



Data Protection, FOI and SAR Policy

This policy applies to our current academies; ATAM and The Khalsa Academy Wolverhampton, and any other academies we open.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. All academies within the Trust ("the Academy") collect and use certain types of personal information about staff, pupils, parents, and other individuals who come into contact with the Academy to provide education and associated functions. The Academy may be required by law to collect and use certain types of information to comply with statutory obligations related to employment, education, and safeguarding, and this policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with properly and securely and following the General Data Protection Regulation and other related legislation.
- 1.2. The DPA applies to all computerised data and manual files if they come within a filing system definition. A filing system is one where the data is structured so that it is searchable based on specific criteria (so you would be able to use something like the individual's name to find their information). If this is the case, it does not matter whether the information is located in a different physical location.
- 1.3. This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practices or amendments made to data protection legislation. It shall be reviewed every 3 years or when required in response to new guidelines.

2. Personal Data

- 2.1 'Personal data is information that identifies an individual and includes information that would identify an individual to the person to whom it is disclosed because of any special knowledge that they have or can obtain. A sub-set of personal data is known as 'special category personal data. This special category data is information that reveals:
 - race or ethnic origin;
 - political opinions;
 - religious or philosophical beliefs;
 - trade union membership;
 - physical or mental health;
 - an individual's sex life or sexual orientation;
 - genetic or biometric data to uniquely identify a natural person.
- 2.2. Special Category Data is given special protection, and additional safeguards apply if this information is to be collected and used.

For example, if asked for the number of female employees and only one female employee, this would be personal data if it was possible to obtain a list of employees from the website.

- 2.3. Information relating to criminal convictions shall only be held and processed where there is legal authority to do so.
- 2.4. The Academy does not intend to seek or hold Special Category Data (previously known as sensitive personal data) about staff or students except where the Academy has been notified of the information, or it comes to the Academy's attention via legitimate means (e.g., a grievance) or needs to be sought and held in compliance with a legal obligation or as a matter of good practice. Staff or students are under no obligation to disclose to the Academy their race or ethnic origin, political or religious beliefs, whether or not they are a trade union member or details of their sexual life (save to the extent that details of marital status and/or parenthood are needed for other purposes, e.g., pension entitlements).

3. The Data Protection Principles

- 3.1. The six data protection principles as laid down in the DPA are followed at all times:
 - personal data shall be processed fairly, lawfully, and in a transparent manner, and processing shall not be lawful unless one of the processing conditions can be met;
 - Personal data shall be collected for specific, explicit, and legitimate purposes and shall not be further processed in a manner incompatible with those purposes;
 - personal data shall be adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary for the purpose(s) for which it is being processed;
 - personal data shall be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date;
 - personal data processed for any purpose(s) shall not be kept in a form which permits identification of individuals for longer than is necessary for that purpose / those purposes;
 - personal data shall be processed in such a way that ensures appropriate security of the data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and accidental loss, destruction, or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.
- 3.2. In addition to this, the Academy is committed to ensuring that at all times, anyone dealing with personal data shall be mindful of the individual's rights under the law (as explained in more detail in paragraphs 7 and 8 below).
- 3.3. The Academy is committed to complying with the principles in 3.1 at all times. This means that the Academy will:

- inform individuals about how and why we process their personal data through the privacy notices which we issue;
- be responsible for checking the quality and accuracy of the information;
- regularly review the records held to ensure that information is not retained longer than is necessary and that it has been maintained per the data retention policy;
- ensure that when information is authorised for disposal, it is done appropriately;
- provide appropriate security measures to safeguard personal information whether it is held in paper files or on our computer system, and follow the relevant security policy requirements at all times;
- share personal information with others only when it is necessary and legally appropriate to do so;
- set out clear procedures for responding to requests for access to personal information known as subject access requests;
- report any breaches of the DPA per the procedure in paragraph 9 below.

4. Conditions for Processing in the First Data Protection Principle

- 4.1. The individual has given consent that is specific to the particular type of processing activity, and that consent is informed, unambiguous, and freely given.
- 4.2. The processing is necessary for the performance of a contract, to which the individual is a party, or is necessary to take steps regarding entering into an agreement with the individual at their request.
- 4.3. The processing is necessary for the performance of a legal obligation to which we are subject.
- 4.4. The processing is necessary to protect the vital interests of the individual or another.
- 4.5. The processing is necessary to perform a task carried out in the public interest or the official authority exercise vested in us.

