North Wolds Federation
March 2026

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

FOR USE BY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the Market Rasen C of E Primary School Church School Vision. Ensuring the federation consistently follows the data protection guidance will underpin many aspects of the vision including “working with our local community” and “care for and educate each person.”

1. Introduction

1.1. North Wolds Federation collects and uses personal information about staff, pupils, parents and other individuals who come into contact with the school. This information is processed in order to enable the School to provide education and other associated functions. In addition, there may be a legal requirement for the School to process personal information to ensure that it complies with statutory obligations.

1.2. Schools have a duty, as Data Controllers, to keep detailed records of data processing activities and the records shall contain:-

- Name and details of the organisation (and where applicable, of other controllers, any representative and data protection officer)
- Purposes of the processing
- Description of the categories of individuals and categories of personal data.
- Categories of recipients of personal data
- Details of transfers to third countries including documentation of the transfer mechanism safeguards in place
- Retention schedules
- Description of technical and organisational security measures

These records must be made available to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) upon request. The School will, on an annual basis, provide its registrable particulars and pays the data protection fee to the ICO.

2. Purpose

2.1. This policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with correctly and securely and in accordance with the GDPR and DPA and other related legislation. It will apply to personal information regardless of the way it is collected, used, recorded, stored and destroyed and irrespective of whether it is held in paper files or electronically.

2.2. All staff involved with the collection, processing and disclosure of personal data will be aware of their duties and responsibilities by adhering to these guidelines and shall attend regular training to ensure compliance with their responsibilities.

3. Key principles

3.1 Personal information or data is defined as any information relating to an identifiable person who can be directly or indirectly identified by reference to an identifier held by the school.

3.1.1 Data Protection Principles – there are six enforceable principles contained in Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulations. They are key to compliance and the School must endeavour to ensure that they are adhered to at all times. The responsibility for adherence to the principles is the responsibilities of all School staff.

3.1.2 Principle 1 – Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.

3.1.3 Principle 2 – Personal data shall be collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.

3.1.4 Principle 3 – Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary.

3.1.5 Principle 4 – Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date. Steps must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate are erased or rectified without delay.

3.1.6 Principle 5 - Personal data shall be kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.

3.1.7 Principle 6 - Personal data shall be processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage

3.2 To ensure compliance with the above principles the School will:

(a) Produce an information asset register that contains details of the records it holds.

(b) Inform individuals why the information is being collected at the point it is collected by way of privacy notices.

(c) Inform individuals when their information is shared, and why and with whom it will be shared.

(d) Check the quality and the accuracy of the information it holds.

(e) Ensure that information is not retained for longer than is necessary.

(f) Ensure that when obsolete information is destroyed and it is done so appropriately and securely.

(g) Create, maintain and publish a Disposal and Retention Schedule setting out retention and disposal dates for common data sets and other information.

(h) Ensure that clear and robust safeguards are in place to protect personal information from loss, theft and unauthorised disclosure, irrespective of the format in which it is recorded.

(i) Share information with others only when it is fair and lawful to do so and satisfies the lawful basis for processing that information.

(j) Share personal data with other organisations for the purpose of crime prevention and/or detection, or for the purpose of legal proceedings, provided that the disclosure falls within an exemption to the non-disclosure provisions contained within the Data Protection Act 1998 or any subsequent legislation.

(k) Disclose personal data where required to do so by law for example, following receipt of a court order.

(l) Set out procedures to ensure compliance with the duty to respond to an individual's rights to:

- request access to personal information, known as Subject Access Requests.
- be informed about the way their data is used;
- have inaccurate personal data rectified;
- have their personal data erased;
- restrict the processing of their personal data; and
- object to the processing of their personal data.

(m) Ensure our staff are appropriately and regularly trained and aware of and understand our policies and procedures.

(n) Create and maintain a data breach notification spreadsheet to record data breaches and also circumstances where a breach was narrowly avoided.

4. Data Protection Officer (DPO)

4.1 The Data Protection Officer – our DPO is Judy Carter and she can be contacted at dpo@marketrasen.lincs.sch.uk

4.2 The DPO cannot hold a position that requires them to determine the purpose and means of processing personal data, for example, the Head Teacher, head of human resources, or head of information technology.

5. Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA)

5.1 The School must carry out a DPIA when processing is likely to result in **high risk** to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

5.2 The GDPR does not define high risk but guidance highlights a number of factors that are likely to trigger the need for a DPIA, which include the use of new technologies, processing on a large scale, systematic monitoring, processing of special categories of personal data.

6. Privacy Notices

6.1 The School publishes a privacy notice on its website which provides information about how and why the school gathers and uses images and shares personal data.

6.2 The privacy notice under the GDPR should include:

- Who you are and how they can contact you;
- The personal data you are collecting & why you are collecting it;
- Where you get the personal data from & who you are sharing it with;
- How long the data will be held for;
- Transfers to third countries and safeguards;
- Description of the data subjects individual rights;
- The data subjects right to withdraw consent for the processing of their data; and
- How individuals can complain.

6.3 The privacy notice will be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure it reflects current processing.

6.4 The privacy notice will be amended to reflect any changes to the way the School processes personal data.

6.5 Whilst the School will publish an overarching privacy notice it l will also issue a privacy notice to all parents and pupils, before, or as soon as possible after, any personal data relating to them is obtained. This may simply be an explanation why the information is being requested and the purpose for which it will be used.

6.6 The privacy notice will include details of how the School uses CCTV, whether it intends to use biometric data and how consent will be requested to do this and include details of the School's policy regarding photographs and electronic images of pupils.

7 Photographs and Electronic Images

8.1 The School has developed a policy (see photograph policy) in relation to the use of photographs/videos that contain images of pupils. The policy provides the School's position regarding parents photographing and filming pupils at school events and the use of images of pupils by the School in any School publicity material, its website, in newspapers and in outside agency publications.

9 Requests for Access to Personal Data

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10.1 This section sets out the process that will be followed by the school when responding to requests for access to personal data made by the pupil or their parent or carer with Parental Responsibility.

10.2 There are two distinct rights of access to information held by schools about pupils, parents/carer and staff:

(a) Pupils have a right to make a request under the GDPR to access the personal information held about them.

(b) Pupils and parents or those with Parental Responsibility have a right to access the educational records. The right of those entitled to have access to curricular and educational records as defined within the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005.

10.3 Handling a subject access request for access to personal data:

10.3.1 Article 15 of the GDPR gives individuals the right to access personal data relating to them, processed by a data controller. The right can be exercised by a person with Parental Responsibility on behalf of their child dependent on the age and the understanding of the child. For the purposes of a subject access request the school will apply the full legal definition of 'Parental Responsibility' when determining who can access a child's personal data.

10.3.2 Requests for information must be made in writing; which can include e-mail, and be addressed to the Head Teacher or the Chair of Governors. If the original request does not clearly identify the information required, then the School will seek further enquiries to clarify what information is being requested.

10.3.3 The identity of the requestor must be established before the disclosure of any information is made. Proof of the relationship with the child (if not known) must also be established as this will verify whether the individual making the request can lawfully exercise that right on behalf of the child. Below are some examples of documents which can be used to establish identity:

- Passport
- Driving licence
- Utility bill with current address
- Birth/marriage certificate
- P45/P60
- Credit card or mortgage statement.

10.3.4 It is widely accepted that children of primary school age do not have the maturity to understand and exercise their own rights and as such it is acceptable for those with Parental Responsibility to exercise these rights on their child's behalf. However, each request will be considered on its own merits and the circumstances surrounding the request and the child. A child with competency to understand can refuse to consent to a request for their personal information made under the GDPR. This position differs when the request is for access to the Education Record of the child (see below for more detail).

10.3.5 No charge can be made for access to personal data that is not contained within an education record.

10.3.6 The response time for a subject access request is one month from the date of the request (irrespective of school holiday periods). The one month period will not commence until any necessary clarification of information is sought. The time to respond can be extended to two months where the request is complex or numerous.

10.3.7 There are some exemptions available under the Data Protection Act which will mean that occasionally personal data will need to be redacted (information blacked out/removed) or withheld from the disclosure. All information will be reviewed prior to disclosure to ensure that the intended disclosure complies with the School's legal obligations.

