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Introduction

This Retention Schedule attempts to identify processes which our records support, rather than identifying individual types of records. This is for two reasons:

* To make the retention period apply to all records independent of any format, i.e. the same rules apply to a paper file, an e-mail or another electronic document
* To allow flexibility in developing the schedule to cover new processes and amend existing ones over time.

The Schedule is intended to cover the lifecycle of records and information from creation through to destruction or permanent preservation.

Records intended for destruction under the Schedule may be destroyed in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule. Backup copies stored on alternative media (server/microfilm/paper) should also be destroyed. This is vital to ensure compliance with the requirements of Data Protection law and Freedom of Information legislation.

Records for permanent preservation should be passed to the County’s Record Office or other approved place of deposit

Limitation of Scope

Very few types of records have specified time periods for retention in law or in official government guidance. Where such advice exists, it is included in this Schedule. Where advice does not exist, it is up to us to decide how long we wish to retain records. This Schedule gathers retention criteria from a comprehensive best practice review of a wide range of organisations across the country.

Objectives of the Retention Guidelines

The aims of the Guideline are to:

* Prevent the premature destruction of records that need to be retained for a specified period to satisfy legal, financial and other requirements of public administration
* Provide consistency for the destruction of those records not required permanently after specified periods in order to reduce the costs of unnecessary storage
* Promote improved Records Management practices within the school which gives the public confidence that when information is destroyed it is done so according to well-considered rules.
* Assist in identifying records that may be worth preserving permanently as part of the authority’s archives

Transfer of Records to a Record Office

Records identified in this schedule as ‘permanent’ are marked ‘offer to County Archives Service”. The Archivist may choose to select a sample of the records for permanent preservation in the County Archives; the remainder should be destroyed as specified in the Schedule. The sample may be random, selective or purposeful.

‘Offer to Archivist for review’ is used to indicate record classes where the Archivist will not usually be interested in retaining the class of records but may wish to retain where there is a public interest in doing so.

Records no longer required for administrative use may still retain sensitive information. The Archivist should be informed of sensitivity at the time of transfer of the material to the archives, and an appropriate closure period agreed. The closure period should comply with Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation and any internal policy.

Data Protection law provides an exemption for information about identifiable living individuals that is held for research, statistical or historical purposes to be held indefinitely; provided specific requirements are met. It is the responsibility of the Archivist to ensure that further processing of personal data is lawful.

Destruction of Records

Whenever there is the possibility of litigation, the records and information that are likely to be affected should not be amended or disposed of until the threat of litigation has been removed.

Records that are currently (or known to be in the future) the subject of a Freedom of Information, Data Protection, Environmental Information Regulations etc. official request or appeal, must not be destroyed until that request or appeal has been completed. To knowingly destroy a record when it is subject to a request/ complaint is an offence.

Secure disposal should be taken to mean disposal using confidential waste bins disposed of by registered confidential waste operators or by other secure means; or shredded using a cross cut shredder.

General and Miscellaneous records

There are some records that do not need to be kept at all that staff may routinely destroy in the normal course of business. However, the retention schedule must still contain reference and instructions referring to them.

This usually applies to information that is duplicated, unimportant or only of short-term value. Unimportant records or information include:

* ‘With compliments’ slips
* Catalogues and trade journals
* Telephone message slips
* Non-acceptance of invitations
* Trivial email messages or notes that are not related to our business
* Requests for stock information such as maps, plans or advertising material
* Out-of-date distribution lists
* Working papers which lead to a final report

Duplicated and superseded material such as manuals, drafts, forms, address books and reference copies of annual reports may be destroyed under this rule. Electronic copies of documents where a hard copy has been printed and filed, and paper faxes after making and filing a photocopy, are also covered.

Reviewing the Schedule

The schedule will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure that we are complying with the latest legal advice. These changes will be reflected as soon as possible. Changes will be highlighted so that employees can keep track and modify their practices accordingly. The Schedule will be subject to the timetable for general review of all Information Governance policies.

