



Data Protection

Approved by: Trust Board

Last reviewed: July 2023

Next review due: July 2024

DATA PROTECTION

Scope

This policy is written and approved at board level, but applies to all members, trustees, governors and employees of schools, settings, and services, hereafter the 'organisations', within The Claxton Trust.

It has been created using model policies created by The Key and Herts for Learning, and has therefore been produced in consultation with external advisors and the professional associations/trade unions.

1. Aims

Our schools, settings and services aim to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) and the expected provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) as set out in the [Data Protection Bill](#).

This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the GDPR and the expected provisions of the DPA 2018. It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the [GDPR](#) and the ICO's [code of practice for subject access requests](#).

It meets the requirements of the [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) when referring to the use of biometric data.

It also reflects the ICO's [code of practice](#) for the use of surveillance cameras and personal information.

In addition, this policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Biometric Data	Personal data resulting from specific technical processing relating to the physical, physiological or behavioural characteristics of a natural person, which allow or confirm the unique identification of that natural person, such as facial images
Consent	Any freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes by which they, by a statement or by a clear affirmative action, signify agreement to the processing of personal data relating to themselves.
Data	Information which is stored electronically, on a computer, or in certain paper-based filing systems or other media such as CCTV.
Data Subjects	All living individuals about whom we hold personal data. A data subject need not be a UK national or resident. All data subjects have legal rights in relation to their personal data.
Data Controllers	The natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.

Data Users	Employees, volunteers, trustees [and governors] whose work involves using personal data. Data users have a duty to protect the information they handle by following our data protection and security policies at all times;
Data Processors	A natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which processes personal data on behalf of the data controller
Parent	As defined in the Education Act 1996 and includes any person having parental responsibility or care of a child
Personal Data	Any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.
Personal Data Breach	A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, Personal Data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed
Privacy by Design	Implementing appropriate technical and organisational measures in an effective manner to ensure compliance with the GDPR;
Processing	Any operation or set of operations which is performed on Personal Data or on sets of Personal Data, whether or not by automated means, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction
Sensitive Personal Data	Personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation

4. The data controller

The Claxton Trust is a multi-academy trust and is the data controller for all the personal data processed by its schools, settings and services. For a list of the organisations within the trust, please follow this link: www.claxtontrust.org.uk

The trust is registered as a data controller with the ICO and will renew this registration annually or as otherwise legally required.

5. Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to **all employees of the trust**, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf, including volunteers. Employees who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

5.1 Trust board

The trust board sets out the rules on data protection and the legal conditions that must be satisfied in relation to the obtaining, handling, processing, storage, transportation and destruction of personal information.

5.2 Local governing body

The local governing body has overall responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

5.3 Data protection officer

The data protection officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, monitoring our compliance with data protection law, and developing related policies and guidelines where applicable.

This post is held at trust level by **Robert Staples**: robert.staples@claxtontrust.org.uk

The DPO's name and contact details are published on the website of the individual school, setting or service within our trust, and the trust website.

The DPO will play a major role in embedding essential aspects of the GDPR into the trust's culture, from ensuring the data protection principles are respected to preserving data subject rights, recording data processing activities and ensuring the security of processing.

The DPO should be involved, in a timely manner, in all issues relating to the protection of personal data. To do this, the GDPR requires that DPOs are provided with the necessary support and resources to enable the DPO to effectively carry out their tasks. Factors that should be considered include the following:

- senior management support;
- time for DPOs to fulfil their duties;
- adequate financial resources, infrastructure (premises, facilities and equipment) and staff where appropriate;
- official communication of the designation of the DPO to make known existence and function within the organisation;
- access to other services, such as HR, IT and security, who should provide support to the DPO;
- continuous training so that DPOs can stay up to date with regard to data protection developments;
- where a DPO team is deemed necessary, a clear infrastructure detailing roles and responsibilities of each team member;
- whether the trust should give the DPO access to external legal advice to advise the DPO on their responsibilities under this data protection policy.

The DPO is responsible for ensuring that the trust's processing operations adequately safeguard personal data, in line with legal requirements. This means that the governance structure within the trust must ensure the independence of the DPO.

The trust will ensure that the DPO does not receive instructions in respect of the carrying out of their tasks, which means that the DPO must not be instructed how to deal with a matter, such as how to investigate a complaint or what result should be achieved. Further, the DPO should report directly to the highest management level, i.e. the board of directors.

The requirement that the DPO reports directly to the board of directors ensures that the trust's directors are made aware of the pertinent data protection issues. In the event that the trust decides to take a certain course of action despite the DPO's advice to the contrary, the DPO should be given the opportunity to make their dissenting opinion clear to the board of directors and to any other decision makers.

