



LIFE ACADEMIES TRUST

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Data Protection Policy

Document Detail	
Approved	March 2026
Approved by	Trust Board
Next Review date	March 2028
Version	3

Summary of Changes

Date	Version	Summary of Changes
06/09/2025	2	<p>2.2 added -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Trust Board will: Attend data protection training as organised by the Academy Trust. ● Data Protection Officer will: Advise and guide the Academy Trust on subject access requests and data breaches. ● The Data Protection Lead will: Act upon information and advice on data protection and circulate to staff and trustees. <p>3.1 added -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff and at least one Trustees will also be required to complete annual cyber security training to ensure that they are aware of cyber risks and understand the important role that they play in reducing the risk of a successful cyber attack. ● Use of images - staff consent added in section <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biggleswade Academy will seek consent from all members of staff to allow their photography and the subsequent reproduction of these images. ● Removal of data collection exercise. ● Added - Using the school's Management Information System staff and parents have access to view their personal data so can at any time ensure the data held about them is correct. This includes the opportunity to review the consent they have given for the Academy Trust to use the information held for internal purposes. <p>Section added - Information sharing in an employee medical or mental health emergency</p>
March 2026	3	Full update of The Use of Images (Pupil & Staff) section as removal of separate Photography and use of Images Policy

Part 1 Introduction and Key Definitions

1.1 Introduction

Biggleswade Academy needs to gather and use certain information about individuals.

These individuals can include pupils, parents/carers, employees, suppliers, business contacts and other people the Academy Trust has a relationship with or may need to contact.

This policy describes how this personal data must be collected, handled and stored to meet the Academy Trust's data protection standards — and to comply with the law.

This data protection policy ensures Biggleswade Academy:

- complies with data protection law and follows good practice
- protects the rights of pupils, staff, parents/carers and other stakeholders
- is open about how it stores and processes individuals' data
- protects itself from the risks of a data breach

This data protection policy is based on the six principles of the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 that personal data shall be:

1. processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
2. collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
3. adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed
4. accurate and kept up to date
5. kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary
6. processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss or damage

1.2 Key Definitions

Data

The DPA describes how organisations, including Biggleswade Academy, must collect, handle and store personal information ('data').

Data is any information that the Academy Trust collects and stores about individuals or organisations. Some data is more sensitive than others and particular care will be given to processing and managing this. Sensitive data includes:

- racial or ethnic origin;
- political opinions;
- religious or philosophical beliefs;
- trade union membership;
- data concerning health or sex life and sexual orientation;
- genetic data; and
- biometric data.

Data can be stored electronically, on paper or on other materials.

To comply with the law, personal information must be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed unlawfully.

Data Subject

A 'Data Subject' is someone whose details the Academy Trust keeps on file. The data subject has the following rights under data protection legislation:

- to be informed
- to have access to data stored about them (or their children)
- to rectification if there is an error in the data stored
- to erasure if there is no longer a need for the school to keep their data
- to restrict processing (e.g. limit what their data is used for)
- to object to data being shared or collected

Although data protection legislation affords these rights to individuals, in some cases the obligations Academy Trusts have to share data with the DfE etc override these rights (this is documented later in the policy under 'Privacy Notices').

Data Controller

The 'Data Controller' has overall responsibility for the personal data collected and processed and has a responsibility for ensuring compliance with the relevant legislation. They are able to delegate this to 'Data Processors' to act on their behalf.

The Academy Trust is the 'Data Controller'.

Data Processor

A 'Data Processor' uses, collects, accesses or amends the data that the controller is authorised to collect or has already collected. It can be a member of staff or a third party company such as a curriculum software provider or a payroll provider.

Part 2 Organisational Arrangements

2.1 Overall Responsibility

Biggleswade Academy will meet its obligations under the DPA by putting in place clear policies that focus on the key risks and in checking that control measures have been implemented and remain appropriate and effective.

2.2 Roles & Responsibilities

The Trust Board will:

- Establish and maintain a positive data protection culture.
- Ensure the Academy Principal prepares a Data Protection policy for approval and adoption by the Trust Board and to review and monitor the effectiveness of the policy.
- Appoint a Data Protection Officer and provide adequate resources and support for them to fulfil their statutory duties.
- Allocate sufficient resources for data protection, e.g. in respect of training for staff, encryption technology for devices.
- Monitor and review data protection issues.
- Ensure that the academy provides adequate training, information, instruction, induction and supervision to enable everyone to comply with their data protection responsibilities.
- Review and act upon data protection compliance reports from the Data Protection Officer.
- Attend data protection training as organised by the Academy Trust.