Explanation of Retention Guideline Headings

**REF (Reference Number)**

Each identified function or entry has a unique reference number. This number can be applied to records when archiving to ensure that the correct retention period is applied.

**Title**

The Schedule provides a description of a process or an activity that the records support.

**Data Protection Issues**

Explains whether the records are likely to contain personal data.

**Statutory Provisions**

Details of any legislation, statutory instrument (SI) or other regulatory guidance which provide direction in how long a record should be retained

**Retention Period**

This field shows the length of time for which a record should be kept. This period (usually in years) can be applied from the date a record is created, when a record is closed or tied into another specified activity such as a date of birth.

**Action to be taken**

This field details any action that should be taken once a retention period has expired, the level of secure destruction and will also specify whether a type of record should be transferred to the County Record Office for permanent preservation.

# The Schedule

1. Management of the School

1.1 Governing Body

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 1.1.1 | Agendas for Governing Body /Trustees meetings | There may be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff | (For Academies only)  Companies Act 2006 section 248 | One copy should be retained with the master set of minutes. All other copies can be disposed of | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.2a | Minutes of Governing Body/ Trustees meetings: Principal Set (signed) | There may be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff | (For Academies only)  Companies Act 2006 section 248 | Permanent | If the school is unable to store these then they should be offered to the County Archives Service |
| 1.1.2b | Inspection Copies of Governing Body meetings: These are redacted versions retained specifically for any requests to access | No |  | Date of meeting + 3 years | If these minutes contain any sensitive, personal information they must be shredded |
| 1.1.3 | Reports presented to the Governing body | There may be data protection issues if the report deals with confidential issues relating to staff |  | Reports should be kept for a minimum of 6 years. However, if the minutes refer directly to individual reports then the reports should be kept permanently | Secure disposal or retain with the signed set of the minutes |
| 1.1.4 | Meeting papers relating to the annual parents’ meeting held under section 33 of the Education Act 2002 | No | Education Act 2002, Section 33 | Date of the meeting + a minimum of 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.5 | Instruments of Government including Articles of Association | No |  | Permanent | These should be retained in the school whilst the school is open and then offered to County Archives Service when the school closes. |
| 1.1.6 | Trusts and Endowments managed by the Governing Body | No |  | Permanent | These should be retained in the school whilst the school is open and then offered to County Archives Service when the school closes. |
| 1.1.7 | Action plans created and administered by the Governing Body | No |  | Life of the action plan + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.8 | Policy documents created and administered by the Governing Body | No |  | Life of the policy + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.9 | Records relating to complaints dealt with by the Governing Body | Yes |  | Date of the resolution of the complaint + a minimum of 6 years then review for further retention in case of contentious disputes | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.10 | Annual Reports created under the requirements of the Education (Governor's Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 | No | Education (Governor's Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 SI 2002 No 1171 | Date of report + 10 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.11 | Proposals concerning the change of status of a maintained school including Specialist Status Schools and Academies | No |  | Date proposal accepted or declined + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.12 | Governor File. Information which the school holds about a Governor including contact details, published details and consents for data use | Yes |  | Date of leaving the role + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.13 | Governing body ballot papers | Yes |  | 6 months (in case the election result is challenged) | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.14 | Records relating to the appointment of co-opted governors. | Yes |  | Provided the decision has been recorded in the minutes, the records relating to the appointment can be destroyed once the co-opted governor has finished their term of office (except where there have been allegations concerning children). In this case retain for 25 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.15 | Records relating to the election of parent and staff governors not appointed by the governors | Yes |  | Date of election plus 6 months | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.16 | Scheme of delegation and terms of reference for committees | No | (For academies only)  Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Until superseded or whilst relevant. (Schools may wish to retain these records for reference purposes in case decisions need to be justified) | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.17 | **(NOT LA maintained Schs)**  Memorandum of understanding of shared governance among schools | No | Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Life of the Memorandum of Understanding + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.18 | Directors - Appointment | Yes |  | Life of appointment + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.19 | Directors - disqualification | Yes | Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 | Date of disqualification + 15 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.20 | Annual reports | No | Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Date of report + 10 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.1.21 | **(NOT LA maintained Schs)**  Registers of directors, including interests, addresses, gifts, hospitality and entertainments, interests | Yes | Companies Act 2006 | Life of the Academy + 6 years | Secure disposal |