10.3.8 Where the personal data also relates to another individual who can be identified from the information, the information will be redacted to remove the information that identifies the third party. If it is not possible to separate the information relating to the third party from the information relating to the subject of the request, consideration will be given to withholding the information from disclosure. These considerations can be complex and additional advice will be sought when necessary.

10.3.9 Any information which may cause serious harm to the physical or mental health or emotional condition of the pupil or another person will be withheld along with any information that would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, or information relating to Court Proceedings.

10.3.10 Where redaction has taken place then a full copy of the information provided will be retained in order to maintain a record of what was redacted and why and a clear explanation of any redactions will be provided in the School's response to the request.

10.3.11 If there are concerns about the disclosure of information additional advice will be sought.

10.4 Handling a request for access to a curricular and educational record as defined within the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005.

10.4.1 A parent may make a request to access information contained within their child's education record, regardless of whether the child agrees to the disclosure of information to them. The right of access belongs to the parent in these cases. It is not a right being exercised by the parent on behalf of the child.

10.4.2 For the purpose of responding to an Educational Records request, the School will apply the definition of 'parent' contained within the Education Act 1996.

10.4.3 An "educational record" means any record of information which-

a. Is processed by or on behalf of the governing body of, or a teacher at, any school maintained by a local education authority and any special school which is not so maintained.
b. Relates to any person who is or has been a pupil at any such school; and
c. Originated from or was supplied by or on behalf of the persons specified in paragraph (a), other than information which is processed by a teacher solely for the teacher's own use

10.4.4 The amount that can be charged for a copy of information contained in an education record will depend upon the number of pages provided. The charge made will be in accordance with the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005.

10.4.5 No charge will be made to view the education record.

10.4.6 The response time for requests made under the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 is 15 school days (this does not include half terms or teacher training days).

10.4.7 An exemption from the obligation to comply with the request will be claimed where the disclosure of the information to the parent may cause serious harm to the physical or mental or emotional condition of the pupil or another person or if the disclosure of the information would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse.

10.4.8 If a subject access request is made for information containing in whole or in part a pupils educational record a response must be provided within 15 school days

11. Retention and Disposal of personal data

11.1 The Governing Body of the School will ensure that the School has a up to date and accurate retention and disposal schedule that is compliant with the GDPR. The School will ensure that personal data is stored, transferred and disposed of securely and in accordance with the retention and disposal schedule.

12. Security of personal data

12.1 The School will ensure that appropriate security measures are in place and enforced to keep paper and electronic personal data secure.

12.2 The School will regularly review the physical security of the School buildings and storage systems.

12.3 The School will ensure that only authorised individuals have access to personal data.

12.4 All portable electronic devices containing personal data will be encrypted.

12.5 No personal data will be left unattended in any vehicles and staff will ensure that if it is necessary to take personal data from School premises, for example to complete work from home, the data is suitably secured.

12.6 The School will refer to any relevant guidance and seek advice where necessary if processing personal data utilising a cloud based solution.

13. Complaints

13.1 Complaints relating to the School's compliance with the GDPR will be dealt with in accordance with the school's complaint policy.

13.2 Complaints relating to access to personal information or access to education records should be made to Mike Eckersley, (our data protection officer, who can be contacted through the school offices) who will decide whether it is appropriate for the complaint to be dealt with through the School's complaints procedure. Complaints which are not appropriate to be dealt with through the school's complaints procedure can be referred to the Information Commissioner. Details of how to make a complaint to the ICO will be provided with the response letter. [Reference to the ICO should only usually be made where the Schools internal complainants process has been exhausted]

13.3. Complaints relating to information handling may be referred to the Information Commissioner's Office (the statutory regulator). Contact details can be found on their website at www.ico.org.uk or telephone 01625 5457453

14. Review

14.1 This policy will be reviewed as it is deemed appropriate, but no less frequently than every 12 months. The policy review will be undertaken by the Head teacher or nominated representative.

15. Contacts

15.1 If you have any enquiries in relation to this policy, please contact the headteacher.

15.2 Further advice and information is available from the Information Commissioner's Office at www.ico.org.uk or telephone 01625 5457453