



The White Hills Park Trust
Better Together

Data Protection Policy

Version control

Scope:	Applicable to all Trust Schools
Review date:	Autumn Term 2026
Statutory or non-statutory:	Statutory
Author/Reviewer:	James Macdonald – Chief Operating Officer

Introduction

This policy applies to all Trust schools/academies.

Equalities

The Trust and its member schools/academies recognise their legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and this policy aims to ensure that all employees are treated with equality and fairness regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Version Control

Version	Author	Date	Changes
0.1	Julia Gibbs	November 2023	Convert to standard format.

The White Hills Park Trust and our academies are committed to working effectively to provide a secure environment to protect data that we hold and store. Whilst there is a statutory duty that is important, the fact that we store data about individuals means that we are responsible for your data and we take that very seriously. This policy, and the Privacy Notices, sets out how we look after and use data.

Each school will be responsible for the day to day management of data that is held about pupils, staff, parents, carers and other individuals in connection with that school.

The trust central team are responsible for data held centrally about individuals.

Where we use the phrase 'we' that refers to the trust and the individual schools.

1 What is the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)?

1.1 This is a European Directive that was brought into UK law with an updated Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) in May 2018. It was brought into line with changes to the UK leaving the EU on 31 December 2020.

1.2 The GDPR and DPA 2018 exist to look after individual's data. It is a series of safeguards for every individual. Information about individuals needs to be treated with respect and be secure.

1.3 The UK GDPR exists to protect individual rights in an increasingly digital world.

1.4 This policy is intended to ensure that personal information about individuals is dealt with securely and in accordance with this legislation.

1.5 At The White Hills Park Trust ("The Trust") we are committed to working effectively to provide a secure environment to protect data that we hold and store. Whilst there is a statutory duty that is important, the fact that we store data about individuals means that we are responsible for your data - and that is a personal responsibility that we take very seriously. This policy, and the Privacy Notices on the Trust and Trust academy websites sets out how we look after and use data.

2 Who does it apply to?

2.1 Everyone, including schools/ academies. As Public Bodies schools/academies have more obligations than some small businesses. It is mandatory to comply with the GDPR and provisions in the Data Protection Act 2018.

2.2 We want to make sure information about pupils, staff and volunteers is kept secure and within the law.

3 What is Data?

3.1 Data refers to any information that relates to a living person that identifies them. This can be by name, address or phone number for example. It also relates to details about that person, which can include opinions.

3.2 Some data is considered to be more sensitive, and therefore more important to protect. This is information about 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 where processed to uniquely identify a person.

3.3 Schools/academies often collect sensitive data for Department for Education (DfE) and Local Authority (LA) requirements amongst others, and pupil data may contain information about safeguarding, Special Educational Needs (SEN) or health needs. Information about other family members may also be on the school file.

3.4 Privacy Notices that explain how data about specific groups or activities is used and stored are also available. These can be obtained from each school and links on the website to UK GDPR compliance.

4 Key principles of the GDPR?

4.1 Lawfulness, transparency and fairness

A school/academy must have a legitimate reason to hold the data, we explain this in the Data Privacy Notices on the website. We often ask for consent to use data about a pupil for a particular purpose. If you wish to withdraw consent we have a form to complete to allow us to process your request. There are some occasions however when you cannot withdraw consent as explained in 'Data Subjects Rights'.

4.2 Collect data for a specific purpose and use it for that purpose

Data cannot be used for a purpose that it was not originally collected for, or where notice has not been given about how data may be used after collection.

4.3 Limited collection

Data controllers should only collect the minimum amount of data needed for a particular task or reason. If there is a breach or hack only limited information can be lost.

4.4 Accuracy

Data collected should be accurate, and steps should be taken to check and confirm accuracy. This is done when pupils join the school and is reviewed on an annual basis.

If a Data Subject believes that the information held is inaccurate, should no longer be held by the Controller or should not be held by the Controller in any event, a dispute resolution process and complaint process can be accessed, using the suitable forms. Initially an approach should be made directly to the individual school.

Retention

The Trust has a retention policy that explains how long records are retained. This is available on request/on the website.

4.5 Security

We have processes in place to keep data safe. That might be paper files, electronic records or other information.