1.2 Management of the School

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 1.2.1 | Log books of activity in the school maintained by the Head Teacher | There may be data protection issues if the log book refers to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of last entry in the book + a minimum of 6 years then review | These could be of permanent historical value and should be offered to the County Archives Service if appropriate |
| 1.2.2 | Minutes of Senior Management Team meetings and the meetings of other internal administrative bodies | There may be data protection issues if the minutes refers to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of the meeting + 3 years then review | Secure disposal |
| 1.2.3 | Reports created by the Head Teacher or the Management Team | There may be data protection issues if the report refers to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of the report + a minimum of 3 years then review | Secure disposal |
| 1.2.4 | Records created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities | There may be data protection issues if the records refer to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Current academic year + 6 years then review | Secure disposal |
| 1.2.5 | Correspondence created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities | There may be data protection issues if the correspondence refers to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of correspondence + 3 years then review | Secure disposal |
| 1.2.6 | Professional Development Plans | Yes |  | Life of the plan + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 1.2.7 | School Development Plans | No |  | Life of the plan + 3 years | Secure disposal |

1.3 Admissions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 1.3.1 | All records relating to the creation and implementation of the School Admissions’ Policy | No | School Admissions Code (2021) | Life of the policy + 3 years then review | Secure disposal |
| 1.3.2 | Admissions – if the admission is successful | Yes | School Admissions Code (2021) | Date of admission + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 1.3.3 | Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful | Yes | School Admissions Code (2021) | Resolution of case + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 1.3.4 | Register of Admissions | Yes | Working Together to Improve School Attendance and  School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 | Every entry in the admission register must be preserved for a period of 6 years after the date on which the entry was made. | **Review**. Schools may wish to consider keeping the admission register permanently as often schools receive enquiries from past pupils to confirm the dates they attended the school. |
| 1.3.5 | Admissions – Secondary Schools – Casual | Yes |  | Current year + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 1.3.6 | Proof of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process | Yes | School Admissions Code (2021) | Current year + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 1.3.7a | Supplementary Information form including additional information such as religion, medical conditions etc: For successful admissions | Yes |  | This information should be added to the pupil file | Secure disposal |
| 1.3.7b | Supplementary Information form including additional information such as religion, medical conditions etc: For unsuccessful admissions | Yes |  | Until appeals process completed | Secure disposal |
| 1.3.8 | Photographs of parents/ guardians in order to verify identify for collecting children from school | Yes |  | Associated with a Pupil Record | Secure disposal |

1.4 Operational Administration

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 1.4.1 | General file series | No |  | Current year + 5 years then REVIEW | Secure disposal |
| 1.4.2 | Records relating to the creation and publication of the school brochure or prospectus | No |  | Current year + 3 years | Standard disposal |
| 1.4.3 | Records relating to the creation and distribution of circulars to staff, parents or pupils | No |  | Current year + 1 year | Standard disposal |
| 1.4.4 | Newsletters and other items with a short operational use | No |  | Current year + 1 year | Standard disposal |
| 1.4.5 | Visitors’ Books and Signing in Sheets, including electronic visitor systems | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years then REVIEW | Secure disposal |
| 1.4.6 | Records relating to the creation and management of Parent Teacher Associations and/or Old Pupils Associations | No |  | Current year + 6 years then REVIEW | Secure disposal |

