steps to seek the consent of the child's parent or guardian if the child is under 13 years of age.

#### Direct Marketing

Where the School sends any direct marketing (the promotion of aims and ideals as well as selling goods and services) via electronic communications, e.g. email, SMS text, fax or recorded telephone messages, it will only do so if the recipient has given explicit consent to receive them, e.g. has ticked a box to 'opt in'.

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## 5. Introduction

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In order to operate efficiently Mill Lane Primary School has to collect and use information about people with whom it works and the pupils it provides an education to. These may include members of the public, current, past and prospective employees, clients and customers, and suppliers. In addition, it may be required by law to collect and use information in order to comply with the requirements of central government.

The School is committed to ensuring personal data is properly managed and that it ensures compliance with current data protection legislation. The School will make every effort to meet its obligations under the legislation and will regularly review procedures to ensure that it is doing so.

## 6. Scope

This policy applies to all employees, governors, contractors, agents and representatives, volunteers and temporary staff working for or on behalf of the School.

This policy applies to all personal data created or held by the School in whatever format (e.g. paper, electronic, email, microfiche, film) and however it is stored, (for example, ICT system/database, shared drive filing structure, workbooks, email, filing cabinet, shelving and personal filing drawers).

Personal data is information about living, identifiable individuals, or an identifier or identifiers that can be used to identify a living individual. It covers both facts and opinions about the individual. Such data can be part of a computer record or manual record.

Current data protection legislation does not apply to access to information about deceased individuals. However, the duty of confidentiality may continue after death.

## 7. Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for ensuring that the School meets the statutory requirements of any data protection legislation lies with the Governors and the Chair of Governors has overall responsibility for information management issues. They have delegated the day-to-day responsibility of implementation to the Head Teacher. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) will advise on the implementation.

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring compliance with data protection legislation and this policy within the day-to-day activities of the School. The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided for all staff. The DPO will ensure effective arrangements are in place for these responsibilities.

All contractors who hold or collect personal data on behalf of the School by way of written contract are responsible for their own compliance with data protection legislation and must ensure that personal information is kept and processed in line with data protection legislation and only upon instruction from the school, via a contract. The contract must assure school that the contractors are acting compliantly.

The DPO will advise the school in developing and maintaining an Information Asset Register (IAR). The register will include the following information for each asset:

- An individual information asset identification number;
- The owner of that asset;
- Description and purpose of the asset;
- Whether there is a privacy notice published for that asset;
- Format and location of the asset;
- Which officers (job titles/teams) have routine access to the information;
- Whether there are any data sharing agreements relating to the information and the name of that agreement,
- Conditions of data processing;
- Details of any third parties contracted to process the information;
- Retention period for the asset

The IAR will be reviewed annually and the Head Teacher will inform the DPO of any significant changes to their information assets as soon as possible.

## 8. The Requirements

Data protection legislation stipulates that anyone processing personal data must comply with principles of good practice; these principles are legally enforceable. The 6 principles require that personal data:

1. Shall be processed fairly and lawfully and transparently;
2. Shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or those purposes;
3. Shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose or purposes for which it is processed;
4. Shall be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date;
5. Shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes;
6. Shall be kept secure i.e. protected by an appropriate degree of security.

In addition, the data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects. (See Section 16 below)

Personal data shall also not be transferred to a country unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of data protection or another secure method of transfer is guaranteed.

## 9. Notification

The Digital Economy Act 2017 requires every data controller who is processing personal data, to notify and renew their notification, on an annual basis. Failure to do so is a criminal offence. The Information Commissioner maintains a public register of data controllers, in which the School must be registered.

The School will review the Data Protection Register (<https://ico.org.uk/esdwebpages/search>) annually, prior to renewing its notification to the Information Commissioner.

## 10. Privacy Notices

Whenever information is collected about individuals they must be made aware of the following at that initial point of collection:

- The identity of the data controller, e.g. the School;
- Contact details of the Data Protection Officer;
- The purpose that the information is being collected for;
- Any other purposes that it may be used for;
- What the lawful basis is for processing the data;
- Who the information will or may be shared with;
- If the data is transferred outside of the EU, and if yes, how is it kept secure;
- How long the data will be kept for; and
- How data subjects can exercise their rights.

