

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY AND**

**PUBLICATION SCHEME**

**This policy is reviewed every two years**

**History of Document**

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| 2 | DPO | August 2020 | 16 July 2020 | Amend 1.1.Add 1.2-1.7/ Amend 2.3. Remove 3/3.1. Add 4.1.Add Publication scheme as appendix |

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

1.1The Active Learning Trust (Trust) is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and to the principles of accountability and the general rights of access to information, subject to legal exemptions.

1.2The FOIA provides that any person has a legal right to ask for information held about them. They are entitled to be told whether the Trust holds the information, and to receive a copy, subject to certain exemptions.

1.3This document outlines the Trust’s response to the FOIA and the framework and procedure for managing requests. All information that the Trust routinely makes available to the public is included in the Publication Scheme (appendix A).

1.4Requests for other information should be dealt with in accordance with the statutory guidance. While the FOIA assumes openness, it recognises that certain information is sensitive. There are exemptions to protect this information.

1.5The Trustadheres to the Retention Schedule set out in its Records Retention Policy. It is an offence to wilfully conceal damage or destroy information in order to avoid responding to an enquiry.

1.6All FOI requests must be processed by the Trust’s Data Protection Officer.

1.7The Trust must respond as soon as possible, and in any event, within 20 working days of the date of receipt of the request. A “working day” is a school day (one in which pupils are in attendance), subject to an absolute maximum of 60 normal working days (not school days) to respond.”

**2.0 PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH A REQUEST**

2.1 When a request is received~~,~~ it should be referred in the first instance to the Trust’s Data Protection Officer.

2.2 The first stage in responding is to determine whether the school “holds” the information requested.

2.3 The second stage is to decide whether the information can be released, or whether one of the following exemptions set out in the FOIA applies to the information:

2.3.1 Section 40 (1) – the request is for the applicant’s personal data. This must be dealt with under the subject access regime in the GDPR, detailed in paragraph 10 of the Trust’s Data Protection Policy;

2.3.2 Section 40 (2) – compliance with the request would involve releasing third party personal data, and this would be in breach of the data protection principles as set out in paragraph 4.1 of the Trust’s Data Protection Policy;

2.3.3 Section 41 – information that has been sent to the Trust (but not the Trust’s own information) which is confidential;

2.3.4 Section 21 – information that is already publicly available, even if payment of a fee is required to access that information;

*2.3.5 Section 22 – information that the Trust intends to publish at a future date*

*2.3.6 Section 43 – information that would prejudice the commercial interests of the Trust and / or a third party;*

*2.3.7 Section 38 – information that could prejudice the physical health, mental health or safety of an individual (this may apply particularly to safeguarding information);*

*2.3.8 Section 31 – information which may prejudice the effective detection and prevention of crime – such as the location of CCTV cameras;*

*2.3.9 Section 36 – information which, in the opinion of the Trust’s chair of the Board, would prejudice the effective conduct of the Trust. There is a special form for this on the ICO’s website to assist with the obtaining of the chair’s opinion.*

2.4 The sections mentioned in *italics* are qualified exemptions. This means that even if the exemption applies to the information, the Trust has to carry out a public interest weighting exercise, balancing the public interest in the information being released, as against the public interest in withholding the information.

**3.0 RESPONDING TO A REQUEST**

3.1 When responding to a request where the Trust has withheld some or all of the information, the Trust will explain why the information has been withheld, quoting the appropriate section number and explain how the information requested fits within that exemption. If the public interest test has been applied, this will also be explained.

3.2 The letter will end by explaining to the requestor how they can complain – either by reference to an internal review by the Trust’s Data Protection Officer, or by writing to the ICO.

3.3The Trust must respond as soon as possible, and in any event, within 20 working days of the date of receipt of the request. A “working day” is a school day (one in which pupils are in attendance), subject to an absolute maximum of 60 normal working days (not school days) to respond.”

**4.0 COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS**

4.1 If you want to make any comments about the Publication Scheme or require further assistance please contact the Trust’s Data Protection Officer at email: [dataprotection@activelearningtrust.org](mailto:dataprotection@activelearningtrust.org)

4.2 If you are not satisfied in any way about how your request has been answered you can complain using the Trust’s complaints procedure which can be found on its website (under policies) - www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies.

4.3 You have a right to also complain to the Information Commissioner (“ICO”) if you remain unsatisfied with the Trust’s complaint procedure and the ICO can be contacted as follows:

Information Commissioner’s Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire SK9 5AF

Website: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Information Line: 01625 545 745

Email: notification@ico.org.uk

**APPENDIX A – PUBLICATION SCHEME**

The Trust’s Publication Scheme contains all information available under the FOIA which will be available on the Trust’s website. This publication scheme conforms to the model scheme for Academies approved by the Information Commissioner.

**1. We publish information about:**

* **Who we are and what we do**

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance. This will be current information only.

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| **Information Published** | **Availability** |
| Board and Members | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/people/board) |
| Local Governing Bodies | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/people/governance) and individual school websites |
| School Leaders | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/people/School%20Leaders) and individual school websites |
| Trust Leadership Team | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/people/alt-leadership) |
| Trust Central Team | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/people/central) |
| Trust’s Partners | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/people/our-partners) |
| Articles of Association | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Prospectus | Individual school websites |
| School session times and term dates | Individual school websites |
| Trust - Location and Contact Information | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org) |
| School locations and contact information | Individual school websites |

* **What we spend and how we spend it**

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.

