

Viking Academy Trust



Freedom of Information Policy

The VIKING ACADEMY TRUST 'Freedom of Information Policy' has been written following advice from SPS, DfE guidance and in consultation with staff and the Board of Trustees.

Approved by the Trust: Term 3 2017

Reviewed annually: Term 3

Last review date: N/A

Signed:

Chair of Trustees

Freedom of Information Policy

The Viking Academy Trust

Schools in the Viking Academy Trust (VAT)

We start 2016-17 academic year with three schools in the Viking Academy Trust.

These are:

Chilton Primary School
Ramsgate Free School
Upton Junior School

Freedom of Information and Data Protection Policy and Procedure

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy and procedure is to ensure compliance of the Academy Trust with all of its obligations as set out in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information legislation.

2. Data Controller

The Academy is the Data Controller as defined in the Data Protection Act 1998.

3. Notification with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

- 3.1. The Academy notified the ICO, when it was established, using the on-line form
- 3.2. The Academy will renew the registration annually. In addition, if the Academy introduces and new purposes for processing personal information, such as the installation of CCTV, then it will notify the ICO, requesting that the new purpose be included in the registration.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. **Personal data** is information that relates to an identifiable living individual that is processed as data. Processing means collecting, using, disclosing, retaining, or disposing of information. The data protection principles apply to all information held electronically or in structured files that tells you something about an identifiable living individual. The principles also extend to all information in education records. Examples would be names of staff and pupils, dates of birth, addresses, national insurance numbers, school marks, medical information, exam results, SEN assessments and staff development reviews.
- 4.2. **Sensitive personal data** is information that relates to race and ethnicity, political opinions, religious beliefs, membership of trade unions, physical or mental health, sexuality and criminal offences.
There are greater legal restrictions on processing sensitive personal data than there are on personal data.

5. Data Protection Principles

The eight core principles of the Data Protection Act are enshrined in this policy in the Academy's commitment that personal data:

- is processed fairly and lawfully;
- is obtained only for lawful purposes, and is not further used in any manner incompatible with those original purposes;
- is accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
- is adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purposes for which it is processed;
- is not kept for longer than is necessary for those purposes;
- is processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the DPA;
- is protected by appropriate technical and organisational measures against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage; and
- is not transferred to a country or territory outside the European economic area unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection of the personal information.

6. Fair Processing

The Academy is committed to being clear and transparent about what type of personal information we hold and how it is used. The following 'Privacy

Notice for Pupil and their Parents and Guardians' are published on the website.

7. Privacy Notice for Pupils and their Parents and Guardians

Data Protection Act 1998: How we use pupil information

We collect and hold personal information relating to our pupils and may also receive information about them from their previous school, local authority and/or the Department for Education (DfE). We use this personal data to:

- support our pupils' learning
- monitor and report on their progress
- provide appropriate pastoral care; and
- assess the quality of our services

This information will include their contact details, national curriculum assessment results, attendance information, any exclusion information, where they go after they leave us and personal characteristics such as their ethnic group, any special educational needs they may have as well as relevant medical information.

We will not give information about our pupils to anyone without your consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so. If you want to receive a copy of the information about your son/daughter that we hold, please contact:

Mrs V Sutherland, Trust Business Manager,
victoria.sutherland@vikingacademytrust.com

We are required, by law, to pass some information about our pupils to the Department for Education (DfE). This information will, in turn, then be made available for use by the LA.

DfE may also share pupil level personal data that we supply to them, with third parties. This will only take place where legislation allows it to do so and it is in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Decisions on whether DfE releases this personal data to third parties are subject to a robust approval process and are based on a detailed assessment of who is requesting the data, the purpose for which it is required, the level and sensitivity of data requested and the arrangements in place to store and handle the data. To be granted access to pupil level data, requestors must comply with strict terms and conditions covering the confidentiality and handling of data, security arrangements and retention and use of the data.