1. Human Resources

2.1 Recruitment

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 2.1.1 | All records leading up to the appointment of a new headteacher | Yes |  | Date of appointment + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.1.2 | Unsuccessful candidates - all records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff | Yes |  | Six months from interview  Any copies of documents for ID, qualifications and right to work from shortlisted applicants must be destroyed immediately following recruitment decision. | Secure disposal |
| 2.1.3 | Successful candidates - all records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff | Yes |  | All the relevant information should be added to the staff personal file (see below) and all other information retained for 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 2.1.4 | Pre-employment vetting information – DBS Checks | No | DBS Update Service Employer Guide (September 2018): Keeping children safe in education (2020) | The school does not have to keep copies of DBS certificates. If the school does so the copy must NOT be retained for more than 6 months | Secure disposal |
| 2.1.5 | Proofs of identity collected as part of the process of checking “portable” enhanced DBS disclosure | Yes |  | Where possible these should be checked, and a note kept of what was seen and what has been checked. If it is felt necessary to keep copy documentation then this should be placed on the member of staff’s personal file | Secure disposal |
| 2.1.6 | Pre-employment vetting information – Evidence proving the right to work in the United Kingdom | Yes | An employer’s guide to right to work checks (Home Office March 2021) | Where possible these documents should be added to the Staff Personal File [see below], but if they are kept separately then the Home Office requires that the documents are kept for termination of Employment plus not less than two years | Secure disposal |
| 2.1.7 | Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA) for non-contracted workers and volunteers | Yes | No | Review for destruction one year after the last date the individual worked on behalf of the school |  |
| 2.1.8 | SD2 form | Yes | No | Keep until the DBS has been received and then remove and destroy | Until destroyed, this form should be held in a sealed envelope if it contains a positive disclosure. Then secure disposal |
| 2.1.9 | Work experience documentation | No | No | Review for destruction one year after the last date the individual worked on behalf of the school |  |

2.2 Staff Management

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 2.2.1 | Staff Personal File | Yes | Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2) | Termination of Employment + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.2.2 | Timesheets | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.2.3 | Annual appraisal/ assessment records | Yes |  | Current year + 5 years | Secure disposal |

2.3 Disciplinary & Grievance Process

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 2.3.1 | Allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff including where the allegation is unfounded | Yes | Keeping children safe in education (2020); Working together to safeguard children (2018). | Until the person’s normal retirement age or 10 years from the date of the allegation whichever is the longer then REVIEW. Note allegations that are found to be malicious should be removed from personnel files. If found they are to be kept on the file and a copy provided to the person concerned | Secure disposal.  These records must be shredded |
| 2.3.2a | Disciplinary Proceedings oral warning | Yes |  | Date of warning6 + 6 months | Secure disposal. [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file] |
| 2.3.2b | Disciplinary Proceedings written warning – level 1 | Yes |  | Date of warning + 6 months | Secure disposal. [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file] |
| 2.3.2c | Disciplinary Proceedings written warning – level 2 | Yes |  | Date of warning + 12 months | Secure disposal. [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file] |
| 2.3.2d | Disciplinary Proceedings final warning | Yes |  | Date of warning + 18 months | Secure disposal. [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file] |
| 2.3.2e | Disciplinary Proceedings case not found | Yes |  | If the incident is child protection related then see above otherwise dispose of at the conclusion of the case | Secure disposal. [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file] |

