



Data Retention Policy

GUNNERSBURY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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| Approved by: | Full Governing Body | Date: 29/01/2026 |
| Last reviewed on: | Jan 2026 | |
| Next review due by: | March 2028 | |

DATA RETENTION POLICY

Gunnersbury Catholic School has a responsibility to maintain its records and record keeping systems. When doing this, the School will take account of the following factors:

- The most efficient and effective way of storing records and information;
- The confidential nature of the records and information stored;
- The security of the record systems used;
- Privacy and disclosure; and
- Accessibility of records and record keeping systems.

This policy does not form part of any employee's contract of employment and is not intended to have contractual effect. It does, however, reflect the School's current practice, the requirements of current legislation and best practice and guidance. It may be amended by the School from time to time and any changes will be notified to employees within one month of the date on which the change is intended to take effect. The School may also vary any parts of this procedure, including any time limits, as appropriate in any case.

DATA PROTECTION

This policy sets out how long employment-related and pupil data will normally be held by us and when that information will be confidentially destroyed in compliance with the terms of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Data will be stored and processed to allow for the efficient operation of the School. The School's Data Protection Policy outlines its duties and obligations under the UK GDPR.

RETENTION SCHEDULE

Information (hard copy and electronic) will be retained for at least the period specified in the attached retention schedule. When managing records, the School will adhere to the standard retention times listed within that schedule.

The retention schedule refers to all records regardless of the media (eg paper, electronic, microfilm, photographic etc) in/on which they are stored. All records will be regularly monitored.

Paper records will be regularly monitored by Business Manager.

Electronic records will be regularly monitored by Network Manager.

The schedule is a relatively lengthy document listing the many types of records used by the school and the applicable retention periods for each record type. The retention periods are based on business needs and legal requirements.

DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS

Where records have been identified for destruction they should be disposed of in an appropriate way. All information must be reviewed before destruction to determine whether there are special factors that mean destruction should be delayed, such as potential litigation, complaints or grievances.

All paper records containing personal information, or sensitive policy information should be shredded before disposal where possible. All other paper records should be disposed of by an appropriate waste paper merchant. All electronic information will be deleted.

The School maintains a database of records which have been destroyed and who authorised their destruction. When destroying documents, the appropriate staff member should record in this list the following: -

- File reference (or other unique identifier);
- File title/description;
- Number of files; and
- Name of the authorising officer.
- Date destroyed or deleted from system; and
- Person(s) who undertook destruction.

RETENTION OF SAFEGUARDING RECORDS

Any allegations made that are found to be malicious must not be part of the personnel records.

For any other allegations made, the School must keep a comprehensive summary of the allegation made, details of how the investigation was looked into and resolved and any decisions reached. This should be kept on the personnel files of the accused.

Any allegations made of sexual abuse should be preserved by the School for the term of an inquiry by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. All other records (for example, the personnel file of the accused) should be retained until the accused has reached normal pension age or for a period of 10 years from the date of the allegation if that is longer. In 2022 the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) concluded and published their final report, leaving a recommendation that records relating to child sexual abuse should be retained for a period of 75 years.

ARCHIVING

Where records have been identified as being worthy of preservation over the longer term, arrangements should be made to transfer the records to the archives. A database of the records sent to the archives is maintained by the Office Manager, Ms T Kennerson. The appropriate staff member, when archiving documents should record in this list the following information: -

- File reference (or other unique identifier);
- File title/description;
- Number of files; and
- Name of the authorising officer.

Files in our archive will be filed away with the destruction date as appropriate.

TRANSFERRING INFORMATION TO OTHER MEDIA

Where lengthy retention periods have been allocated to records, members of staff may wish to consider converting paper records to other media such as digital media or virtual storage centres (such as cloud storage). The lifespan of the media and the ability to migrate data where necessary should always be considered.

TRANSFERRING INFORMATION TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

If we are a pupil's final school of compulsory education, we will retain the pupil record for the full retention period as specified in this policy. However, if a pupil transfers to another school before completion of their compulsory education, the file should be sent to their next school. The responsibility for retention then shifts onto the next school. We retain the file for a year following transfer in case any issues arise as a result of the transfer.

We may delay destruction for a further period where there are special factors such as potential litigation.

RESPONSIBILITY AND MONITORING

The Business Manager has primary and day-to-day responsibility for implementing this Policy. The Data Protection Officer, in conjunction with the School is responsible for monitoring its use and effectiveness and dealing with any queries on its interpretation. The data protection officer will consider the suitability and adequacy of this policy and report improvements directly to management.

Internal control systems and procedures will be subject to regular audits to provide assurance that they are effective in creating, maintaining and removing records.