For more information on how this sharing process works, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-pupil-database-apply-for-a-data-extract>

For information on which third party organisations (and for which project) pupil level data has been provided to, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-pupil-database-requests-received>

If you need more information about how our local authority and/or DfE collect and use your information, please visit:

- our local authority at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/about-the-website/privacy-policy> or
- the DfE website at <https://www.gov.uk/data-protection-how-we-collect-and-share-research-data>

8. Information Security

8.1. Objective

The information security objective is to ensure that the Academy's information base is protected against identified risks so that it may continue to deliver its services and obligations to the community. It also seeks to ensure that any security incidents have a minimal effect on its business and academic operations.

8.2. Responsibilities

The Executive Head Teacher of the Academy has direct responsibility for maintaining the policy and for ensuring that the staff of the academy adheres to it.

8.3. General Security

- It is important that unauthorised people are not permitted access to Academy information and that we protect against theft of both equipment and information. This means that we must pay attention to protecting our buildings against unauthorised access. Staff must:
- Not reveal pin numbers or building entry codes to people that you do not know or who cannot prove themselves to be employees;

- Beware of people tailgating you into the building or through a security door;
- If you don't know who someone is and they are not wearing some form of identification, ask them why they are in the building;
- Not position screens on reception desks where members of the public could see them;
- Lock secure areas when you are not in the office;
- Not let anyone remove equipment or records unless you are certain who they are;
- Visitors and contractors in Academy buildings should always sign in via the front desk entry system.
- **Security of Paper Records**
 - Paper documents should always be filed with care in the correct files and placed in the correct place in the storage facility.
 - Records that contain personal data, particularly if the information is sensitive should be locked away when not in use and should not be left open or on desks overnight or when you are not in the office;
 - Always keep track of files and who has them;
 - Do not leave files out where others may find them;
 - Where a file contains confidential or sensitive information, do not give it to someone else to look after.
- **Security of Electronic Data**
 - Most of our data and information is collected, processed, stored, analysed and reported electronically. It is essential that our systems, hardware, software and data files are kept secure from damage and unauthorised access. Academy staff must:
 - Prevent access to unauthorised people and to those who don't know how to use an item of software properly. It could result in loss of information;
 - Keep suppliers CDs containing software safe and locked away. Always label the CDs so you do not lose them in case they need to be re-loaded;

- When we buy a license for software, it usually only covers a certain number of machines. Make sure that you do not exceed this number, as you will be breaking the terms of the contract.
- Passwords are a critical element of electronic information security. All staff must manage their passwords in a responsible fashion:
- Don't write it down;
- Don't give anyone your password;
- Your password should be at least 8 characters. They need have at least 3 of the following features :UPPERCASE, lowercase, numbers and symbols,
- The essential rules your password is something that you can remember but not anything obvious (such as password) or anything that people could guess easily such as your name;
- You can be held responsible for any malicious acts by anyone to whom you have given your password;
- Take care that no-one can see you type in your password;
- Change your password regularly, and certainly when prompted. Also change it if you think that someone may know what it is.
- Many database systems, particularly those containing personal data should only allow a level of access appropriate to each staff member. The level may change over time.

8.6. Use of E-Mail and Internet

- The use of the academy's e-mail system and wider Internet use is for the professional work of the academy. Reasonable personal use of the system in a member of staff's own time is permitted but professional standards of conduct and compliance with the Academy's wider policies are a requirement whenever the e-mail or Internet system is being used. The academy uses a filtered and monitored broadband service to protect our pupils. Deliberate attempts to access web sites that contain unlawful, pornographic, offensive or gambling content are strictly prohibited. Staff discovering such sites on the system must report this to their line manager immediately. The Executive Head Teacher will ensure that the sites are reported to the broadband provider for filtering.

- To avoid a computer virus arriving over the Internet, do not open any flashing boxes or visit personal websites;
- Do not send highly confidential or sensitive personal information via e-mail;
- Do not send information by e-mail, which breaches the Data Protection Act. Do not write anything in an e-mail which could be considered inaccurate or offensive, and cannot be substantiated.