5. Use of Personal Data by the Academy

- 5.1. The Academy processes personal data on pupils, staff, and other individuals such as visitors. In each case, the personal data must be processed per the data protection principles as outlined in paragraph 3.1 above.

Pupils

- 5.2. The personal data held regarding pupils includes contact details, assessment/examination results, attendance information, characteristics

such as ethnic group, special educational needs, relevant medical information, and photographs.

- 5.3. The data is used to support the pupils' education, monitor and report on their progress, provide appropriate pastoral care, and assess how well the Academy as a whole is doing, together with any other uses customarily associated with this provision in a school environment.
- 5.4. In particular, the Academy may:
 - make personal data, including sensitive personal data, available to staff for planning curricular or extra-curricular activities;
 - keep the pupil's previous school informed of his / her academic progress and achievements, e.g., sending a copy of the school reports for the pupil's first year at the Academy to their previous school;
 - Use photographs of pupils per the photograph policy.
- 5.5. Any wish to limit or object to any use of personal data should be notified to the CEO in writing, which the Academy will acknowledge notice in writing. If the objection cannot be maintained in the CEO's view, the individual will be given written reasons why the Academy cannot comply with their request.

Staff

- 5.6. The personal data held about staff will include contact details, employment history, information relating to career progression, including pay, Performance Management and quality assurance of teaching and learning, information relating to DBS checks, photographs, occupational pensions, fitness to work assessments, sickness/absence data, CPD/Training, biometric for catering account, car registration for parking/security.
- 5.7. The data is used to comply with legal obligations placed on the Academy concerning employment and children's education in a school environment. The Academy may pass information to other regulatory authorities where appropriate and may use staff names and photographs in publicity and promotional material. Personal data will also be used when giving references.
- 5.8. Staff should note that disciplinary action information may be kept for longer than the duration of the sanction. Although treated as "spent" once the period of the sanction has expired, the details of the incident may need to be kept for a more extended period.

Information relating to DBS checks

- 5.9. DBS checks are carried out based on the academy trust's legal obligations concerning the safer recruitment of staff as stipulated in the Independent School Standards Regulations, and the DBS information (which will include personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences) is further processed in the substantial public interest, to safeguard children. The Records Retention Policy covers retention of the information.

Access to the DBS information is restricted to those who have a genuine need to access it for their job roles. In addition to the provisions of the DPA and the Data Protection Act 2018, disclosure of this information is restricted by section 124 of the Police Act 1997, and disclosure to third parties will only be made if it is determined to be lawful.

- 5.10. Any wish to limit or object to the uses to which personal data is to be put should be notified to the CEO, who will ensure that this is recorded and adhered to if appropriate. Suppose the CEO believes it is not appropriate to limit personal data in the way specified. In that case, the individual will be given written reasons why the Academy cannot comply with their request.

Other Individuals

- 5.11. The Academy may hold personal information concerning other individuals who have contact with the school, such as volunteers and guests. Such information shall be held only in accordance with the data protection principles and shall not be kept longer than necessary.

6. Security of Personal Data

- 6.1. The Academy Trust will take reasonable steps to ensure that staff members will only have access to personal data to carry out their duties. All staff will be made aware of this Policy and their responsibilities under the DPA. The Trust will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all personal information is held securely and is not accessible to unauthorised persons.
- 6.2. For further details as regards the security of IT systems, please refer to the ICT Policy.

7. Disclosure of Personal Data to Third Parties

The following list includes the most usual reasons that the Academy will authorise the disclosure of personal data to a third party:

- To give a confidential reference relating to a current or former employee, volunteer or pupil;
- for the prevention or detection of crime;
- for the assessment of any tax or duty; where it is necessary to exercise a right or obligation conferred or imposed by law upon the Academy (other than an obligation imposed by a contract);

- for the purpose of, or in connection with, legal proceedings (including prospective legal proceedings);
- to obtain legal advice;
- for research, historical and statistical purposes (so long as this neither supports decisions concerning individuals nor causes substantial damage or distress);
- to publish the results of public examinations or other achievements of pupils of the Academy;
- to disclose details of a pupil's medical condition where it is in the pupil's interests to do so, and there is a legal basis for doing so, for example, for medical advice, insurance purposes, or to organisers of school trips; The legal basis will vary in each case but will usually be based on explicit consent, the vital interests of the child or reasons of substantial public interest (usually safeguarding the child or other individuals)
- to provide information to another educational establishment to which a pupil is transferring;
- to provide information to the Examination Authority as part of the examination process; and
- to provide information to the relevant Government Department concerned with national education. At the time of this Policy's writing, the Government Department concerned with national education is the Department for Education (DfE). The Examination Authority may also pass information to the DfE.