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| **Information Published** | **Availability** |
| Funding Agreement | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Annual Audited Accounts | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Pupil Premium Funding | Individual school websites |
| VFM Status | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |

* **What our priorities are and how we are doing**

Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews

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| **Information Published** | **Availability** |
| The Trust’s Aims | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/our-aims) |
| The Trust’s Vision | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/our-vision) |
| The Trust’s Values | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/our-values) |
| Ofsted Reports | Individual school websites |
| Strategic Plan 2021-25 | Request from Trust |
| Curriculum Statement of Intent | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Key Stages Results | Individual school websites  DfE Performance Tables -  <https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables> |
| CPD Entitlement | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Safeguarding/child protection | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |

* **How we make decisions**

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.

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| **Information Published** | **Availability** |
| Admission Arrangements | Refer individual school websites |
| Admission Appeals Timetable | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Scheme of Delegation | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Minutes of the Board, Trust AGMs and LGBs | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Board Attendance | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |

* **Our policies and procedures**

Current written protocols for delivering the Trust’s functions and responsibilities.

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| **Information Published** | **Availability** |
| Anti-fraud, corruption and bribery policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| CCTV Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/information-governance) |
| Complaints Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Charging and Remissions Policy | Refer individual school websites |
| Data Protection Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/information-governance) |
| Data Sharing Policy | Request copy |
| Email Acceptable Use Policy | Request copy |
| Equal Opportunities in Employment Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Exclusion Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Gifts and Hospitality Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Health and Safety Policy Statement | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Information Governance Policy | Request copy |
| Internet, Social Media and E-Safety Acceptable Use Policy | Request copy |
| Records Management Policy | Request copy |
| Records Retention Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/information-governance) |
| Safeguarding & Promoting Pupils’ Wellbeing Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| School Policies | Refer individual school websites |
| Subject Access Request Policy | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/information-governance) |
| Subject Access Request Guidance and Form | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/information-governance) |
| Use of Images Policy | Request copy |
| Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Privacy Notices | Website - [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/information-governance) |

* **Lists and Registers**

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and register relating to the functions of the authority.

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| **Information Published** | **Availability** |
| Annual Trade Union Facilities Return | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Annual Gender Pay Gap Report | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |
| Annual Anti slavery and Human Trafficking Statement | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/Policies) |
| Register of Interests | Website [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/documents) |

* **The services offered by the Trust**

Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

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| **Information Published** | **Availability** |
| Extra- curricular activities | Refer individual school websites |
| Out of school clubs | Refer individual school websites |
| School leaflets | Refer individual school websites |
| Newsletters – issued by schools | Refer individual school websites |

**2. Classes of information not available include:**

* + Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
  + Information in draft form.
  + Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage, or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

Where it is within the capability of the Trust, information will be provided on the Trust or on a school’s website. If the information you request is only available to view in person a mutually agreed appointment will be made to make the information available to you at the Trust/school. The Trust recognises its obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats.

**3. Requests for Information**

If you require hard copies of any of the documents within the Publication Scheme please contact the Trust’s Data Protection Officer at email dataprotection@activelearningtrust.org.

If the information you are looking for is not available via the Publication Scheme or on the Trust’s website please contact the Trust’s Data Protection Officer on the contact email address above to ask if the Trust has the information. To help us process your request quickly please clearly mark any correspondence “PUBLICATION SCHEME REQUEST”

To assist in dealing with your response promptly, please:

* + Make your request in writing (including email) – verbal requests are not covered by FOIA
  + State your name and correspondence address
  + Describe the information requested so that is clearly identifiable
  + Enquiries will be dealt with within 20 working days or 60 working days if the request is received during the school holidays. If this deadline can’t be met the Trust will inform the requestor.
  + The issue of information held that is not published on a website under this scheme will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the FOIA.

# 4. Fees

The Trust aims to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the Trust for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge. Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

* Photocopying
* Postage and packaging
* The costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment will be requested prior to provision of the information.

**5. Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights**

Certain information may be subject to copyright or other restrictions of use. We advise you to check with us before reproducing or republishing any document or part of any document. We may allow commercial use of information held by the authority under the Re-Use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2005. This can apply to the re-use of public sector information, excluding that held by schools, educational establishments, archives, libraries, museums and theatres. If we do make the information available for re-use, we will do so in a transparent, non-exclusive and fair manner and for each set of data made available we will publish a standard range of fees for their re-use. The authority will retain the copyright of information and will always make it available to anyone else who wishes to use it in the same way on exactly the same terms. You can ask to re-use any information supplied to you, for example, in response to a request made under the Freedom of Information Act. We will publish a list of all information made available for reuse and the standard license terms that apply to its re-use.

**6. Records Retention**

The Trust has a Records Retention Policy. A copy of this is available at [Link](https://www.activelearningtrust.org/about/information-governance)

**7.** **Exemptions**

The Trust is committed to making as much information as possible available but some necessary exemptions from disclosure are allowed under Freedom of Information law. These include information you can get easily by other means, court records, most of the more sensitive personal information, information that has been provided to us in confidence and where there are legal prohibitions on disclosure.

There are other exemptions including where vexatious or repeated requests are received, where the information is intended for future publication, where it relates to legal proceedings or law enforcement, where someone’s health or safety could be harmed, where information is subject to legal privilege, where commercial interests or the conduct of public affairs might be prejudiced and for communications with royalty.

We may withhold this information if there is a clear public interest in doing so. In some cases, we cannot release the information until a specific date.

**8**. **Personal Information**

The Trust will not usually give out information concerning or containing references to other individuals or third parties (other than those acting in a relevant professional capacity). However, the Freedom of Information Act does permit the release of certain personal information where this is judged to be in the public interest.