The School will review its Privacy Notice annually and alert pupils and parents to any updates.

## 11. Conditions for Processing

Processing of personal information may only be carried out where one of the conditions of Article 6 of the UK GDPR has been satisfied.

Processing of special category (sensitive) personal data may only be carried out if a condition in Article 9 of the UK GDPR is met as well as one in Article 6.

## 12. Data Protection Officer

The School shall appoint a Data Protection Officer in line with the requirements of the UK GDPR. The schools DPO is Veritau Ltd.

The DPO is a statutory position and will operate in an advisory capacity. Duties will include:

- Acting as the point of contact for the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and data subjects;
- Facilitating a periodic review of the corporate information asset register and information governance policies;
- Assisting with the reporting and investigation of information security breaches;
- Providing advice on all aspects of data protection as required, including information requests, information sharing and Data Protection Impact Assessments; and
- Reporting to governors on the above matters

## 13. Data Protection Impact Assessments

The School shall undertake high risk Data Protection Impact Assessments in line with the requirements of the UK GDPR and as per the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance.

#### 14. Data Breaches

All employees, governors, contractors, agents and representatives, volunteers and temporary staff shall report a security incident or data breach immediately to senior management and the School's Data Protection Officer.

The School shall report any personal data breach to the DPO who will liaise with the ICO in line with the statutory requirements (72 hours) of the UK GDPR.

**Commented [AJ4]:** You could direct to the Information Security Incident Reporting (breach) policy here

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#### 16. Consent

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#### 15. Provision of Data

It is a criminal offence to knowingly or recklessly obtain or disclose information about an individual without legitimate cause. Relevant, confidential data should only be given to:

- Other members of staff on a need to know basis;
- Relevant Parents/Guardians;
- Other authorities if it is necessary in the public interest, e.g. prevention of crime, safeguarding;
- Other authorities, such as the Local Authority and schools to which a pupil may move, where there are legitimate requirements (DfEE leaflet 0015/2000 entitled "Pupil Records and Reports" issued in March 2000 covers Data Protection issues and how and what information should be transferred to other schools. DfES/0268/2002 provides further information).



The School should not disclose anything on a pupil's record which would be likely to cause serious harm to their physical or mental health or that of anyone else. Therefore, those who create such records should ensure that such information is separated from other records.

Where there is doubt, or statutory requirements conflict, legal advice should be obtained. Where there are safeguarding concerns, the matter should be referred to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

When giving information to an individual, particularly by telephone, it is most important that the individual's identity is verified. If in doubt, questions should be asked of the individual, to which only he/she is likely to know the answers. Information should not be provided to other parties, even if related. For example, in the case of divorced parents it is important that information regarding one party is not given to the other party to which he/she is not entitled. Care must always be taken when there is any doubt about parental responsibility.

## **16. Access to information**

### **Requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004**

**Requests under this legislation should be made to the School Office or Head Teacher.**

The Head Teacher is responsible for:

- Deciding whether the requested information is held;
- Locating, retrieving or extracting the information;
- Considering whether any exemption might apply, and the balance of the public interest test;
- Preparing the material for disclosure and drafting the response;
- Seeking any necessary approval for the response; and
- Sending the response to the requester

FOIA requests should be made in writing. Please note that we will only consider requests which provide a valid name and address and we will not consider requests which ask us to click on electronic links. EIR requests can be made verbally, however we will endeavour to follow this up in writing with the requestor to ensure accuracy.

Each request received will be acknowledged within 5 school days. The Chair of Governors and Head Teacher will jointly consider all requests where a public interest test is applied or where there is any doubt on whether an exemption should be applied. In applying the public interest test they will:

- Document clearly the benefits of both disclosing or withholding the requested information; and
- Where necessary seek guidance from previous case law in deciding where the balance lies
- Consult the DPO

Reasons for disclosing or not disclosing will be reported to the next governing body meeting. We have adopted the Information Commissioner's model publication scheme for schools and will publish as much information as possible on our website in the interests of transparency and accountability.