Management at all levels are responsible for ensuring those reporting to them are made aware of and understand this Policy and are given adequate and regular training on it.

EMAILS

Emails accounts are not a case management tool in itself. Generally emails may need to fall under different retention periods (for example, an email regarding a health and safety report will be subject to a different time frame to an email which forms part of a pupil record). It is important to note that the retention period will depend on the content of the email and it is important that staff file those emails in the relevant areas to avoid the data becoming lost. The recommended timeframe for email retention is 2-5 years.

PUPIL RECORDS

All Schools with the exception of independent schools, are under a duty to maintain a pupil record for each pupil. If a child changes schools, the responsibility for maintaining the pupil record moves to the next school.

RETENTION SCHEDULE

| FILE DESCRIPTION | RETENTION PERIOD |
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| Employment Records | |
| Job applications and interview records of unsuccessful candidates | Six months after notifying unsuccessful candidates, unless the school has applicants' consent to keep their CVs for future reference. In this case, application forms will give applicants the opportunity to object to their details being retained |
| Job applications and interview records of successful candidates | 6 years after employment ceases |
| Written particulars of employment, contracts of employment and changes to terms and conditions | 6 years after employment ceases |
| Right to work documentation including identification documents and immigration checks | 6 years after employment ceases |
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| DBS checks and disclosures of criminal records forms | As soon as practicable after the check has been completed and the outcome recorded (i.e. whether it is satisfactory or not) unless in exceptional circumstances (for example to allow for consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints) in which case, for no longer than 6 months. |
| Change of personal details notifications | No longer than 6 months after receiving this notification |
| Emergency contact details | Destroyed on termination |
| Personnel records | While employment continues and up to six years after employment ceases(Limitation Act 1980) |
| Annual leave records | Six years after the end of tax year they relate to or possibly longer if leave can be carried over from year to year |
| Consents for the processing of personal and sensitive data | For as long as the data is being processed and up to 6 years afterwards |
| Working Time Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opt out forms • Records of compliance with WTR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two years from the date on which they were entered into • Two years after the relevant period |
| Disciplinary records | 6 years after employment ceases |
| Training | 6 years after employment ceases or length of time required by the professional body |
| Staff training where it relates to safeguarding or other child related training | Date of the training plus 40 years (This retention period reflects that the IICSA |

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| | may wish to see training records as part of an investigation) |
| Annual appraisal/assessment records | Current year plus 3 years |
| Professional Development Plans | 6 years from the life of the plan |
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| Allegations of a child protection nature against a member of staff including where the allegation is founded | 10 years from the date of the allegation or the person's normal retirement age (whichever is longer). This should be kept under review. Malicious allegations should be removed. |
| Financial and Payroll Records | |
| Financial accounts, records/Annual Accounts | Current year plus 6 years |
| Pension records | 12 Years |
| Retirement benefits schemes – notifiable events (for example, relating to incapacity) | 6 years from the end of the scheme year in which the event took place |
| Payroll and wage records | 6 years after end of tax year they relate to (Taxes Management Act 1970; Income and Corporation Taxes 1988) |
| Maternity/Adoption/Paternity Leave records | 3 years after end of tax year they relate to |
| Statutory Sick Pay | 3 years after the end of the tax year they relate to |
| Current bank details | Until updated plus 3 years |
| Insurance | Current year plus 6 years (Taxes Management Act 1970; Income and Corporation Taxes 1988) |
| Agreements and Administration Paperwork | |
| Collective workforce agreements and past agreements that could affect present employees | Permanently |
| Trade union agreements | 10 years after ceasing to be effective |
| School Development Plans | 3 years from the life of the plan |
| Professional Development Plans | 6 years from the life of the plan |
| Visitors Book and Signing In Sheets | 6 years |
| Newsletters and circulars to staff, parents and pupils | 1 year |
| Health and Safety Records | |

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| Health and Safety consultations | Permanently |
| Health and Safety Risk Assessments | Life of the risk assessment plus 3 years |
| Any records relating to any reportable death, injury, disease of dangerous occurrence | Date of incident plus 3 years provided that all records of the incidents are held on personnel file |
| Accident reporting | Adults – 6 years from the date of the incident Children – when the child attains 21 years of age. |
| Fire precaution log books | Current year plus 6 years |
| Medical records and details of: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • control of lead at work • employees exposed to asbestos dust • records specified by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) | 40 years from the date of the last entry made in the record (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH); Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations) |
| Records of tests and examinations of control systems and protection equipment under COSHH | 5 years from the date on which the record was made |
| Temporary and Casual Workers | |
| Records relating to hours worked and payments made to workers | 3 years |
| Governing Body Documents | |
| Instruments of government | For the life of the School |
| Meetings schedule | Current year |
| Minutes – principal set (signed) | Date of meeting + 10 years |
| Agendas – principal copy | Where possible the agenda should be stored with the principal set of the minutes |
| Agendas – additional copies | Date of meeting |
| Policy documents created and administered by the governing body | Until replaced |