7.1. The DfE uses information about pupils for statistical purposes to evaluate and develop education policy and monitor the nation's education service's performance as a whole. The statistics are used in such a way that individual pupils cannot be identified from them. On occasion, the DfE may strictly share personal data with other Government Departments or agencies for statistical or research purposes.

7.2. The Academy may receive requests from third parties (i.e., those other than the data subject, the Academy, and employees of the Academy) to disclose personal data it holds about pupils, their parents or guardians, staff, or other individuals. This information will not generally be disclosed unless one of the specific exemptions under data protection legislation that allows disclosure applies; or where necessary for the individual's legitimate interests or the Academy. All requests for the disclosure of personal data must be sent to the CEO, who will review and decide whether to make the disclosure, ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to verify that third party's identity before making any disclosure.

8. Confidentiality of Pupil

8.1. Where a pupil seeks to raise concerns confidentially with a member of staff and expressly withholds their agreement to their personal data being disclosed to their parents or guardian, the Academy will maintain

confidentiality unless it has reasonable grounds to believe that the pupil does not fully understand the consequences of withholding their consent, or where the Academy believes disclosure will be in the best interests of the pupil or other pupils. Disclosure for a safeguarding purpose will be lawful because it will be in the substantial public interest

Please also refer to the Academy's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and the Confidentiality Policy.

9. Subject Access Requests

9.1. Anybody who requests to see any personal information held about them by the Academy Trust is making a subject access request. All data relating to the individual, including that stored in electronic or manual files, should be considered for disclosure, provided that they constitute a "filing system" (see clause 1.5).

9.2. The individual's full subject access right is to know;

- whether personal data about him or her are being processed

- the purposes of the processing

- the categories of personal data concerned

- the recipients or categories of recipient to whom their personal data have been or will be disclosed

- the envisaged period for which the data will be stored or where that is not possible, the criteria used to determine how long the data are stored

- the existence of a right to request rectification or erasure of personal data or restriction of processing or to object to the processing

- the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office

- Where the personal data are not collected from the individual, any available information as to their source

- Details of the safeguards in place for any transfers of their data to locations outside the European Economic Area.

All SAR requests should be sent to the Trust's DPO officer, copying in the CEO.

The Academy will endeavor to deal with the request in full without delay and at the latest within one month of receipt.

9.3 Where a child or young person does not have sufficient understanding to make his or her request (usually those under the age of 12, or over 12 but with a special educational need which makes understanding their information rights more difficult), a person with parental responsibility can request on their behalf. The CEO must, however, be satisfied that:

- the child or young person lacks sufficient understanding; and
- the request made on behalf of the child or young person is in their interests.

- 9.4 Any individual, including a child or young person with ownership of their own information rights, may appoint another person to request access to their records. In such circumstances, the Academy Trust must have written evidence that the individual has authorised the person to make the application. The CEO must be confident of the individual's identity making the request and the authorisation of the individual to whom the request relates.
- 9.5 Access to records will be refused when an exemption applies; for example, information sharing may place the individual at risk of significant harm or jeopardise police investigations into any alleged offence(s).
- 9.6 A subject access request must be made in writing. The Academy Trust may ask for any further information reasonably required to locate the information.
- 9.7 An individual only has the automatic right to access information about themselves. Care needs to be taken not to disclose third parties' personal data where consent has not been given or where seeking consent would not be reasonable. It would not be appropriate to release the information. Particular care must be taken in the case of any complaint or dispute to ensure confidentiality is protected.
- 9.8 The CEO must review all files before any disclosure takes place. Access will not be granted before this review has taken place.
- 9.9 All the data in a document cannot be disclosed; a permanent copy should be made, and the data obscured or retyped if this is more sensible. A copy of the entire document and the altered document should be retained because the document was changed.

