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Date protection policy

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Scope of policy:	This policy applies to all staff, students and volunteers at Riverside School

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1. Policy statement

Everyone has rights with regard to the way in which their **personal data** is handled. During the course of our activities as part of as Partnership Learning Multi Academy Trust ("MAT") we will collect, store Partnership Learning is the **data controller** in relation to that **personal data**.

We are committed to the protection of all **personal data** and **special category personal data** for which we are the **data controller**.

The law imposes significant fines for failing to lawfully **process** and safeguard **personal data** and failure to comply with this policy may result in those fines being applied.

All members of our **workforce** must comply with this policy when **processing personal data** on our behalf. Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary or other action.

2. About this policy

The types of **personal data** that we may be required to handle include information about pupils, parents, our **workforce**, and others that we deal with. The **personal data** which we hold is subject to certain legal safeguards specified in the General Data Protection Regulation ('**GDPR**'), the Data Protection Act 2018, Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and other regulations (together '**Data Protection Legislation**').

This policy and any other documents referred to in it set out the basis on which we will **process** any **personal data** we collect from **data subjects**, or that is provided to us by **data subjects** or other sources.

This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and may be amended at any time.

This policy sets out rules on data protection and the legal conditions that must be satisfied when we process **personal data**.

3. Definition of data protection terms

All defined terms in this policy are indicated in **bold** text, and a list of definitions is included in the Annex to this policy.

4. Data Protection Officer and Data Protection Leads

As part of a MAT we are required to appoint a Data Protection Officer ("DPO"). Our DPO is Mark Junnix (Director of ICT for Partnership Learning), and they can be contacted at 0203 909 2333 ext.200100 or mjunnix@partnershiplearning.com.

The DPO is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Legislation and with this policy. Any questions about the operation of this policy or any concerns that the policy has not been followed should be referred in the first instance to the DPO.

The DPO is also the central point of contact for all **data subjects** and others in relation to matters of data protection.

Each school will nominate a Data Protection Lead ("DPL"), the DPL will be responsible for the day to day data protection at their designated school. A copy of the DPL roles and responsibilities can be found as an appendix to this policy.

5. Data protection principles

Anyone **processing personal data** must comply with the data protection principles. These provide that **personal data** must be:

- **Processed** fairly and lawfully and transparently in relation to the **data subject**;
- **Processed** for specified, lawful purposes and in a way which is not incompatible with those purposes;
- Adequate, relevant and not excessive for the purpose;
- Accurate and up to date;
- Not kept for any longer than is necessary for the purpose;
- **Processed** securely using appropriate technical and organisational measures.

Personal Data must also:

- Be **processed** in line with **data subjects'** rights;
- Not be transferred to people or organisations situated in other countries without adequate protection.

We will comply with these principles in relation to any **processing** of **personal data** by the Partnership Learning and its Schools.

6. Fair and lawful processing

Data Protection Legislation is not intended to prevent the **processing** of **personal data**, but to ensure that it is done fairly and without adversely affecting the rights of the **data subject**.

For personal data to be **processed** fairly, **data subjects** must be made aware:

- That the **personal data** is being **processed**;
- Why the **personal data** is being **processed**;
- What the lawful basis is for that **processing** (see below);
- Whether the **personal data** will be shared, and if so with whom;
- The period for which the **personal data** will be held;
- The existence of the **data subject's** rights in relation to the **processing** of that **personal data**; and
- The right of the **data subject** to raise a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office in relation to any **processing**.

We will only obtain such **personal data** as is necessary and relevant to the purpose for which it was gathered, and will ensure that we have a lawful basis for any **processing**.

For **personal data** to be **processed** lawfully, it must be **processed** on the basis of one of the legal grounds set out in the Data Protection Legislation. We will normally **process personal data** under the following legal grounds:

- Where the **processing** is necessary for the performance of a contract between us and the **data subject**, such as an employment contract;
- Where the **processing** is necessary to comply with a legal obligation that we are subject to, (e.g. the Education Act 2011);
- Where the law otherwise allows us to **process** the **personal data** or we are carrying out a task in the public interest; and
- Where none of the above apply then we will seek the consent of the **data subject** to the **processing** of their **personal data.**
- When **special category personal data** is being processed then an additional legal ground must apply to that processing. We will normally only **process special category personal data** under following legal grounds:
- Where the **processing** is necessary for employment law purposes, for example in relation to sickness absence;
- Where the **processing** is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest, for example for the purposes of equality of opportunity and treatment;
- Where the **processing** is necessary for health or social care purposes, for example in relation to pupils with medical conditions or disabilities; and
- Where none of the above apply then we will seek the consent of the **data subject** to the **processing** of their **special category personal data**.