2.4 Health & Safety

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 2.4.1 | Health and Safety Policy Statements | No |  | Life of policy + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.2 | Health and Safety Risk Assessments | No |  | Life of risk assessment + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.3 | Records relating to accident/ injury at work | Yes |  | Date of incident + 12 years in the case of serious accidents a further retention period will need to be applied | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.4a | Accident Reporting Adults | Yes | Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979 Regulation 25. Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 8. Limitation Act 1980 | Date of the incident + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.4b | Accident Reporting Children | Yes | Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979 Regulation 25. Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 8. Limitation Act 1980 | DOB of the child + 25 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.5 | Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) | No | Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. SI 2002 No 2677 Regulation 11; Records kept under the 1994 and 1999 Regulations to be kept as if the 2002 Regulations had not been made. Regulation 18 (2) | Current year + 40 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.6 | Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with asbestos | No | Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2012 SI 1012 No 632 Regulation 19 | Last action + 40 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.7 | Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with radiation | No |  | Last action + 50 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.8 | Fire Precautions log books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.4.9 | Fire risk assessments | No | Fire service order 2005 | Life of the risk assessment + 6 years | Secure disposal |

2.5 Payroll & Pensions

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 2.5.1 | Maternity pay records | Yes | Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI1986/1960), revised 1999 (SI1999/567) | Current year + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.5.2 | Records held under Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995 | Yes | Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995 | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 2.5.3 | Pension documentation (Copies of all Opt-in and Opt-out forms and any correspondence in relation to pension) | Yes | Pension legislation | Held on personal file  End of employment + 15 years | Secure disposal |

1. Financial management of the School

3.1 Risk Management & Insurance

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 3.1.1 | Employer’s Liability Insurance Certificate | No |  | Closure of the school + 40 years | Secure disposal |

3.2 Asset Management

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 3.2.1 | Inventories of furniture and equipment | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.2.2 | Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |

3.3 Accounts & Statements

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 3.3.1 | Annual Accounts | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Standard disposal |
| 3.3.2 | Loans and grants managed by the school | No |  | Date of last payment on the loan + 12 years then REVIEW | Secure disposal |
| 3.3.3 | Student Grant applications | Yes |  | Current year + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.3.4 | All records relating to the creation and management of budgets including the Annual Budget statement and background papers | No |  | Life of the budget + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.3.5 | Invoices, receipts, order books and requisitions, delivery notices | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.3.6 | Records relating to the collection and banking of monies | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.3.7 | Records relating to the identification and collection of debt | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | Secure disposal |

3.4 Contracts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 3.4.1 | All records relating to the management of contracts under seal | No | Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2) | Last payment on the contract + 12 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.4.2 | All records relating to the management of contracts under signature | No | Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2) | Last payment on the contract + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.4.3 | Records relating to the monitoring of contracts | No |  | Current year + 2 years | Secure disposal |

3.5 School Funds

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 3.5.1 | School Fund - Cheque books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.5.2 | School Fund - Paying in books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.5.3 | School Fund – Ledger | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.5.4 | School Fund – Invoices | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.5.5 | School Fund – Receipts | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.5.6 | School Fund - Bank statements | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.5.7 | School Fund – Journey Books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |

3.6 School Meals

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 3.6.1 | Free School Meals Registers | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.6.2 | School Meals Registers | Yes |  | Current year + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 3.6.3 | School Meals Summary Sheets | No |  | Current year + 3 years | Secure disposal |

1. Property Management

4.1 Property Management

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 4.1.1 | Title deeds of properties belonging to the school | No |  | PERMANENT | These should follow the property unless the property has been registered with the Land Registry |
| 4.1.2 | Plans of property belong to the school | No |  | These should be retained whilst the building belongs to the school and should be passed onto any new owners if the building is leased or sold. |  |
| 4.1.3 | Leases of property leased by or to the school | No |  | Expiry of lease + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 4.1.4 | Records relating to the letting of school premises | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 4.1.5 | CCTV Register. List of CCTV cameras, locations and review outcomes. | No |  | The year which for which the register is current + 1 year |  |
| 4.1.6 | CCTV Recordings: Routine automatic recording | Yes |  | Recordings are overwritten after 30 days |  |
| 4.1.7 | CCTV Recordings for Investigations. Extracts from recordings to support investigations | Yes |  | Retention depends on the type of investigation and who is the investigating body. If it for an external body, the recording can be deleted once a copy is transferred. If it is the organisation’s investigation, then it should be retained for the same retention period as the investigation records | Secure disposal |
| 4.1.8 | CCTV access requests. Records of requests received for copies of CCTV recordings | Yes |  | Retain for the year to which they relate + 1 year | Secure disposal |