10. Exemptions to Access by Data Subjects

Where a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings, the information is likely to be exempt from disclosure unless the privilege is waived.

There are other exemptions from the right of subject access. If we intend to apply any of them to a request, we will usually explain which exemption is being used and why.

11. Other Rights of Individuals

The Academy Trust has an obligation to comply with individuals' rights under the law and take these rights seriously. The following section sets out how the Academy will comply with the rights to:

- object to processing; rectification;

- erasure; and
- data Portability.

Right to object to processing

An individual has the right to object to the processing of their personal data on the grounds of pursuit of public interest or legitimate interest (grounds 4.5 and 4.6 above) where they do not believe that those grounds are adequately established.

Where such an objection is made, it must be sent to the CEO within 2 working days of receipt. The CEO will assess whether there are compelling legitimate grounds to continue processing that override the individuals' interests, rights, and freedoms, or whether the information is required for the establishment, exercise, or defence of legal proceedings.

The CEO shall be responsible for notifying the individual of their assessment outcome within 15 working days of receipt of the objection.

Right to rectification

An individual has the right to request the rectification of inaccurate data without undue delay. Any request for rectification is received; it should be sent to the CEO within 2 working days of receipt. Where adequate proof of inaccuracy is given, the data shall be amended as soon as reasonably practicable and the individual notified.

Where there is a dispute about the data's accuracy, the request and reasons for refusal shall be noted alongside the data and communicated to the individual. The individual shall be given the option of a review under the Trust Complaints Procedure before an appeal direct to the Information Commissioner.

An individual also has a right to have incomplete information completed by providing the missing data, and any information submitted in this way shall be updated without undue delay.

Right to erasure

- Individuals have a right, in certain circumstances, to have data permanently erased without undue delay. This right arises in the following cases: where the personal data is no longer necessary for the purpose or purposes for which it was collected and processed;
- where consent is withdrawn, and there is no other legal basis for the processing;
- where an objection has been raised under the right to object and found to be legitimate;
- where personal data is being unlawfully processed (usually where one of the conditions for processing cannot be met);

- where there is a legal obligation on the Academy Trust to delete.

The CEO will decide regarding any application for erasure of personal data and balance the request against the exemptions provided for in the law. Where a decision is made to erase the data, and this data has been passed to other data controllers and / or has been made public, reasonable attempts to inform those controllers of the request shall be made.

Right to restrict processing

In the following circumstances, processing of an individual's personal data may be restricted:

- where the accuracy of data has been contested, during the period when the Academy is attempting to verify the accuracy of the data;
- where processing is unlawful, and the individual has asked that there be a restriction on processing rather than erasure;
- where data would usually be deleted, but the individual has requested that their information be kept for the purpose of the establishment, exercise, or defence of a legal claim;
- where there has been an objection made under para 8.2 above, pending the outcome of any decision.

Right to portability

Suppose individuals want to send their personal data to another organisation. In that case, they have a right to request that the Academy Trust provides their information in a structured, commonly used, and machine-readable format. As this right is limited to situations where the Academy Trust is processing the data based on a contract's consent or performance, the conditions in which this right can be exercised will be pretty limited. If a request for this is made, it should be forwarded to the CEO within 2 working days of receipt, and the CEO will review and revert as necessary.

12. Breach of any Requirement of the DPA

Any and all breaches of the DPA, including a breach of any of the data protection principles, shall be reported as soon as they are discovered to the CEO.

Once notified, the CEO shall assess:

- the extent of the breach;
- the risks to the data subjects as a consequence of the breach;
- any security measures in place that will protect the information;
- any actions that can be taken immediately to mitigate the risk to the individuals.

Unless the CEO and DPO conclude that there is unlikely to be any risk to individuals from the breach, it must be notified to the Information Commissioner's Office within 72 hours of the breach having come to the Academy Trust's attention unless a delay can be justified. The Information Commissioner shall be told:

- details of the breach, including the volume of data at risk and the number and categories of data subjects;
- the contact point for any enquiries (which shall usually be the CEO)
- the likely consequences of the breach;
- measures proposed or already taken to address the breach.

Suppose the breach is likely to result in a high risk to the affected individuals' rights and freedoms. In that case, the CEO shall notify data subjects of the breach without undue delay unless the data would be incomprehensible to those not authorised to access it or measures have been taken to mitigate any risk to the affected individuals.