We will inform **data subjects** of the above matters by way of appropriate privacy notices which shall be provided to them when we collect the data or as soon as possible thereafter, unless we have already provided this information such as at the time when a pupil joins us.

If any **data user** is in doubt as to whether they can use any **personal data** for any purpose then they must contact the DPO before doing so.

Vital Interests

There may be circumstances where it is considered necessary to **process personal data** or **special category personal data** in order to protect the vital interests of a **data subject**. This might include medical emergencies where the **data subject** is not in a position to give consent to the **processing**. We believe that this will only occur in very specific and limited circumstances. In such circumstances we would usually seek to consult with the DPO in advance, although there may be emergency situations where this does not occur.

Consent

Where none of the other bases for **processing** set out above apply then the school must seek the consent of the **data subject** before **processing** any **personal data** for any purpose.

There are strict legal requirements in relation to the form of consent that must be obtained from **data subjects**.

When pupils and or our Workforce join Partnership Learning or one of its School a consent form will be required to be completed in relation to them. This consent form deals with the taking and use of photographs and videos of them, amongst other things. Where appropriate third parties may also be required to complete a consent form.

In relation to all pupils under the age of 13 years old we will seek consent from an individual with parental responsibility for that pupil.

If consent is required for any other **processing** of **personal data** of any **data subject** then the form of this consent must:

- Inform the **data subject** of exactly what we intend to do with their **personal data**;
- Require them to positively confirm that they consent – we cannot ask them to opt-out rather than opt-in;
- Inform the **data subject** of how they can withdraw their consent.

Any consent must be freely given, which means that we cannot make the provision of any goods or services or other matter conditional on a **data subject** giving their consent.

The DPO must always be consulted in relation to any consent form before consent is obtained.

A record must always be kept of any consent, including how it was obtained and when.

7. Processing for limited purposes

In the course of our activities Partnership Learning and its Schools may collect and **process** the **personal data** set out in our Schedule of Processing Activities. This may include **personal data** we receive directly from a **data subject** (for example, by completing forms or by corresponding with us by mail, phone, email or otherwise) and **personal data** we receive from other sources (including, for example, local authorities, other schools, parents, other pupils or members of our **workforce**).

We will only **process personal data** for the specific purposes set out in our Schedule of Processing Activities or for any other purposes specifically permitted by Data Protection Legislation or for which specific consent has been provided by the data subject.

8. Notifying data subjects

If we collect **personal data** directly from **data subjects**, we will inform them about:

- our identity and contact details as **Data Controller** and those of the DPO;
- The purpose or purposes and legal basis for which we intend to **process** that **personal data**;
- The types of third parties, if any, with which we will share or to which we will disclose that **personal data**.
- Whether the **personal data** will be transferred outside the European Economic Area ('**EEA**') and if so the safeguards in place.
- The period for which their **personal data** will be stored, by reference to our Retention and Destruction Policy;

- The existence of any automated decision making in the **processing** of the **personal data** along with the significance and envisaged consequences of the **processing** and the right to object to such decision making;
- The rights of the **data subject** to object to or limit processing, request information, request deletion of information or lodge a complaint with the ICO.

Unless we have already informed **data subjects** that we will be obtaining information about them from third parties (for example in our privacy notices), then if we receive **personal data** about a **data subject** from other sources, we will provide the **data subject** with the above information as soon as possible thereafter, informing them of where the **personal data** was obtained from.

9. Adequate, relevant and non-excessive processing

We will only collect **personal data** to the extent that it is required for the specific purpose notified to the **data subject**, unless otherwise permitted by Data Protection Legislation.

10. Accurate data

We will ensure that **personal data** we hold is accurate and kept up to date.

We will take reasonable steps to destroy or amend inaccurate or out-of-date data.

Data subjects have a right to have any inaccurate **personal data** rectified. See further below in relation to the exercise of this right.

11. Timely processing

We will not keep **personal data** longer than is necessary for the purpose or purposes for which they were collected. We will take all reasonable steps to destroy, or erase from our systems, all **personal data** which is no longer required.

12. Processing in line with data subject's rights

We will **process** all **personal data** in line with **data subjects'** rights, in particular their right to:

- Object to the **processing** of their **personal data**, including the right to object to direct marketing;
- Have inaccurate or incomplete **personal data** about them rectified;
- Restrict **processing** of their **personal data**;
- Have **personal data** we hold about them erased
- Have their **personal data** transferred;
- Object to the making of decisions about them by automated means.

The Right to Object

In certain circumstances **data subjects** may object to us **processing** their **personal data** . This right may be exercised in relation to **processing** that we are undertaking on the basis of a legitimate interest or in pursuit of a statutory function or task carried out in the public interest.

An objection to **processing** does not have to be complied with where the school can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds which override the rights of the **data subject**.

Such considerations are complex and must always be referred to the DPO upon receipt of the request to exercise this right.