The Academy Principal will:

- Promote a positive data protection culture.
- Prepare a Data Protection Policy for approval by the Trust Board, revise as necessary and review on a regular basis, at least every two years.
- Ensure that all staff cooperate with the policy.
- Ensure that staff are competent to undertake the tasks required of them and have been provided with appropriate training.
- Provide staff with equipment and resources to enable them to protect the data that they are processing.
- Ensure that those who have delegated responsibilities are competent, their responsibilities are clearly defined, and they have received appropriate training.
- Monitor the work of the Data Protection Officer to ensure they are fulfilling their responsibilities.

The Data Protection Officer will:

- Inform and advise the academy of their obligations under data protection legislation.
- Monitor compliance with the legislation and report to the Academy Principal and Trust Board on a termly basis.
- Cooperate with the supervisory authority (e.g. Information Commissioner's Office) and act as the main contact point for any issues.
- Seek advice from other organisations or professionals, such as the Information Commissioner's Office as and when necessary.
- Keep up to date with new developments in data protection issues for schools.
- Act upon information and advice on data protection and circulate to staff and Trustees.
- Advise and guide the Academy Trust on subject access requests and data breaches.

The Data Protection Lead:

- Act upon information and advice on data protection and circulate to staff and trustees.
- Carry out a data protection induction for all staff and keep records of that induction.
- Coordinate the school response to a Subject Access Request.
- Coordinate the school response to a data breach.
- Coordinate training on data protection for all key stakeholders in the academy.

Staff at the school will:

- Familiarise themselves and comply with the Data Protection Policy.
- Comply with the Academy Trust's data protection arrangements.
- Follow the data breach reporting process.
- Attend data protection training as organised by the Academy Trust.

Part 3 Detailed Arrangements & Procedures

3.1 Data Management

Data Registration

As Data Controller, the Academy Trust must register as a Data Controller on the Data Protection Register held by the Information Commissioner.

Data Protection Officer

As a public body, Biggleswade Academy is required to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO).

At Biggleswade Academy the DPO role is fulfilled by:

- SBM Services Ltd

The role of the DPO is to:

- Inform and advise the Academy Trust and the employees about obligations to comply with all relevant data protection laws.
- Monitor compliance with the relevant data protection laws.
- Be the first point of contact for supervisory authorities.

Data Protection Awareness

In order to ensure organisational compliance, all staff and other key stakeholders (e.g. Trustees, volunteers) will be made aware of their responsibilities under the data protection legislation as part of their induction programme, (both as a new employee/Trustee to the organisation or if an individual changes role within the Academy Trust).

Staff and at least one Trustees will also be required to complete annual cyber security training to ensure that they are aware of cyber risks and understand the important role that they play in reducing the risk of a successful cyber attack.

Annual data protection refresher training will take place to reinforce the importance of staff and Trustees adhering to the legislation.

A record of the professional development undertaken by the individual will be retained on their training record.

Data Mapping

Biggleswade Academy has documented all of the data that it collects within a 'Data Flow Map'. This data inventory records:

- the data held
- what the data is used for
- how it is collected
- how consent is obtained
- how the data is stored
- what the retention period is
- who can access the data
- who is accountable for the data
- how the data is shared
- how the data is destroyed

For each data type, the probability of a data breach occurring is assessed (very high, high, medium, low or very low) and actions to be taken to mitigate the risk are recorded.

It is the responsibility of the Academy Principal to ensure the 'Data Flow Map' is kept up to date. The map should be a live document and updated regularly.

Third Party Suppliers Acting as Data Processors

As Data Controller, the Academy Trust is responsible for ensuring that correct protocols and agreements are in place to ensure that personal data is processed by all subcontractors and other third parties in line with the principles of the data protection legislation.

Individuals within school who have a responsibility for securing contracts and agreements with such third parties are responsible for ensuring that all external data processing is contracted out in line with the principles of the DPA. These type of agreements include:-

- IT contracts and processes.
- Physical data and hard copy documents.
- Data destruction and hardware renewal and recycling financial and personnel information.
- Pupil and staff records.

Only third-party suppliers who can confirm they have appropriate technical, physical and organisational security to securely process data will be considered as suitable partners.

The procurement process will ensure that all contracts are suitable and reflect DPA requirements. Review of current and due consideration of future contracts will require this even if data processing is ancillary to the main purpose of the contract.

The external processor will confirm with the data controller that suitable security and operational measures are in place.

Any potential supplier or purchaser outside the EU will be obliged to confirm how they comply with the DPA and give contractual assurances.