Data subjects shall be told:

- the nature of the breach;
- who to contact with any questions;
- measures are taken to mitigate any risks.

The CEO shall then be responsible for instigating an investigation into the breach, including how it happened and whether it could have been prevented. Any recommendations for further training or a change in procedure shall be reviewed by the Trust Board, and decide to implement those recommendations.

13. Contact

If anyone has any concerns or questions concerning this policy, they should contact the CEO or DPO.

Freedom Of Information

1. Introduction

The Academy is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) as a public authority. It must comply with any requests for information per the principles laid out in the Act.

2. What is a Request under FOI?

- 2.1 Any request for any information from the Academy is technically a request under the FOI, whether or not the individual making the request mentions the FOI. However, the ICO has stated that routine requests for information (such as a parent requesting a copy of a policy) can be dealt with outside of the Act's provisions.
- 2.2 In all non-routine cases, if the request is simple and the information is to be released, the individual who received the request can release the data and ensure that this is done within the timescale set out below. A copy of the request and response should then be sent to the CEO.
- 2.3 All other requests should be referred in the first instance to the CEO, who may allocate another individual to deal with the request. This must be done promptly and in any event within 3 working days of receiving the request.
- 2.4 When considering an FOI request, you must bear in mind that release under FOI is treated as release to the general public. So once it has been released to an individual, anyone can then access it, and you cannot restrict access when releasing by marking the information "confidential" or "restricted."
- 2.5 All FOI requests should be sent to the Trust's DPO officer.

3. Time Limit for Compliance

The Academy must respond as soon as possible, and in any event, within 20 working days of the date of receipt of the request. For an Academy, when calculating the 20 working day deadline, a "working day" is a school day (one in which pupils are in attendance), subject to an absolute maximum of 60 average working days (not school days) to respond.

4. Procedure for Dealing with Request

- 4.1 When a request is received that cannot be dealt with by simply providing the information, it should be referred in the first instance to the CEO, who may re-allocate to an individual with responsibility for the type of information requested.
- 4.2 The first stage in responding is determining whether or not the Academy "holds" the information requested. The Academy will hold the data if it

exists in computer or paper format. Some requests will require the Academy to take data from different sources and manipulate it in some way. Where this would take minimal effort, the Academy is considered to "hold" that information. Still, suppose the required manipulation would take a significant amount of time. In that case, the requestor should be contacted to explain that the data is not held in the manner requested and offered the opportunity to refine their request. For example, if a request required the Academy to add up totals in a spreadsheet and release the total figures, this would be information "held" by the Academy. Suppose the Academy would have to go through a number of spread sheets and identify individual figures and provide a total. In that case, this is likely not to be information "held" by the Academy, depending on the time involved in extracting the data.

4.3 The second stage is to decide whether the information can be released or whether one of the exemptions set out in the Act applies to the data. Common exemptions that might be used include:

Section 40 (1) – the request is for the applicant's personal data. This must be dealt with under the subject access regime in the DPA, detailed in paragraph 9 of the DPA policy above;

Section 40 (2) – compliance with the request would involve releasing third party personal data, and this would be in breach of the DPA principles as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the DPA policy above;

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

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

Section 22 – information that the Academy intends to publish at a future date;

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

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

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

Section 36 – information which, in the opinion of the chair of governors of the Academy, would prejudice the effective conduct of the Academy. There is a particular form for this on the ICO's website to help obtain the chair's opinion.

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

5. Responding to Request

- 5.1 When responding to a request where the Academy has withheld some or all of the information, the Academy must explain why the information has been withheld, quoting the appropriate section number and explaining how the information requested fits within that exemption. If the public interest test has been applied, this also needs to be explained.
- 5.2 The letter should explain to the requestor how they can complain – either by reference to an internal review by Trust Board or by writing to the ICO.

6. Contact

Any questions or enquiries regarding data protection should be sent to the Trust's DPO officer.

Satswana - Colin Howard email: colin.howard@satswana.com or 07891223443.

7. Monitoring and Review

The Trustees of Khalsa Academies Trust are responsible for ensuring that the Headteacher and Senior Leaders implement this policy consistently.

However, all staff is responsible for keeping themselves informed of the policies and procedures.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier, if necessary.