A DPO appointed internally by the trust is permitted to undertake other tasks and duties for the organisation, but these must not result in a conflict of interests with his or her role as DPO. It follows that any conflict of interests between the individual's role as DPO and other roles the individual may have within the organisation impinge on the DPO's ability to remain independent.

In order to avoid conflicts the DPO cannot hold another position within the organisation that involves determining the purposes and means of processing personal data. Senior management positions such as chief executive, chief financial officer, head of marketing, head of IT or head of human resources positions are likely to cause conflicts. Some other positions may involve determining the purposes and means of processing, which will rule them out as feasible roles for DPOs.

In the light of this and in the event that the trust decides to appoint an internal DPO, the trust will take the following action in order to avoid conflicts of interests:

- identify the positions incompatible with the function of DPO;
- draw up internal rules to this effect in order to avoid conflicts of interests which may include, for example, allocating some of the DPO's other duties to other members of staff, appointing a deputy DPO and / or obtaining advice from an external advisor if appropriate;
- include a more general explanation of conflicts of interests;
- declare that the DPO has no conflict of interests with regard to his or her function as a DPO, as a way of raising awareness of this requirement.
- Include safeguards in the internal rules of the organisation and ensure that the job specification for the position of DPO or the service contract is sufficiently precise and detailed to avoid conflicts of interest.
- External service providers will have different considerations over conflicts of interests, such as whether other advice provided to the organisation (for example, relating to the organisation's use of personal data) would affect their independence in the role of DPO.

If you consider that the policy has not been followed in respect of personal data about yourself or others you should raise the matter with the DPO.

The DPO will provide an annual report of their activities directly to the board of trustees and, where relevant, report to the board their advice and recommendations on school data protection issues.

5.2 Data protection lead

Each school, setting and service identifies a local data protection lead (DPL). This will usually be the headteacher or service manager. They are responsible for:

- overseeing the implementation of this policy and monitoring compliance at a local level
- maintaining a current understanding of latest data protection legislation, guidance and best practice
- ensuring all staff receive relevant training and support
- receiving reports of local data breaches and ensuring these are reported to the DPO
- acting as the representative of the data controller on a day-to-day basis.

5.4 All employees

Employees are responsible for:

- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy
- Informing the school of any changes to their personal data, such as a change of address
- Contacting the DPL in the following circumstances:
 - With any questions about the operation of this policy, data protection law, retaining personal data or keeping personal data secure
 - If they have any concerns that this policy is not being followed
 - If they are unsure if they have a lawful basis to use personal data for a specific purpose
 - If they need to rely on or capture consent, draft a privacy notice, deal with data protection rights invoked by an individual, or transfer personal data outside the European Economic Area
 - If there has been a data breach
 - Whenever they are engaging in a new activity that may affect the privacy rights of individuals
 - If they need help with any contracts or sharing personal data with third parties

6. Data protection principles

Anyone processing personal data must comply with the enforceable principles of good practice. These provide that personal data must be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals;
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes;
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;
- accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay;
- 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; personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals; and
- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

7. Collecting personal data

7.1 Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

We will only process personal data where we have one of 6 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **fulfil a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked the school to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- The data needs to be processed so that the school can **comply with a legal obligation**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual e.g. to protect someone's life
- The data needs to be processed so that the school, as a public authority, can perform a task **in the public interest**, and carry out its official functions
- The data needs to be processed for the **legitimate interests** of the school or a third party (provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden)
- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has freely given clear **consent**

If we offer online services to pupils under the age of 13, such as classroom apps, and we intend to rely on consent as a basis for processing, we will get parental consent (except for online counselling and preventive services).

Whenever we first collect personal data directly from individuals, we will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law.

7.2 Limitation, minimisation and accuracy

We will only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate reasons. We will explain these reasons to the individuals when we first collect their data.

If we want to use personal data for reasons other than those given when we first obtained it, we will inform the individuals concerned before we do so, and seek consent where necessary.

Employees must only process personal data where it is necessary to do their jobs.

When employees no longer need the personal data they hold, they must ensure it is deleted or anonymised. This will be done in accordance with the school's data retention procedure.

8. Sharing personal data

We will not normally share personal data with anyone else, but may do so where:

- There is an issue with a pupil or parent/carer that puts the safety of our employees at risk
- We need to liaise with other agencies – we will seek consent as necessary before doing this
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to our employees and pupils – for example, IT companies. When doing this, we will:
 - Only appoint suppliers or contractors which can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with data protection law
 - Establish a data sharing agreement with the supplier or contractor, either in the contract or as a standalone agreement, to ensure the fair and lawful processing of any personal data we share
 - Only share data that the supplier or contractor needs to carry out their service, and information necessary to keep them safe while working with us

We will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies where we are legally required to do so, including for:

- The prevention or detection of crime and/or fraud
- The apprehension or prosecution of offenders
- The assessment or collection of tax owed to HMRC
- In connection with legal proceedings
- Where the disclosure is required to satisfy our safeguarding obligations
- Research and statistical purposes, as long as personal data is sufficiently anonymised or consent has been provided

We may also share personal data with emergency services and local authorities to help them to respond to an emergency that affects any of our pupils or employees.