The DPO may require a specific risk assessment to be undertaken if the data is sensitive, and if an increased risk is likely due to the nature, or proposed nature, of the processing.

A written agreement will be in place between the supplier and the Academy Trust to confirm compliance with the DPA principles and obligations to assist the Academy Trust in the event of a data breach or subject access request, or enquiries from the ICO.

The Academy Trust must have the right to conduct audits or have information about audits that have taken place in respect of the relevant processes of the supplier's security arrangements whilst the contract is in place, or whilst the supplier continues to have personal data that relates to the contract on its systems.

Any subcontracting must only be done with the written consent of the Academy Trust as data controller. This must be the case for any further subcontracting down the chain. All subcontractors must confirm agreement to be bound by DPA principles when handling the Academy Trust's data, which shall also include cooperation and eventual secure destruction or return of data.

The Academy Trust has a 'Third Party Request for Information' form which must be used for third-party suppliers acting as a Data Processor for the Academy Trust.

The Academy Trust maintains evidence of the checks that have taken place for each of their third party suppliers.

Consent

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

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

We may seek consent from young people also, and this will be dependent on the child and the reason for processing.

Privacy Notices

In order to comply with the fair processing requirements of the DPA, the Academy Trust will inform their staff, parents/carers of all pupils and Trustees of the data they collect, process and hold on them, the purposes for which the data is held and the third parties (e.g. LA, DfE, etc) to whom their data may be passed, through the use of ‘Privacy Notices’.

Privacy notices are available to staff, parents and Trustees through the following means:

- School website
- Information sent to new parents
- Staff Handbook

Privacy notices will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Use of Images (Pupil & Staff)

The Academy Trust will take photographs/videos of its pupils or staff members on a regular basis. These images could be used as part of internal displays, printed publications, the website or our social media accounts.

Consent -

When a child joins the Academy/Setting the parent/carer will be asked to complete a consent form which will cover the whole time the child attends the Academy/Setting and potentially beyond if a child appears on publicity material that is not renewed annually. Consent should be recorded on

the management information system. All parent/carers are encouraged to provide consent as it enables the inclusion of all children in depictions of school life, but the right to refuse consent is respected. Generic consent for all uses of images is not acceptable; parents and staff must give consent to each medium. Consent may be withdrawn at any time by writing to the Academy office specifying which areas of consent are being withdrawn. Please note that consent withdrawn for 'Academy /Setting publications' will apply to future publications but cannot include publications already in circulation.

Photographs/Videos for Internal Use -

We will take photographs of the children within our Academy/Setting. We use these images as part of our school displays to celebrate and further our children's learning and experiences. In so doing we will consistently use the minimum amount of information required to achieve the stated learning aim. For example – in displaying pupils' work for celebratory purposes we will seek to only use their first name, or first name and first letter of their surname or their class if there are two or more children with the same name within the relevant area.

In Early Years, for teaching purposes, photos and full names of pupils will be displayed on pupil trays. This is to enable our teachers to place work in the correct trays. It also helps the children when they are asked to put something in their tray.

By sending your child to our school you agree to these learning aims being integral to our operations and therefore request your consent to your child being involved in such day to day routines.

Family Photographs at School Events -

It shall be at the discretion of the school SLT whether photographs or videos may be taken by parent/carers at a school event.

Family and friends taking photographs will not be covered by the Data Protection Act

When the Academy decides to allow such photography, the family and friends will be asked not to take or publish any photographs showing children other than their own on the internet or any social media channels. This will be verbally advised to parents/carers at the start of any Academy/Setting event, performance or production.

Photographs/Videos for External Use

Subject to consent from parents/carers, the Academy/Setting may take photographs/videos for use outside the Academy/Setting. These photographs may be used for Academy/Setting publications such as prospectuses or for inclusion on the Academy website and social media, or to show as slides at an event for parents.

Media Use

The Academy Principal will give proper consideration to the interests of its pupils when deciding whether to allow external organisations to take photographs or to film.

When the media are allowed to be present at an Academy/Setting event, this will be on the condition that they observe this policy.

Where the media are allowed to be present at a particular event, the Academy/Setting will ensure that no photograph or image of pupils is published if consent has not been given by the parent/carer.

EYFS Group Photos/Videos

Subject to consent from parents/carers the Academy/Setting will take group photos/videos which will then be shared with families for observations. Parents/Carers will be told not to share these group photos to the wider community.

Staff Consent

Biggleswade Academy will seek written or verbal consent from any members of staff if they wish to be included in any photographs or videos and the subsequent reproduction of these images.

Accurate Data

The Academy Trust will endeavour to ensure that the data it stores is accurate and up to date.