In respect of direct marketing any objection to **processing** must be complied with.

Partnership Learning and its Schools is not however obliged to comply with a request where the **personal data** is required in relation to any claim or legal proceedings.

The Right to Rectification

If a **data subject** informs Partnership Learning and its Schools that **personal data** held about them by Partnership Learning and its Schools is inaccurate or incomplete then we will consider that request and provide a response within one month.

If we consider the issue to be too complex to resolve within that period then we may extend the response period by a further two months. If this is necessary then we will inform the **data subject** within one month of their request that this is the case.

We may determine that any changes proposed by the **data subject** should not be made. If this is the case then we will explain to the **data subject** why this is the case. In those circumstances we will inform the **data subject** of their right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at the time that we inform them of our decision in relation to their request.

The Right to Restrict Processing

Data subjects have a right to "block" or suppress the **processing** of **personal data**. This means that Partnership Learning and its Schools can continue to hold the **personal data** but not do anything else with it.

Partnership Learning and its Schools must restrict the **processing** of **personal data**:

Where it is in the process of considering a request for **personal data** to be rectified (see above);

- Where Partnership Learning and its Schools is in the process of considering an objection to processing by a **data subject**;
- Where the **processing** is unlawful but the **data subject** has asked Partnership Learning and its Schools not to delete the **personal data**;
- Where Partnership Learning and its Schools no longer needs the **personal data** but the **data subject** has asked Partnership Learning and its Schools not to delete the **personal data** because they need it in relation to a legal claim, including any potential claim against Partnership Learning and its Schools

If Partnership Learning and its Schools has shared the relevant **personal data** with any other organisation then we will contact those organisations to inform them of any restriction, unless this proves impossible or involves a disproportionate effort.

The DPO must be consulted in relation to requests under this right.

The Right to Be Forgotten

Data subjects have a right to have **personal data** about them held by Partnership Learning and its Schools erased only in the following circumstances:

- Where the **personal data** is no longer necessary for the purpose for which it was originally collected;
- When a **data subject** withdraws consent – which will apply only where Partnership Learning and its Schools is relying on the individuals consent to the **processing** in the first place;
- When a **data subject** objects to the **processing** and there is no overriding legitimate interest to continue that **processing** – see above in relation to the right to object;
- Where the **processing** of the **personal data** is otherwise unlawful;
- When it is necessary to erase the **personal data** to comply with a legal obligation;

Partnership Learning and its Schools is not required to comply with a request by a **data subject** to erase their **personal data** if the **processing** is taking place:

To exercise the right of freedom of expression or information;

To comply with a legal obligation for the performance of a task in the public interest or in accordance with the law;

- For public health purposes in the public interest;
- For archiving purposes in the public interest, research or statistical purposes; or
- In relation to a legal claim.

If Partnership Learning and its Schools has shared the relevant personal data with any other organisation then we will contact those organisations to inform them of any erasure, unless this proves impossible or involves a disproportionate effort.

The DPO must be consulted in relation to requests under this right.

Right to Data Portability

In limited circumstances a **data subject** has a right to receive their **personal data** in a machine readable format, and to have this transferred to other organisation.

If such a request is made then the DPO must be consulted.

13. Data security

We will take appropriate security measures against unlawful or unauthorised processing of **personal data**, and against the accidental loss of, or damage to, **personal data**.

We will put in place procedures and technologies to maintain the security of all **personal data** from the point of collection to the point of destruction.

Security procedures include:

- **Entry controls.** Any stranger seen in entry-controlled areas should be reported to the School DPL or senior staff.
- **Secure lockable desks and cupboards.** Desks and cupboards should be kept locked if they hold confidential information of any kind. (Personal information is always considered confidential.)
- **Methods of disposal.** Paper documents should be shredded. Digital storage devices should be physically destroyed when they are no longer required. IT assets must be disposed of in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office guidance on the disposal of IT assets.
- **Equipment.** Data users must ensure that individual monitors do not show confidential information to passers-by and that they log off from their PC when it is left unattended.
- **Document printing.** Documents containing **personal data** must be collected immediately from printers and not left on photocopiers.

  Any member of staff found to be in breach of the above security measures may be subject to disciplinary action.

14. Data Protection Impact Assessments

Partnership Learning and its Schools takes data protection very seriously, and will consider and comply with the requirements of Data Protection Legislation in relation to all of its activities whenever these involve the use of personal data, in accordance with the principles of data protection by design and default.

In certain circumstances the law requires us to carry out detailed assessments of proposed **processing**. This includes where we intend to use new technologies which might pose a high risk to the rights of **data subjects** because of the types of data we will be **processing** or the way that we intend to do so.

Partnership Learning and its Schools will complete an assessment of any such proposed **processing** and has a template document which ensures that all relevant matters are considered.