We will charge for supplying information at our discretion, in line with current regulations. If a charge applies, written notice will be given to the applicant and payment must be received before the information is supplied. School will follow the Local Authority's charging regime.

We will adhere to the required FOI/EIR timescales, and requests will be answered within 20 **school days**.

**Requests for information under the UK GDPR- Subject Access Requests**  
**Requests under this legislation should be made to School Office or Head Teacher.**

However, any member of staff/governor may receive a request for an individual's personal information. Whilst UK GDPR does not require such requests to be made in writing, applicants are encouraged where possible to do so; applicants who require assistance should seek help from the school. Requests will be logged with the School Office and acknowledged within 5 school days.

We must be satisfied as to your identity and may have to ask for additional information such as:

- Valid Photo ID (driver's licence, passport etc);
- Proof of Address (Utility bill, council tax letter etc);
- further information for the school to be satisfied of the applicant's identity;

Only once the school is satisfied of the requestor's identity and has sufficient information on which to respond to the request will it be considered valid. We will then respond to your request within the statutory timescale of One Calendar Month.

The school can apply a discretionary extension of up a further Two Calendar Months to comply with the request if the requested information would take a considerable amount of time to collate, redact, and prepare for disclosure due to either the complexity or voluminous nature of the records. If we wish to apply an extension we will firstly seek guidance from our DPO, then inform the applicant of the extension within the first calendar month of receiving the request. This extension period will be kept to a minimum and will not be used as a way of managing workloads. In very limited cases we may also refuse a request outright as 'manifestly unreasonable' if we would have to spend an unjustified amount of time and resources to comply.

Should we think any exemptions are necessary to apply we will seek guidance from our DPO to discuss their application.

**Requests received from parents asking for information held within the pupil's Education Record will be dealt with under the Education (Pupil Information)(England) Regulations 2005. Any charges which arise from this request will be applied at our discretion.**

## **17. Provision of Data to Children**

In relation to the capacity of a child to make a subject access request, guidance provided by the ICO has been that by the age of 12 a child can be expected to have sufficient maturity to understand the nature of the request. A child may of course reach sufficient maturity earlier; each child should be judged on a case by case basis.

If the child does not understand the nature of the request, someone with parental responsibility for the child, or a guardian, is entitled to make the request on behalf of the child and receive a response.

Pupils who submit requests to access their educational records should be allowed to do so unless it is obvious that they do not understand what they are asking for.

## 18. Parents' Rights

An adult with parental responsibility can access the information about their child, as long as the child is not considered to be sufficiently mature. They must be able to prove their parental responsibility and the School is entitled to request relevant documentation to evidence this as well as the identity of the requestor and child. The School has the right to ask the Child if they object to release of information to the Parent if the Child is deemed mature enough to make such a decision.

In addition, parents have their own independent right under The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2000 of access to the official education records of their children. Students do not have a right to prevent their parents from obtaining a copy of their school records (as defined in the Education Act).

## 19. Information Security

All members of staff should be constantly aware of the possibility of personal data being seen by unauthorised personnel. For example, possibilities may arise when computer screens are visible to the general public; files may be seen by the cleaners if left on desks overnight (all papers must be locked in cabinets when not in use).

The use of computer passwords is a requirement of the school to avoid unauthorised access. All removable devices, e.g. laptops, USB sticks, personal mobile phones and digital cameras must not be used to store School data unless they comply with a School Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy, and should be encrypted and password protected wherever possible.

All members of staff should take care when transporting paper files between sites. No personal data is ever to be left unattended off site, e.g. in a car overnight, on view to family members when working at home.

All members of staff should take care when emailing personal data and always check the email address is correct and the right attachment has been attached. When copying to several people externally, all members of staff must always use the BCC field and not the CC field nor create a group.