When a pupil or member of staff joins the Academy Trust they will be asked to complete a form providing their personal contact information (e.g. name, address, phone number, NI number for staff), next of kin details, emergency contact and other essential information. At this point, the Academy Trust will also seek consent to use the information provided for other internal purposes (such as promoting school events, photography).

Using the school's Management Information System staff and parents have access to view their personal data so can at any time ensure the data held about them is correct. This includes the opportunity to review the consent they have given for the Academy Trust to use the information held for internal purposes.

Parents/carers and staff are requested to inform the Academy Trust when their personal information changes.

Withdrawal of Consent

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

Parents/carers and staff are requested to complete a Withdrawal of Consent form and return this to the school office.

CCTV

Biggleswade Academy uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images to reduce crime and monitor the buildings in order to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors, and to prevent loss or damage to the school property. The Academy Trust has a CCTV Policy in place which documents:

- why CCTV is used
- where cameras are sited
- whether covert monitoring is undertaken
- how long images are retained for
- who has access to the images
- what the complaints procedure is

Complaints

Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Academy Trust's Complaints Procedure. An individual may contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if they are not satisfied with how a complaint has been dealt with by the Academy Trust. The telephone number for the ICO is 0303 123 1113.

Data Breaches

Although the Academy Trust takes measures against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage to personal data as set out in this policy and the supporting policies referred to, a data security breach could still happen. Examples of data breaches include:

- Loss or theft of data or equipment on which data is stored (e.g. losing an unencrypted USB stick, losing an unencrypted mobile phone).
- Inappropriate access controls allowing unauthorised use.
- Equipment failure.
- Human error (e.g. sending an email to the wrong recipient, information posted to the wrong address, dropping/leaving documents containing personal data in a public space).
- Unforeseen circumstances such as fire or flood.
- Hacking attack.
- 'Blagging' offences where information is obtained by deceiving the academy.

The Academy Trust has a Data Breach policy which sets out the process that should be followed in the event of a data breach occurring.

Data Privacy Impact Assessments

When considering the purchase of a new service or product that involves processing personal data, a Data Privacy Impact Assessment must be completed. If risks are identified as part of the assessment then appropriate steps to mitigate this risk must be implemented. If these risks are deemed to be 'high risk' then the DPO should consult with the ICO prior to implementation.

The 'Data Privacy Impact Assessment' form must be used for each new service/product.

Information sharing in an employee medical or mental health emergency

Data protection law allows the Academy Trust to share personal information in an urgent or emergency situation, including to help prevent loss of life or serious physical, emotional or mental harm.

During a medical or mental health emergency where there is risk of serious harm to staff or to others the Academy Trust will share necessary and proportionate information without delay with relevant and appropriate emergency services or health professionals. The Academy Trust may also share necessary and proportionate information with the member of staff's next of kin or emergency contact.

The Academy Trust will use their judgement in each specific situation, sharing only what is necessary and proportionate to the circumstances. The Academy Trust may decide that, whilst it may be necessary and proportionate to provide the emergency services with a full account of the situation, it is only appropriate to provide the member of staff's emergency contact with more limited details.

The Academy Trust staff privacy notice covers this sharing of data. (The Academy Trust may also include links to any other policies that relate to managing staff mental health emergencies).

Records Management

The Academy Trust recognises that by efficiently managing its records, it will be able to comply with its legal and regulatory obligations which will also contribute to the effective overall management of the school.

The Academy Trust has a Record Management & Retention Policy in place which sets out how it will:

- safely and securely store data (both digital and hard copy data)
- retain data
- dispose of data

The retention schedule is based on the good practice advice provided by the Institute of Records Management Society (IRMS) for schools.

Subject Access Requests

Any individual, person with parental responsibility or young person with sufficient capacity has the right to ask what data the Academy Trust holds about them and can make a Subject Access Request (SAR).

The Academy Trust has a Subject Access Request Policy, which sets out how a SAR can be made and the process that should be followed in the event of receiving a SAR.

Third Party Requests for Information

Occasionally the Academy Trust may receive a request for information on a pupil or member of staff by a third party, such as the police or social services. This would be separate to statutory requests that come through from the DfE or LA, for example, which are covered within the privacy notices.

The Academy Trust has a Third Party Request for Information Policy which sets out the process that should be followed in the event of receiving a third party request.

Use of Personal Devices

The Academy Trust recognises the benefits of mobile technology and is committed to supporting staff in the acceptable use of mobile devices. The Academy Trust follows the 'Bring Your Own Device' Policy which sets out how non-school owned electronic devices, e.g. laptops, smart phones and tablets, may be used by staff members and visitors to the school.