Where we transfer personal data to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, we will do so in accordance with data protection law.

9. Subject access requests and other rights of individuals

9.1 Subject access requests

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that the school holds about them. This includes:

- Confirmation that their personal data is being processed
- Access to a copy of the data
- The purposes of the data processing
- The categories of personal data concerned
- Who the data has been, or will be, shared with
- How long the data will be stored for, or if this isn't possible, the criteria used to determine this period

- The source of the data, if not the individual
- Whether any automated decision-making is being applied to their data, and what the significance and consequences of this might be for the individual

Subject access requests must be submitted in writing, either by letter, email or fax to the DPO. They should include:

- Name of individual
- Correspondence address
- Contact number and email address
- Details of the information requested

If employees receive a subject access request they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

9.2 Children and subject access requests

Personal data about a child belongs to that child, and not the child's parents or carers. For a parent or carer to make a subject access request with respect to their child, the child must either be unable to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request, or have given their consent.

Children below the age of 12 are generally not regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, subject access requests from parents or carers of pupils who are younger than 12 may be granted without the express permission of the pupil.

Children aged 12 and above are generally regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, subject access requests from parents or carers of pupils who are older than 12 may not be granted without the express permission of the pupil.

These are not rules and a pupil's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

9.3 Responding to subject access requests

When responding to requests, we:

- May ask the individual to provide 2 forms of identification
- May contact the individual via phone to confirm the request was made
- Will respond without delay and within 1 month of receipt of the request
- Will provide the information free of charge
- May tell the individual we will comply within 3 months of receipt of the request, where a request is complex or numerous. We will inform the individual of this within 1 month, and explain why the extension is necessary

We will not disclose information if it:

- Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual
- Would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child's best interests
- Is contained in adoption or parental order records
- Is given to a court in proceedings concerning the child

If the request is unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee which includes administrative costs.

A request will be deemed to be unfounded or excessive if it is repetitive, or asks for further copies of the same information.

When we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO.

9.4 Other data protection rights of the individual

In addition to the right to make a subject access request (see above), and to receive information when we are collecting their data about how we use and process it (see section 7), individuals also have the right to:

- Withdraw their consent to processing at any time
- Ask us to rectify, erase or restrict processing of their personal data, or object to the processing of it (in certain circumstances)
- Prevent use of their personal data for direct marketing
- Challenge processing which has been justified on the basis of public interest
- Request a copy of agreements under which their personal data is transferred outside of the European Economic Area
- Object to decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (decisions taken with no human involvement, that might negatively affect them)
- Prevent processing that is likely to cause damage or distress
- Be notified of a data breach in certain circumstances
- Make a complaint to the ICO
- Ask for their personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format (in certain circumstances)

Individuals should submit any request to exercise these rights to the DPO. If employees receive such a request, they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

10. Parental requests to see the educational record

As we operate within a multi-academy trust, there is no automatic parental right of access to the educational record in our schools, settings or services.

11. Biometric recognition systems

Where we use pupils' biometric data as part of an automated biometric recognition system (for example, pupils use finger prints to receive school dinners instead of paying with cash, we will comply with the requirements of the [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#).

Parents/carers will be notified before any biometric recognition system is put in place or before their child first takes part in it. The school will get written consent from at least one parent or carer before we take any biometric data from their child and first process it.

Parents/carers and pupils have the right to choose not to use the school's biometric system(s). We will provide alternative means of accessing the relevant services for those pupils. For example, pupils can pay for school dinners in cash at each transaction if they wish.

Parents/carers and pupils can object to participation in the school's biometric recognition system(s), or withdraw consent, at any time, and we will make sure that any relevant data already captured is deleted.

As required by law, if a pupil refuses to participate in, or continue to participate in, the processing of their biometric data, we will not process that data irrespective of any consent given by the pupil's parent(s)/carer(s).

Where employees or other adults use the school's biometric system(s), we will also obtain their consent before they first take part in it, and provide alternative means of accessing the relevant service if they object. Employees and other adults can also withdraw consent at any time, and the school will delete any relevant data already captured.

12. CCTV

CCTV may be used in various locations around the site to ensure it remains safe. We will adhere to the ICO's [code of practice](#) for the use of CCTV.

We do not need to ask individuals' permission to use CCTV, but we make it clear where individuals are being recorded. Security cameras are clearly visible and accompanied by prominent signs explaining that CCTV is in use.

