



Policy for

Data Protection

Prepared by:	Adopted by Board of Directors
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6.5 Inclusion of specific privacy notices

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Statement of intent

The Aspire Educational Trust is required to keep and process certain information about its staff members and pupils in accordance with its legal obligations under data protection legislation.

The trust and its schools may, from time to time, be required to share personal information about its staff or pupils with other organisations, mainly the LA, other schools and educational bodies, and potentially children's services.

This policy is in place to ensure all staff, local academy committee governors and trustees are aware of their responsibilities and outlines how the trust complies with the following core principles of the UK GDPR.

Organisational methods for keeping data secure are imperative, and the Aspire Educational Trust believes that it is good practice to keep clear practical policies, backed up by written procedures.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to the following:

- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 (as amended in 2018)
- The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004
- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- Protection of Freedoms Act

1.2. This policy also has regard to the following guidance:

- [ICO \(2021\) 'Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)'](#)
- [DfE \(2018\) 'Data protection: a toolkit for schools'](#)
- [ICO \(2012\) 'IT asset disposal for organisations'](#)

1.3. This policy operates in conjunction with the following trust policies:

- Photographic and Images Policy (MAT)
- Data and E-security Breach Prevention and Management (MAT)
- Freedom of Information and Model Publication Scheme (MAT)
- CCTV Policy (MAT/localised)
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (MAT/localised)
- Records Management Policy (MAT)
- Protection of Biometric Information Policy (MAT)

2. Applicable data

2.1. For the purpose of this policy, **personal data** refers to information that relates to an identifiable, living individual, including information such as an online identifier, e.g. an IP address. The UK GDPR applies to both automated personal data and to manual filing systems, where personal data is accessible according to specific criteria, as well as to chronologically ordered data and pseudonymised data, e.g. key-coded.

2.2. **Sensitive personal data** is referred to in the UK GDPR as 'special categories of personal data', and is defined as:

- Genetic data.
- Biometric data.
- Data concerning health.
- Data concerning a person's sex life.
- Data concerning a person's sexual orientation.
- Personal data which reveals:
 - Racial or ethnic origin.
 - Political opinions.
 - Religious or philosophical beliefs.
 - Trade union membership
 - Principles

2.3. 'Sensitive personal data' does not include data about criminal allegations, proceedings or convictions. In the case of criminal offence data, schools are only able to process this if it is either:

- Under the control of official authority; or
- Authorised by domestic law.

The latter point can only be used if conditions of the reasons for storing and requiring the data fall into one of the conditions below:

- The processing is necessary for the purposes of performing or exercising obligations or rights which are imposed by law on the controller of the data subject in connection with employment, social security, social protection, health or social care purposes, public health and research.

2.4. Schools process some information about children that is not set out in legislation as 'special category personal data'. Notably information about children's services interactions, free school meal status, pupil premium eligibility, elements of special educational need information and some behaviour data. Aspire Educational Trust schools, as considered best practice by the DfE, will treat such data with the same high status as the special categories set out in law.

3. Principles

3.1. In accordance with the requirements outlined in the UK GDPR, personal data will 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 UK GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- 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.

3.2. The UK GDPR also requires that “the controller shall be responsible for, and able to demonstrate, compliance with the principles”. The Trust as well as each individual academy are data controllers as they determine the purpose for which, and the manner in which data are processed.

4. Accountability

- 4.1. The trust and its schools will implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to demonstrate that data is processed in line with the principles set out in the UK GDPR.
- 4.2. The trust and its schools will provide comprehensive, clear and transparent privacy policies.
- 4.3. The trust will be able to demonstrate how data is processed as a whole across the MAT and will ensure each individual school within the trust is adhering to the same procedure and that this is being implemented and enforced in line with the wider trust policies.
- 4.4. Additional internal records of the trust and its schools processing activities will be maintained and kept up-to-date.
- 4.5. Internal records of processing activities will include the following:
 - Name and details of the organisation
 - Purpose(s) of the processing