8.7. Electronic Hardware

- All hardware held within Academy should be included on the asset register (Parago);
- When an item is replaced, the register should be updated with the new equipment removed or replaced;
- Do not let anyone remove equipment unless you are sure that they are authorised to do so;

8.8. Homeworking Guidance

- If staff must work outside of the academy or at home, all of the 'Information Security' policy principles still apply. However, working outside of the academy presents increased risks for securing information. The following additional requirements apply:
 - Do not access confidential information when you are in a public place, such as a train and may be overlooked;
 - Do not have conversations about personal or confidential information on your mobile when in a public place. Ensure that, if urgent, you have your conversation in a separate room or away from other people;
 - If you use a laptop or tablet or smart phone
 - Ensure that it is locked and pass-word protected to prevent unauthorised access;
 - Make sure that you don't leave your device anywhere it could be stolen. Keep it with you at all times and secure it when you are in the Academy;

- Any portable device or memory stick that contains personal data must be encrypted. Personal data may not be taken off the academy's site or put onto a portable device without the express permission of the Executive Head Teacher. Taking personal data off-site on a device or media that is not encrypted would be a disciplinary matter.

When working on confidential documents at home do not leave them lying around where others may see them; dispose of documents using a shredder;

If you are using your own computer, ensure that others cannot access documents. When you have completed working on them, transfer them back to the Academy's system and delete them from your computer. It is forbidden to use a computer owned by you to hold personal data about pupils or staff at the academy.

8.9. Data Backup

- The academy will arrange that all critical and personal data is backed up to secure on-line (off physical site) storage. If the academy is physically damaged critical data backups will allow the Trust to continue its business at another location with secure data.
- Data backup should routinely be managed on a rolling daily process to secure off-site areas.

9. Disposal of Information

- 9.1. Paper records should be disposed of with care. If papers contain confidential or sensitive information shred them before disposing of them. Particular care must be taken when selecting papers to be placed in a recycling bin.
- 9.2. Computers and hardware to be disposed of must be completely 'cleaned' before disposal. It is not enough just to delete all the files.
- 9.3. It cannot be assumed that simply deleting a file will prevent it being recovered from electronic media. Electronic memory containing personal information or sensitive personal information must be electronically scrubbed or physically destroyed.
- 9.4. Where a third party contractor holds personal information on behalf of the academy, for example a payroll provider, the academy will seek reassurance from the contractor regarding their data protection policies and procedures.

10. Subject Access Requests

- 10.1. Requests from parents or pupils for access to personal data or educational records will be dealt with as described in the Privacy Notice for Pupils and their Parents and Guardians.
- 10.2. Academy Trust staff may have access to their personal data within 40 calendar days of a request and at no charge.
- 10.3. The Academy Trust will maintain a documented record of all requests for personal information with details of who dealt with the request, what information was provided and when, and any outcomes.

The record will be used if there is a subsequent complaint in relation to the request.

11. Sharing Personal Information

- 11.1. The academy only shares personal information with other organisations where there is a legal requirement to do so or the organisation has been contracted by the Academy Trust to carry out a function of the academy.
- 11.2. The academy is required, for example, to share information with the Department for Education and the Education Funding Agency. Under certain circumstances, such as child protection, we may also be required to share information with Children's Social Services or the police.
- 11.3. Because our pupils are of primary school age, their own right to access their own personal information held by the academy will be exercised through their parents or guardians.
- 11.4. The Executive Head Teacher will be responsible for authorising the sharing of data with another organisation. The Executive HT, in authorising the sharing of data will take account of:
 - 11.5. Whether it is lawful to share it;
 - 11.6. Whether there is adequate security in place to protect the information while it is being transferred and then held by the other organisation;
 - 11.7. Include in the Privacy Notice a simple explanation of who the information is being shared with and why.
- 11.8. Considerations regarding the method of transferring data should include:
 - 11.9. If personal data is sent by e-mail then security will be threatened. You may need to check that the recipient's arrangements are secure enough before sending the message. The data may also need to be password protected and the password sent separately. You should also check that it is going to the correct e-mail address.

- 11.10. Circular e-mails sent to parents should be sent **bcc** (blind carbon copy) so that the e-mail addresses are not disclosed to everyone.
- 11.11. Similar considerations apply to the use of fax machines. Ensure that the recipient will be present to collect a fax when it is sent and that it will not be left unattended on their equipment.
- 11.12. If confidential personal data is provided by paper copy it is equally important to ensure that it reaches the intended recipient.