4.2 Maintenance

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 4.2.1 | All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by contractors | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 4.2.2 | All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by school employees including maintenance log books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |

1. Pupil Management

5.1 Educational Record

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 5.1.1a | Pupil’s Educational Record: Primary | Yes | The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 SI 2005 No. 1437 | Retain whilst the child remains at the primary school + 3 years after leave date | The file should follow the pupil when he/she leaves the primary school. This will include: • to another primary school • to a secondary school • to a pupil referral unit  If the pupil dies whilst at primary school the file should be retained for the statutory retention period.  If the pupil transfers to an independent school, transfers to home schooling or leaves the country the file should be retained for the statutory retention period. |
| 5.1.1b | Pupil’s Educational Record: Secondary |  | Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2) | Date of Birth of the pupil + 25 years | Secure disposal |
| 5.1.2a | Examination Results – Pupil Copies: Public | Yes |  | This information should be added to the pupil file | All uncollected certificates should be placed in the archived pupil record, after reasonable attempts to contact the pupil have failed. They should then be destroyed in line 5.1.1b |
| 5.1.2b | Examination Results – Pupil Copies: Internal |  |  | This information should be added to the pupil file |  |
| 5.1.3 | Child Protection information held on pupil file | Yes | Keeping children safe in education (2022)**;** Working together to safeguard children(2018). | If any records relating to child protection issues are placed on the pupil file, it should be in a sealed envelope and then retained for the same period of time as the pupil file. However, if there is an allegation of sexual abuse, the record should be kept indefinitely | Secure disposal – these records **must** be shredded |
| 5.1.4a | Child protection information held in separate files – **Primary School** | Yes | Keeping children safe in education (2022)**;** Working together to safeguard children(2018). | Retain whilst the child remains at the primary school | The file should follow the pupil when he/she leaves the primary school. This will include: • to another primary school • to a secondary school • to a pupil referral unit  If the pupil dies whilst at primary school the file should be retained for the statutory retention period.  If the pupil transfers to an independent school, transfers to home schooling or leaves the country the file should be retained for the statutory retention period. |
| 5.1.4b | Child protection information held in separate files – **Secondary School** | Yes | Keeping children safe in education (2022)**;** Working together to safeguard children(2018). | DOB of the child + 25 years then review. This retention period was agreed in consultation with the Safeguarding Children Group on the understanding that the principal copy of this information will be found on the Local Authority Social Services record.  However, if there is an allegation of sexual abuse, the record should be kept indefinitely | Secure disposal – these records MUST be shredded |
| 5.1.5 | Attainment Assessments & Predictions | Yes |  | E.g. ‘Target Tracker’ data. Retain in line with the retention period for Child’s Pupil Record | Secure disposal |
| 5.1.6 | Set/Stream/Ability Grouping Records | Yes |  | Retain in line with the retention period for Child’s Pupil Record | Secure disposal |
| 5.1.7 | Photographs of pupils for Pupil Record | Yes |  | Retain in line with the retention period for Child’s Pupil Record | Secure disposal |
| 5.1.8 | Pupil file held on MIS | Yes |  | **Primary school**: Retain for 3 years after the child has left  **Secondary school**: Date of Birth of the pupil + 25 years | Secure deletion |

5.2 Attendance

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 5.2.1 | Attendance Registers | Yes | Working Together to Improve School Attendance and  School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 | Every entry in the attendance register must be preserved for a period of 6 years after the date on which the entry was made. | Secure disposal |
| 5.2.2 | Correspondence relating to authorised absence |  | Education Act 1996 Section 7 | Current academic year + 2 years | Secure disposal |