Any enquiries about the CCTV system should be directed to the Data Protection Lead in each school, setting or service, whose name will be published on their website.

13. Photographs and videos

As part of our school activities, we may take photographs and record images of individuals within our school.

We will obtain written consent from parents/carers for photographs and videos to be taken of their child for communication, marketing and promotional materials. We will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carer and pupil.

We will obtain written consent from parents/carers, or pupils aged 18 and over, for photographs and videos to be taken of pupils for communication, marketing and promotional materials.

Where we need parental consent, we will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carer and pupil. Where we don't need parental consent, we will clearly explain to the pupil how the photograph and/or video will be used.

Uses may include:

- Within school on notice boards and in school magazines, brochures, newsletters, etc.
- Outside of school by external agencies such as the school photographer, newspapers, campaigns
- Online on our school website or social media pages

Consent can be refused or withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, we will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

When using photographs and videos in this way we will not accompany them with any other personal information about the child, to ensure they cannot be identified.

See our child protection, safeguarding and e-safety policies for more information on our use of photographs and videos.

14. Data protection by design and default

We will put measures in place to show that we have integrated data protection into all of our data processing activities, including:

- Appointing a suitably qualified DPO, and ensuring they have the necessary resources to fulfil their duties and maintain their expert knowledge
- Only processing personal data that is necessary for each specific purpose of processing, and always in line with the data protection principles set out in relevant data protection law (see section 6)
- Completing privacy impact assessments where the school's processing of personal data presents a high risk to rights and freedoms of individuals, and when introducing new technologies (the DPO will advise on this process)
- Integrating data protection into internal documents including this policy, any related policies and privacy notices
- Regularly training employees on data protection law, this policy, any related policies and any other data protection matters; we will also keep a record of attendance
- Regularly conducting reviews and audits to test our privacy measures and make sure we are compliant
- Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:
 - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of our school and DPO and all information we are required to share about how we use and process their personal data (via our privacy notices)

- For all personal data that we hold, maintaining an internal record of the type of data, data subject, how and why we are using the data, any third-party recipients, how and why we are storing the data, retention periods and how we are keeping the data secure

15. Data security and storage of records

We will protect personal data and keep it safe from unauthorised or unlawful access, alteration, processing or disclosure, and against accidental or unlawful loss, destruction or damage.

In particular:

- Paper-based records and portable electronic devices, such as laptops and hard drives that contain personal data are kept under lock and key when not in use
- Papers containing confidential personal data must not be left on office and classroom desks, on staffroom tables, pinned to notice/display boards, or left anywhere else where there is general access
- Where personal information needs to be taken off site, employees must sign it in and out from the school office
- Passwords that are at least 8 characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access school computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Employees and pupils are reminded to change their passwords at regular intervals
- Encryption software is used to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices
- Employees, pupils or governors who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for school-owned equipment (see our e-safety policy)
- Where we need to share personal data with a third party, we carry out due diligence and take reasonable steps to ensure it is stored securely and adequately protected (see section 8)

16. Disposal of records

Personal data that is no longer needed will be disposed of securely. Personal data that has become inaccurate or out of date will also be disposed of securely, where we cannot or do not need to rectify or update it.

For example, we will shred or incinerate paper-based records, and overwrite or delete electronic files. We may also use a third party to safely dispose of records on the school's behalf. If we do so, we will require the third party to provide sufficient guarantees that it complies with data protection law.

17. Personal data breaches

The school will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches.

In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, we will follow the procedure set out in appendix 1.

When appropriate, we will report the data breach to the ICO within 72 hours. Such breaches in a school context may include, but are not limited to:

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on the school website which shows the exam results of pupils eligible for the pupil premium
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person
- The theft of a school laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about pupils

18. Training

All employees, governors and trustees are provided with data protection training as part of their induction process.

Data protection will also form part of continuing professional development, where changes to legislation, guidance or the school's processes make it necessary.

19. Monitoring arrangements

The DPO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy, in liaison with the DPL in each school, setting and service.

This policy will be reviewed and updated if necessary when the Data Protection Bill receives royal assent and becomes law (as the Data Protection Act 2018) – if any changes are made to the bill that affect our school's practice. Otherwise, or from then on, this policy will be reviewed **every year** and shared with the full governing board.

20. Links with other policies

This data protection policy is linked to the following policies held at trust level:

- Capability
- Complaints Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Corporate Health & Safety
- Disciplinary
- Family Provisions
- Gifts & Hospitality
- Governor, Trustee & Member Allowances
- Grievance
- Harassment & Bullying
- Induction (MAT level)
- Pay & Performance Appraisal
- Procurement and Tendering
- Restrictive Physical Intervention
- Risk Management
- Redundancy & Restructuring
- Safer Recruitment & Selection
- Safeguarding
- Shared Parental Leave
- Whistleblowing