12. Websites

- 12.1. The Academy website will be used to provide important information for parents and pupils including our Privacy Notice and our Freedom of Information publication scheme.
- 12.2. Where personal information, including images, are placed on the web site the following principles will apply:
- 12.3. We will not disclose personal information (including photos) on a web site without the consent of the pupil, parent, member of staff or Governor as appropriate;
- 12.4. Comply with regulations regarding cookies and consent for their use;
- 12.5. Our website design specifications will take account of the principles of data protection.

13. CCTV

If the academy uses CCTV this will be notified to the Information Commissioners Office along with the purpose of capturing images using CCTV. The academy appreciates that images captured on CCTV constitute personal information under the Data Protection Act.

14. Photographs

- 14.1. The academy may use photographs of pupils or staff taken for inclusion in the printed prospectus or other school publications without further specific consent being sought.
- 14.2. Images recorded by parents using their own personal equipment of their child in a school play or activity for their own family use are not covered by data protection law.
- 14.3. All other uses by the academy of photographic images are subject to data protection.

15. Processing by Others

The academy remains responsible for the protection of data that is processed by another organisation on its behalf. As part of a contract of engagement other organisations that process data on behalf of the academy will have to specify how they will ensure compliance with data protection law.

16. Training

The Executive Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are adequately trained to understand their responsibilities in relation to this policy and procedures.

17. Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

In line with the Freedom of Information Act the academy will provide its Approved Publication Scheme on our web site.

Information to be published

*How the information
can be obtained*

Cost

Class 1 - Who we are and what we do

Who's who in the school	Prospectus and Website	Free
Who's who on the governing body and the basis of their appointment	Prospectus	Free
Instrument of Government	Prospectus	Free
Contact details for the Executive Head teacher - telephone number and email address	Prospectus and Website	Free
School prospectus	From School Office/ e-mail/Website	Free
Staffing structure	Prospectus	Free

Class 2- What we spend and how we spend it

(Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit)

Annual budget plan and financial statements	Hard copy	Free
Capitalised funding	Hard copy	Free
Procurement and projects	Hard copy	Free
Pay policy	Hard copy	Free
Staffing and grading structure	Hard copy	Free

Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing

(Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)

School profile		
Government supplied performance data	Hard copy	Free
The latest full Ofsted report	Hard copy/website	Free
Performance management policy and procedures adopted by the governing body.	Hard copy/website	Free

Class 4 – How we make decisions

(Decision making processes and records of decisions) Current and previous three years as a minimum

Admissions policy/decisions (not individual admission decisions)	Prospectus	Free
Agendas of meetings of the governing body and (if held) its committees	Hard copy	10p/sheet
Minutes of meetings (as above) - n.b. this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meetings	Hard copy	10p/sheet

Class 5 – Our policies and procedures

(Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities). Current information only

School policies including: Charging and remissions policy	Prospectus	Free
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Health and Safety	Hard copy	Free
Complaints procedure	Hard copy	Free
Staff conduct policy	Hard copy	Free
Discipline and grievance policies	Hard copy	Free
Single Equality Scheme	Hard copy	Free

Home-school agreement	Website/Prospectus	Free
Curriculum	Website/Prospectus	Free
Sex education	Website/Prospectus	Free
Special educational needs	Website/Prospectus	Free
Accessibility	Website/Prospectus	Free
Collective worship	Website/Prospectus	Free
Pupil discipline	Website/Prospectus	Free
Records management and personal data policies, including;		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information security policies • Records retention destruction and archive policies • Data protection (including information sharing policies) 	Website	Free

Class 6 - Lists and Registers

Currently maintained lists and registers only

Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments	Website/Newsletters	Free
Any information the school is currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER)	Hard copy	10p/sheet

Class 7 - The services we offer

(Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses) Current information only

Extra-curricular activities	Website/Prospectus /Newsletters	Free
Out of school clubs	Website/prospectus /Newsletters	Free
Services for which the school is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees	Hard copy	10p/sheet

Leaflets books and newsletters	Website/School Office	Free
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Schedule of charges

This describes how the charges have been arrived at and should be published as part of the guide.

<i>Type of charge</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Basis of charge</i>
Disbursement cost	Photocopying/printing @ 10p per sheet (mono)	Actual cost *
	Postage	Actual cost of Royal Mail standard 2 nd class

* the actual cost incurred by the public authority