5.3 Special Educational Needs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 5.3.1a | Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans: **Primary school** | Yes | Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2) | Retain whilst the child remains at the primary school | The file should follow the pupil when he/she leaves the primary school |
| 5.3.1b | Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans: **Secondary School** | Yes | Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2) | Date of Birth of the pupil + 25 years | Review note: This retention period is the minimum retention period that any pupil file should be kept. Some authorities choose to keep SEN files for a longer period of time to defend themselves in a “failure to provide a sufficient education” case. There is an element of business risk analysis involved in any decision to keep the records longer than the minimum retention period and this should be documented. |
| 5.3.2 | Statement maintained under section 234 of the Education Act 1990 and any amendments made to the statement | Yes | Education Act 1996 Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1 | Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]  (If a primary school, the file should not be retained, but will follow the child to the next school) | Secure disposal unless the document is subject to a legal hold |
| 5.3.3 | Advice and information provided to parents regarding educational needs | Yes | Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 2 | Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]  (If a primary school, the file should not be retained, but will follow the child to the next school) | Secure disposal unless the document is subject to a legal hold |
| 5.3.4 | Accessibility Strategy | Yes | Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 14 | It is a legal requirement to hold a current strategy. Strategies must be retained until superseded. | Secure disposal when superseded unless the document is subject to a legal hold |

5.4 Other Pupil Records

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 5.4.1 | School Library Record | Yes |  | Retain for one year after the child has left the school | Secure disposal |
| 5.4.2 | Photo Books/ Files | Yes |  | If held separately from the Pupil Record, retain in line with the Pupil Record’s retention period | Secure disposal |
| 5.4.3 | Incident Logs (Records relating to instances of behaviour breaching school rules, e.g. bullying, racism etc, and records of exclusions if not held on Pupil Record) | Yes |  | Retain in line with the Pupil Record’s retention period, i.e. retain for date of birth +25 years of the youngest individual involved in an incident | Secure disposal |
| 5.4.4 | Medical Logs (Records of administering first aid or agreed regular medication) | Yes |  | If not added to the Pupil Record, record in year groups to support retention in line with the Pupil Record | Secure disposal |
| 5.4.5 | Emergency Parent/ Guardian Contact Lists | Yes |  | Record in year groups to support retention in line with the Pupil Record. | Secure disposal |

1. Curriculum Management

6.1 Statistics & Management Information

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 6.1.1 | Curriculum returns | No |  | Current year + 3 years | Secure disposal |
| 6.1.2a | Examination Results (Schools Copy) | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 6.1.2b | SATS records – Results | Yes |  | The SATS results should be recorded on the pupil’s educational file and will therefore be retained until the pupil reaches the age of 25 years. The school may wish to keep a composite record of all the whole year SATs results. These could be kept for current year + 6 years to allow suitable comparison | Secure disposal |
| 6.1.2c | SATS records – Examination Papers | Yes |  | The examination papers should be kept until any appeals/validation process is complete | Secure disposal |
| 6.1.3 | Published Admission Number (PAN) Reports | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 6.1.4 | Value Added and Contextual Data | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 6.1.5 | Self-Evaluation Forms | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |

6.2 Implementation of Curriculum

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 6.2.1 | Schemes of Work | No |  | Current year + 1 year | It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period or secure disposal |
| 6.2.2 | Timetable | No |  | Current year + 1 year | It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period or secure disposal |
| 6.2.3 | Class Record Books | No |  | Current year + 1 year | It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period or secure disposal |
| 6.2.4 | Mark Books | No |  | Current year + 1 year | It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period or secure disposal |
| 6.2.5 | Record of homework set | No |  | Current year + 1 year |  |
| 6.2.6 | Pupils’ Work | No |  | Where possible pupils’ work should be returned to the pupil at the end of the academic year if this is not the school’s policy then current year + 1 year | Secure disposal |