## 20. Destruction of Records

Out of date information should be discarded if no longer relevant. Information should only be kept as long as needed, for legal or business purposes. In reality most relevant information should be kept for the period during which the person is associated with the School plus an additional period which the School has determined. Under UK GDPR the School must produce a Retention and Disposal Policy to clarify this.

**Commented [AJ5]:** We have separate policy template for Information Security

## **21. Inaccurate Data**

If an individual complains that the personal data held about them is wrong, incomplete or inaccurate, the position should be investigated thoroughly including checking with the source of the information. This must be answered within one month. In the meantime, a caution should be marked on the person's file that there is a question mark over the accuracy. An individual is entitled to apply to the court for a correcting order and it is obviously preferable to avoid legal proceedings by working with the person to correct the data or allay their concerns.

## **22. Recording of Data**

Records should be kept in such a way that the individual concerned can inspect them. It should also be borne in mind that at some time in the future the data may be inspected by the courts or some legal official. It should therefore be correct, unbiased, unambiguous, factual and clearly decipherable/readable. Where information is obtained from an outside source, details of the source and date obtained should be recorded.

Any person whose details, or child's details, are to be included on the School's website will be required to give written consent unless it is a legal requirement (e.g. Governors' details). At the time the information is included all such individuals will be properly informed about the consequences of their data being disseminated worldwide.

## **23. Photographs**

Whether or not a photograph comes under the data protection legislation is a matter of interpretation and quality of the photograph. However, the School takes the matter extremely seriously and seeks to obtain parents' permission for the use of photographs outside the School and, in particular, to record their wishes if they do not want photographs to be taken of their children.

## **24. Breach of the Policy**

Non-compliance with the requirements of data protection legislation by the members of staff could lead to serious action being taken by third parties against the School. Non-compliance by a member of staff is therefore considered a disciplinary matter which, depending on the circumstances, could lead to dismissal. It should be noted that an individual can commit a criminal offence under the law, for example, by obtaining and/or disclosing personal data for his/her own purposes without the consent of the data controller.

## **25. Further Information**

Further advice and information about data protection legislation, including full details of exemptions, is available from the ICO website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk), or from Kirklees Council's Information Governance Team via [information.governance@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:information.governance@kirklees.gov.uk)

## 26. Review of the Policy

This policy is to be reviewed bi-annually.

## 27. Glossary

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|--------------------------|--|
| Data Controller          | A data controller is the individual or the legal person who controls and is responsible for the keeping and use of personal information on computer or in structured manual files.   |
| Data Subject             | The individual who the data or information is about  |
| Educational record       | The educational record is confined to information that comes from a teacher or other employee of a local authority or school, the pupil or their parents. Communications about a particular child from head teachers and teachers at a school and other employees at an education authority will therefore form part of that child's official educational record, as will correspondence from an educational psychologist engaged by the governing body under a contract of services. It may also include information from the child and their parents, such as information about the health of the child. Information kept by a teacher solely for their own use does not form part of the official educational record. |
| Information Commissioner | The independent regulator who has responsibility to see that the data protection legislation is complied with. They can give advice on data protection issues and can enforce measures against individuals or organisations who do not comply with the law.  |
| Notified Purposes        | The purposes for which the school is entitled to process that data under its notification with the Office of the Information Commissioner.   |
| Personal Data            | Defined as 'data which relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data, or from that data and other information which is in the possession of, or is likely to come into the possession of, the data controller' or an identifier (the school is a data controller), and includes any expression of opinion about the individual and any indication of the intentions of the data controller or any other in respect of the individual.  |
| Processing               | Covers a broad range of activities such that virtually any use of personal information or data will amount to processing. Just holding or storing the data constitutes processing.   |
| Processed fairly and     | Data must be processed in accordance with the provisions of data protection legislation. These include the data protection   |

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| lawfully                          | principles, the rights of the individual and notification.   |
| Special Category (sensitive) Data | Information about racial or ethnic origin, sexual life, religious beliefs (or similar), physical or mental health/condition, membership of a trade union, political opinions or beliefs, or biometric or genetic data. |
| Subject Access Request            | An individual's request for personal data under the UK General Data Protection Regulation.   |

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