The DPO should always be consulted as to whether a data protection impact assessment is required, and if so how to undertake that assessment.

15. Disclosure and sharing of personal information

We may share **personal data** that we hold about **data subjects**, and without their consent, with other organisations. Such organisations include the Department for Education ("DFE"), Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA"), Ofsted, health authorities and professionals, the Local Authority, examination bodies, other schools, and other organisations where we have a lawful basis for doing so.

Partnership Learning and its Schools will inform **data subjects** of any sharing of their **personal data** unless we are not legally required to do so, for example where **personal data** is shared with the police in the investigation of a criminal offence.

In some circumstances we will not share safeguarding information. Please refer to our Child Protection Policy.

Further detail is provided in our Schedule of Processing Activities.

16. Data Processors

We contract with various organisations who provide services to Partnership Learning and its Schools, including but not limited to:

- Payroll, 3rd party payroll provider are responsible for processing staff payments
- MIS and associated software, 3rd party providers are contracted to process student information on a daily basis for the purpose of day to day pupil information management
- Catering, 3rd party Catering companies are contracted to process payments from students, this process may include the use of biometric data
- Library systems, 3rd party companies are contracted to manage students information for the purpose of managing the hire of books and other resources

Partnership Learning and its Schools hold a complete list of data processors as part of our data audits.

In order that these services can be provided effectively we are required to transfer **personal data** of **data subjects** to these **data processors**.

Personal data will only be transferred to a **data processor** if they agree to comply with our procedures and policies in relation to data security, or if they put in place adequate measures themselves to the satisfaction of Partnership Learning and its Schools. Partnership Learning and its Schools will always undertake due diligence of any **data processor** before transferring the **personal data** of **data subjects** to them.

Contracts with **data processors** will comply with Data Protection Legislation and contain explicit obligations on the **data processor** to ensure compliance with the Data Protection Legislation, and compliance with the rights of **Data Subjects**.

17. Images and Videos

Parents and others attending Partnership Learning and its Schools events are allowed to take photographs and videos of those events for domestic purposes. For example, parents can take video recordings of a school performance involving their child. Partnership Learning and its Schools does not prohibit this as a matter of policy.

Partnership Learning and its Schools does not however agree to any such photographs or videos being used for any other purpose, but acknowledges that such matters are, for the most part, outside of the ability of Partnership Learning and its Schools to prevent.

Partnership Learning and its Schools asks that parents and others do not post any images or videos which include any child other than their own child on any social media or otherwise publish those images or videos.

We want to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and therefore may want to use images and videos of our pupils within promotional materials, or for publication in the media such as local, or even national, newspapers covering school events or achievements. We will seek the consent of pupils, and their parents where appropriate, before allowing the use of images or videos of pupils for such purposes.

Whenever a pupil begins their attendance at Partnership Learning and its Schools they, or their parent where appropriate, will be asked to complete a consent form in relation to the use of images and videos of that pupil. We will not use images or videos of pupils for any purpose where we do not have consent.

18. CCTV

Partnership Learning and its Schools operates a CCTV system. Please refer to the CCTV Policy.

19. Artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, pupils and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini. We recognise that AI has many uses to help pupils learn, but also poses risks to sensitive and personal data.

To ensure that personal and sensitive data remains secure, no one will be permitted to enter such data into unauthorised generative AI tools or chatbots.

Changes to this policy

We may change this policy at any time. Where appropriate, we will notify **data subjects** of those changes.

ANNEX

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Data	is information which is stored electronically, on a computer, or in certain paper-based filing systems
Data Subjects	For the purpose of this policy include all living individuals about whom we hold personal data. This includes pupils, our workforce, staff, and other individuals. A data subject need not be a UK national or resident. All data subjects have legal rights in relation to their personal information
Personal Data	means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (a data subject); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person
Data Controllers	Are the people who or organisations which determine the purposes for which, and the manner in which, any personal data is processed. They are responsible for establishing practices and policies in line with Data Protection Legislation. We are the data controller of all personal data used in our business for our own commercial purposes
Data Users	Are those of our workforce (including Governors and volunteers) whose work involves processing personal data. Data users must protect the data they handle in accordance with this data protection policy and any applicable data security procedures at all times
Data Processors	include any person or organisation that is not a data user that processes personal data on our behalf and on our instructions

Processing	Is any activity that involves use of the data. It includes obtaining, recording or holding the data, or carrying out any operation or set of operations on the data such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction. Processing also includes transferring personal data to third parties
Special Category Personal Data	includes information about a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health or condition or sexual life, or genetic or biometric data
Workforce	Includes, any individual employed by Partnership Learning and its Schools such as staff and those who volunteer in any capacity including Governors, Trustees, Members and parent helpers