1. Extra-Curricular Activities

7.1 Educational Visits outside the Classroom

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 7.1.1 | Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom – Primary Schools | No | [Outdoor Education Advisers’ Panel National Guidance website http://oeapng.info specifically Section 3 - “Legal Framework and Employer Systems” and Section 4 - “Good Practice”.](http://oeapng.info/) | Date of visit + 14 years | Secure disposal |
| 7.1.2 | Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom – Secondary Schools | No | [Outdoor Education Advisers’ Panel National Guidance website http://oeapng.info specifically Section 3 - “Legal Framework and Employer Systems” and Section 4 - “Good Practice”.](http://oeapng.info/) | Date of visit + 10 years | Secure disposal |
| 7.1.3 | Parental consent forms for school trips where there has been no major incident | Yes |  | Conclusion of the trip | Although the consent forms could be retained for DOB + 22 years, the requirement for them being needed is low and most schools do not have the storage capacity to retain every  consent form issued by the school for this period of time. |
| 7.1.4 | Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been a major incident | Yes | Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2) | DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 25 years. The permission slips for all the pupils on the trip need to be retained to show that the rules. had been followed for all pupils | Secure disposal |

7.2 Walking Bus

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 7.2.1 | Walking Bus Registers | Yes |  | Date of register + 3 years. This takes into account the fact that if there is an incident requiring an accident report the register will be submitted with the accident report and kept for the period of time required for accident reporting | Secure disposal, [If these records are retained electronically any back-up copies should be destroyed at the same time] |

7.3 Family Liaison

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 7.3.1 | Day Books | Yes |  | Current year + 2 years then review |  |
| 7.3.2 | Reports for outside agencies - where the report has been included on the case file created by the outside agency | Yes |  | Whilst child is attending school and then destroy |  |
| 7.3.3 | Referral forms | Yes |  | While the referral is current |  |
| 7.3.4 | Contact data sheets | Yes |  | Current year then review. If contact is no longer active, then destroy |  |
| 7.3.5 | Contact database entries | Yes |  | Current year then review. If contact is no longer active, then destroy |  |
| 7.3.6 | Group Registers | Yes |  | Current year + 2 years |  |

1. Central Government & Local Authority

8.1 LEA

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 8.1.1 | Secondary Transfer Sheets (Primary) | Yes |  | Current year + 2 years | Secure disposal |
| 8.1.2 | Attendance Returns | Yes |  | Current year + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 8.1.3 | School Census Returns | No |  | Current year + 5 years | Secure disposal |
| 8.1.4 | Circulars and other information sent from the Local Authority | No |  | Operational use | Secure disposal |

8.2 Central Government

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 8.2.1 | OFSTED reports and papers | No |  | Life of the report then REVIEW | Secure disposal |
| 8.2.2 | Returns made to central government | No |  | Current year + 6 years | Secure disposal |
| 8.2.3 | Circulars and other information sent from central government | No |  | Operational use | Secure disposal |

1. Information Governance

9.1 Information Governance

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref. | Title | Data Protection Issues | Statutory Provisions | Retention Period | Action |
| 9.1.1 | Records of Processing Activity | No | UK General Data Protection Regulation 2016 | Ongoing record |  |
| 9.1.2 | Information Governance Report. Annual statement to Governing Body on compliance with Information law, including DPO statement, performance data and audit outcomes | No | UK General Data Protection Regulation 2016 | Current year + 5 years |  |
| 9.1.3 | Freedom of Information Requests | Yes | Freedom of Information Act 2000 | Closure + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 9.1.4 | Environmental Information Requests | Yes | The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 | Closure + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 9.1.5 | Subject Access Requests | Yes | Data Protection Act 2018 | Closure + 4 years | Secure disposal |
| 9.1.6 | ICO Complaints: No further action | Yes |  | Closure + 1 year | Secure disposal |
| 9.1.7 | ICO Complaints: Action required | Yes |  | Closure + 2 years | Secure disposal |