5 Data subjects

5.1 A data subject is someone whose details we keep on file. Some details are more sensitive than others. The UK GDPR sets out collection of details such as health conditions and ethnicity which are more sensitive than for example names and phone numbers.

5.2 Data subjects have a right:

- to be informed
- of access to data stored about them or their children
- to rectification if there is an error on the data stored
- to erasure if there is no longer a need for school to keep the data
- to restrict processing, i.e. to limit what is done with their data
- to object to data being shared or collected

5.3 There are other rights that relate to automated decision making and data portability that are not directly relevant in schools/academies.

5.4 Data subjects' rights are also subject to child protection and safeguarding concerns, and sharing information for the prevention and detection of crime. Schools/academies also have legal and contractual obligations to share information with organisations such as the Department for Education, Social Care, the Local Authority and HMRC amongst others. In some cases these obligations override individual rights.

5.5 These Data Subject's Rights are set out in more detail in the document 'My Rights – A Guide for Data Subjects'.

6 Subject Access Requests

6.1 You can ask for copies of information that we hold about you or a pupil (who you have parental responsibility for). This Subject Access Request process is set out separately. You need to fill out the form, and you may need to provide identification evidence for us to process the request.

6.2 We have to provide the information within a month, but this can be extended if the request is complicated or the data cannot be accessed.

6.3 When we receive a request we may ask you to be more specific about the information that you require. This is to refine any queries to make sure you access what you need, rather than receiving a lot of information that may not be relevant to your query.

6.4 In some cases, we cannot share all information we hold on file if there are contractual, legal or regulatory reasons.

6.5 We cannot release information provided by a third party without their consent, or in

some cases you may be better to approach them directly, e.g. school nurses who are employed by the NHS.

6.6 We will supply the information you have requested by paper or electronic form.

6.7 If you wish to complain about the process, please see our complaints policy and later information in this DPA policy.

7 'Data controller'

7.1 The academy trust is the Data Controller. They have the ultimate responsibility for how the schools and trust central team manage data. They delegate this processing to individuals to act on their behalf, that is the central team and the relevant school staff in each setting.

7.2 The data controller can also have contracts and agreements in place with outside agencies who are data processors.

7.3 As the data controller, individuals process data on behalf of the organisation. This can be a member of staff, possibly a governor or trustee, a consultant or temporary employee.

8 "Data processors"

8.1 A Data processor is a person or organisation that uses, collects, accesses or amends the data that the Data Controller has collected or authorised to be collected.

8.2 Data controllers must make sure that data processors are as careful about the data as the controller themselves. The UK GDPR places additional obligations on organisations to make sure that Data Controllers require contractual agreements to ensure that this is the case.

9 Processing data

9.1 The Trust and/or a school/academy must have a reason to process the data about an individual. Our privacy notices set out how we use data. The UK GDPR has 6 conditions for lawful processing and any time we process data relating to an individual it is within one of those conditions.

9.2 If there is a data breach we have a separate policy and procedure to follow to take immediate action to remedy the situation as quickly as possible.

9.3 The legal basis and authority for collecting and processing data in school/an academy are:-

- consent obtained from the data subject or their parent;
- performance of a contract where the data subject is a party;
- compliance with a legal obligation;
- to protect the vital interests of the data subject or other associated person;
- to carry out the processing that is in the public interest and/or official authority;
- it is necessary for the legitimate interests of the data controller or third party;
- in accordance with national law.

9.4 In addition, any special categories of personal data are processed on the grounds of

- explicit consent from the data subject or about their child;
- necessary to comply with employment rights or obligations;
- protection of the vital interests of the data subject or associated person;
- being necessary to comply with the legitimate activities of the school;
- existing personal data that has been made public by the data subject and is no longer confidential;
- bringing or defending legal claims;
- safeguarding;
- national laws in terms of processing genetic, biometric or health data.

9.5 Processing data is recorded within the school/academy/Trust systems.

10 Data Sharing

10.1 Data sharing is done within the limits set by the UK GDPR.

10.2 Guidance from the Department for Education, health, the police, local authorities and other specialist organisations may be used to determine whether data is shared.

10.3 The basis for sharing or not sharing data is recorded in school/academy records.

11 Breaches & Non Compliance

11.1 If there is an incidence of non-compliance with this policy or associated processes, or there is a DPA breach as described within the UK GDPR and DPA 2018 then the guidance set out in the Trust's Breach & Non Compliance Procedure will be followed. (See Appendix 1)

11.2 Protecting data and maintaining data subjects rights is the purpose of this policy and associated procedures.

12 Consent

12.1 As a trust, where required, we will seek consent from staff, volunteers, young people, governors, 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.