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| Register of attendance at full governing board meetings | Date of last meeting in the book plus 6 years |
| Annual reports required by the Department of Education | Date of report plus 10 years |
| Records relating to complaints made to and investigated by the governing body or head teacher | Major complaints: current year plus 6 years. If negligence involved: current year plus 15 years. If child protection or safeguarding issues are involved then: current year plus 40 years. If the complaint relates to child sexual abuse, then indefinitely. (Based on recommendations left by the IICSA, will be reviewed upon publication of ICO guidance) |
| Correspondence sent and received by the governing body or head teacher | General correspondence should be retained for current year plus 3 years |
| Records relating to the terms of office of serving governors, including evidence of appointment | Date appointment ceases plus 6 years except where there have been allegations concerning children. In this case retain for 25 years. |
| Register of business interests | Date appointment ceases plus 10 years |
| Records relating to the training required and received by governors | Date appointment ceases plus 6 years |
| Records relating to the appointment of a clerk to the governing body | Date on which clerk appointment ceases plus 6 years |
| Governor personnel files | Date appointment ceases plus 6 years |
| Pupil Records | |
| Details of whether admission was successful/unsuccessful | 1 year from the date of admission/non-admission |
| Admissions register | Entries to be preserved for six years from date of entry |
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| Pupil Record, including non-child protection safeguarding records | Until the child turns 25 |
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| Attendance Registers | 6 years from the date of entry |
| Correspondence relating to any absence (authorised or unauthorised) | Current academic year plus 2 years (Education Act 1996, Section 7) |
| Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Education, Health and Care plan including advice and information provided to parents regarding educational needs and accessibility strategy | Date of birth of the pupil plus 31 years (Education, Health and Care Plan is valid until the individual reaches the age of 25 years – the retention period adds an additional 6 years from the end of the plan). |
| Child protection information (to be held in a separate file). | DOB of the child plus 25 years then review. If aspects of the record relate to child sexual abuse, then these records should be retained indefinitely. (Based on recommendations left by the IICSA, will be reviewed upon publication of ICO guidance) |
| Exam results (pupil copy) | This information should be added to the pupil file and retained in line with that record. |
| Examination results (school's copy) | Current year plus 6 years |
| Allegations of sexual abuse | If the complaint relates to child sexual abuse, then indefinitely. (Based on recommendations left by the IICSA, will be reviewed upon publication of ICO guidance) |
| Records relating to any allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff | Until the accused normal retirement age or 10 years from the date of the allegation (whichever is the longer) (Retention period informed by the guidance of KCSIE) |
| Consents relating to school activities as part of UK GDPR compliance (for example, consent to be sent circulars or mailings) | Evidence of consent will be retained whilst the pupil attends the school, or until withdrawn, whichever the shorter. |
| Pupil's work | Where possible, returned to pupil at the end of the academic year (provided the School have their own internal policy to this effect). Otherwise, the work should be retained for the current year plus 1 year |
| Mark books | Current year plus 1 year |
| Schemes of work | Current year plus 1 year |
| Timetable | Current year plus 1 year |
| Class record books | Current year plus 1 year |
| Record of homework set | Current year plus 1 year |

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| Photographs of pupils | For the time the child is at the School and for a short while after. Please note select images may also be kept for longer (for example to illustrate history of the school) |
| Parental consent forms for school trips where there has been no major incident | End of the trip or end of the academic year (subject to a risk assessment carried out by the School) |
| Parental permission slips for school trips where there has been a major incident | Date of birth of the pupil involved in the incident plus 25 years. Permission slips for all the pupils on the trip should be retained to demonstrate the rules had been followed for all pupils |
| Other Records | |
| Emails | Refer to paragraph above |
| CCTV | 30 days |
| Privacy notices | Until replaced plus 6 years |
| Inventories of furniture and equipment | Current year plus 6 years |
| All records relating to the maintenance of the School carried out by contractors or employees of the school | Whilst the building belongs to the school |
| Records relating to the letting of school premises | Current financial year plus 6 years |
| Records relating to the creation and management of Parent Teacher Associations and/or Old Pupils Associations | Current year plus 6 years then review |
| Contact data sheets | Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy |