



The MAST Academy Trust

Policy	Freedom of Information Policy
Owner	The Mast Executive Administrator
Date approved	17 th March 2022
Approver	Audit Committee

Current version	V3.0
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Next review due	March 2024
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Objective of Policy

This policy covers requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA”). It follows the Information Commissioners Office model publication <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1153/model-publication-scheme.pdf>

Version Control	
Version Number	Summary of amends from previous version
2.0	Review, realignment of to ICO model publication, front cover amends.
3.0	2 year review; adjustment of school office email addresses

Sign off requirements	
Approvers	Position
Audit Committee	Trust Board
Reviewers	Position
Jason Field	CFO The MAST
Tim Wade	Trustee

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The ICO model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It may be adopted without modification by any public authority without further approval and will be valid until further notice.

1.0 Introduction: what a publication scheme is and why it has been developed

This publication scheme commits The Mast Multi Academy Trust to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the Trust and/or individual schools within it. The Trust is guided by the Department for Education statutory policies for schools and what academies should publish online. The Trust is also required by law to adhere to the Freedom of Information Act (2000) outlining the requirements of public authorities to provide information upon request.

The scheme commits the Trust:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the Trust and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the Trust and falls within the classifications below.
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- To review and update on a regular basis the information the Trust makes available under this scheme.
- To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- To make this publication scheme available to the public.

2.0 Classes of Information

Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.

What we spend and how we spend it

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

What our priorities are and how we are doing

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

How we make decisions

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

Our policies and procedures

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

Lists and registers

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the

functions of the authority.

The services we offer

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

The classes of information will not generally 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.

3.0 The method by which information published under this scheme will be made available

The Trust will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of the Trust, information will be provided on our website and on the websites of the individual schools. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, we will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where an authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

4.0 Charges which may be made for information published under this scheme

The purpose of this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the Trust/school 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 information subject to a charging regime specified by Parliament. Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- photocopying
- postage and packaging
- The costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information.

Charges may also be made for information provided under this scheme where they are

legally authorised, they are in all the circumstances, including the general principles of the right of access to information held by public authorities, justified and are in accordance with a published schedule or schedules of fees which is readily available to the public.

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

5.0 Written requests

Information held by a public authority that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

All written requests will be responded to within the legal timeframe set out within the legislation. The Trust have a set guideline for handling all FOI requests which are:

Validate:	The DPO will ensure that the FOI is a legitimate submission
Process:	The DPO will work with the relevant departments to gather the information
Submit:	The DPO will submit the request to the relevant party/ parties
Log:	The DPO will log the FOI with a unique tracking number in a log
Manage:	The DPO will handle and complaints and issues regarding FOI's

6.0 Contact details

If you require a paper version of any information, or want to ask whether information is available please contact the Trust/school by telephone, email or letter. Contact details are set out below:

The Trust

www.themast.co.uk

Email: foirequest@mast.co.uk

Tel: 01484 220570

Contact Address: The Mast Academy Trust, c/o Scissett Middle School, Wakefield Road, Scissett, Huddersfield, HD8 9JX

Birdsedge First School

www.birdsedgefirst.org/kgfl/primary/birdsedgepri

Email: birdsedgeoffice@themast.co.uk

Tel: 01484 605441

Contact Address: Birdsedge First School, Penistone Road, Birdsedge, Huddersfield, HD8 8XR

Shelley First School

www.shelleyfirstschool.co.uk/

Email: shelleyoffice@themast.co.uk

Tel: 01484 604484

Contact Address: Shelley First School, School Terrace, Huddersfield, HD8 8HU

Kirkburton Middle School

<https://www.kirkburtonmiddleschool.co.uk/>

Email: kirkburtonoffice@themast.co.uk

Tel: 01484 222737

Contact Address: Kirkburton Middle School, Turnshaws Avenue, Kirkburton, Huddersfield, HD8 0TJ

Scissett Middle School

<https://www.scissettmiddle.com/>

Email: scissettoffice@themast.co.uk

Tel: 01484 865444

Contact Address: Scissett Middle School, Wakefield Road, Scissett, Huddersfield, HD8 9JX

7.0 Additional information

To help us process your request quickly, please clearly mark any correspondence "PUBLICATION SCHEME REQUEST" (in CAPITALS please).

If the information you are looking for is not available in this policy [and isn't on our website], you can still contact the Trust or school ask if we have it.

APPENDIX A: Class of information detail

Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.

Current information only.

- Articles of Association
- School prospectus and curriculum
- Governing Body
- School session times and term dates
- Location and contact information

What we spend and how we spend it

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

Financial information for the current and previous two financial years.

- Annual budget plan and financial statements
- Capital funding
- Financial audit reports
- Procurement and contracts
- Pay policy
- Staff allowances and expenses
- Staff pay and grading structures
- Governors' allowances

What our priorities are and how we are doing

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

Current information.

- Performance data supplied to the government
- Latest Ofsted report
- Performance management information
- The school's future plans
- Safeguarding and child protection

How we make decisions

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

Current and previous three years.

- Admissions policy / decisions
- Minutes of meetings of the governing body and its committees

Our policies and procedures

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

Current information only.

- School policies and other documents
- Records management and personal data policies

- Equality and diversity
- Policies and procedures for the recruitment of staff
- Charging regimes and policies

Lists and registers

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

Current Information

- Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments
- Disclosure logs
- Asset register
- Any information the school is currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers

Lists and registers

Information about the services the school provides including leaflets, guidance and newsletters.

Examples:

- Extra-curricular activities
- Out of school clubs
- School publications
- Services for which the school is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees
- Leaflets, booklets and newsletters