12.2 Consent is defined by the UK GDPR 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 a clear affirmative action, signifies agreement to the processing of personal data relating to him or her".

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

12.4 This will largely be managed in our individual schools.

13 Consent and Renewal

13.1 Obtaining clear consent and ensuring that the consent remains in place is important for the Trust and its academies. We also want to ensure the accuracy of that information.

13.2 On the Trust/academy websites 'Privacy Notices' explain how data is collected and used. It is important to read those notices as they explain how data is used in detail.

14 Pupils and Parents/Carers

14.1 On joining the school/academy within The Trust you will be asked to complete a form giving next of kin details, emergency contact and other essential information. We will also ask you to give consent to use the information for other in school purposes, as set out on the data collection/consent form.

14.2 We review the contact and consent form on an annual basis. It is important to inform school if details or your decision about consent changes. A form is available. This is the obligation of each individual to notify the school of changes.

15 Pupil Consent Procedure

15.1 Where processing relates to a child under 16 years old, school will obtain the consent from a person who has parental responsibility for the child as required.

15.2 Pupils may be asked to give consent or to be consulted about how their data is obtained, shared and used in certain situations.

16 Withdrawal of Consent

16.1 Consent can be withdrawn, subject to contractual, statutory or regulatory constraints.

16.2 Where more than one person has the ability to provide or withdraw consent the school will consider each situation on the merits and within the principles of GDPR and also child welfare, protection and safeguarding principles.

16.3 Please complete the appropriate form.

17 CCTV Policy

17.1 Please also see the Trust's CCTV and IT security policy. We used CCTV and store images for a period of time in line with the policy. CCTV may be used for:

- Detection and prevention of crime
- School staff disciplinary procedures
- Pupil behaviour and exclusion management processes
- To assist the school in complying with legal and regulatory obligations

18 Data Protection Officer

18.1 We have a Data Protection Officer whose role is to:-

- inform and advise the controller or the processor and the employees who carry out processing of their obligations under the UK GDPR
- monitor compliance with the UK GDPR and DPA
- provide advice where requested about the data protection impact assessment and monitor its performance
- be the point of contact for Data Subjects if there are concerns about data protection
- cooperate with the supervisory authority and manage the breach procedure
- to advise about training and CPD for the UK GDPR

18.2 The Trust has appointed Mr J Walker as Data Protection Officer.

Address:

6 Delamore Park, Cornwood, Ivybridge, PL21 9QP

E mail: info@phplaw.co.uk

19 Physical Security

19.1 As a trust we are obliged to have appropriate security measures in place.

19.2 Every secure area in the Trust/academy buildings has individuals who are responsible for ensuring that the space is securely maintained and controlled if unoccupied, i.e. locked. Offices and cupboards that contain personal data should be secured if the processor is not present.

19.3 All Staff, contractors and third parties who have control over lockable areas must take due care to prevent data breaches.

19.4 All sites and locations need to have suitable the security and review measures in place.

20 Secure Disposal

20.1 21.1 When disposal of items is necessary a suitable process must be used. This is to secure the data, to provide a process that does not enable data to be shared in error, by malicious or criminal intent.

20.2 21.2 These processes, when undertaken by a third party are subject to contractual conditions to ensure UK GDPR and DPA compliance.

21 Complaints & the Information Commissioner Office (ICO)

21.1 The Trust Complaint Policy deals with complaints about Data protection issues.

21.2 There is a right to complain if you feel that data has been shared without consent or lawful authority.

21.3 You can complain if you have asked to us to erase, rectify, not process data and we

have not agreed to your request.

21.4 We will always try to resolve issues on an informal basis, and then through our formal complaints procedure. Please complete the form, and we will contact you with more details about the timescale and process.

21.5 In the UK it is the ICO who has responsibility for safeguarding and enforcing the

DPA obligations.

Email: casework@ico.org.uk Helpline: 0303 123 1113 web: www.ico.org.uk

22 Review

A review of the effectiveness of UK GDPR compliance and processes will be conducted by the Data Protection Officer every 2 years from date of this policy