- Description of the categories of individuals and personal data
 - Retention schedules
 - Categories of recipients of personal data
 - Description of technical and organisational security measures
 - Details of transfers to third countries, including documentation of the transfer mechanism safeguards in place
- 4.6. The trust and its schools will also document other aspects of compliance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act where this is deemed appropriate in certain circumstances by the DPO, including the following:
- Information required for privacy notices, e.g. the lawful basis for the processing
 - Records of consent
 - Controller-processor contracts
 - The location of personal data
 - Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) reports
 - Records of personal data breaches
- 4.7. The trust and its schools will implement measures that meet the principles of data protection by design and data protection by default, such as:
- Minimising the processing of personal data.
 - Pseudonymising personal data as soon as possible.
 - Ensuring transparency in respect of the functions and processing of personal data.
 - Allowing individuals to monitor processing.
 - Continuously creating and improving security features.
- 4.8. DPIAs will be used to identify and reduce data protection risks, where appropriate.
- 4.9. The trust and its schools will fulfil their statutory responsibility to share information with organisations such as local authority services and the DfE in order for them to deliver their relevant duties. Statutory guidance provides that such organisations should agree data sharing agreements with education providers that set out the information they will provide, when it will be provided and how they will ensure that data is passed securely.
- 4.10. The trust and its schools may choose to share information with a third-party processor in order to run the school or the trust effectively. The trust and its schools will ensure written, up-to-date data sharing agreements are in place with the organisations they are passing data to. Data sharing agreements will be regularly reviewed.
- 4.11. Before entering into a new data sharing agreement the trust and its schools will, where appropriate, conduct a data protection impact assessment to assess

the benefits of the data sharing and to assess any risks or negative impact of sharing the data.

5. Data protection officer (DPO)

- 5.1. The Trust is required to appoint a DPO who will be the central point for all data subjects and others in relation to matters of data protection.
- 5.2. A trust wide DPO will be appointed in order to:
 - Inform and advise the trust, its schools and its employees about their obligations to comply with the UK GDPR and other data protection laws.
 - Monitor the trust and its schools' compliance with the UK GDPR and other laws, including managing internal data protection activities, advising on data protection impact assessments, conducting internal audits, and providing the required training to staff members.
 - Cooperate with the ICO and act as the first point of contact for the ICO and for individuals whose data is being processed.
- 5.3. The DPO is responsible for:
 - Coordinating a proactive and preventative approach to data protection.
 - Calculating and evaluating the risks associated with the school's data processing.
 - Having regard to the nature, scope, context, and purposes of all data processing.
 - Prioritising and focussing on more risky activities, e.g. where special category data is being processed.
 - Promoting a culture of privacy awareness throughout the trust community.
 - Carrying out ad hoc reviews of data practices to ensure staff understand and are acting in accordance with relevant data protection laws.
- 5.4. An existing employee will be appointed to the role of DPO provided that their duties are compatible with the duties of the DPO and do not lead to a conflict of interests.
- 5.5. The individual appointed as DPO will have professional experience and knowledge of data protection law, particularly that in relation to schools.
- 5.6. The DPO will report to the highest level of management at the trust, which is the CEO and Board of Trustees.

- 5.7. The DPO will operate independently and will not be dismissed or penalised for performing their task.
- 5.8. Sufficient resources will be provided to the DPO to enable them to meet their GDPR obligations.
- 5.9. Staff will ensure that they involve the DPO in all data protection matters closely and in a timely manner.
- 5.10. The trust's DPO can be contacted via e-mail for any data protection related business at dpo@aet.cheshire.sch.uk or directly at ltreadway@aet.cheshire.sch.uk or by contacting the trust office. The DPO account is monitored daily.

6. Lawful processing

- 6.1. The legal basis for processing data will be identified and documented prior to data being processed.
- 6.2. Under the UK GDPR, data will be lawfully processed under the following conditions:
 - The consent of the data subject has been obtained
 - Processing is necessary for a contract held with the individual, or because they have asked the school to take specific steps before entering into a contract
 - Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation (not including contractual obligations)
 - Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller
 - Processing is necessary for protecting vital interests of a data subject or another person, i.e. to protect someone's life
 - Processing is necessary for the purposes of legitimate interests pursued by the controller or a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests, rights or freedoms of the data subject. (This condition is not available to processing undertaken by the school in the performance of its tasks.)
- 6.3. The trust and its schools will only process personal data without consent where any of the above purposes cannot reasonably be achieved by other, less intrusive means or by processing less data.
- 6.4. Sensitive data will only be processed under the following conditions:
 - Explicit consent of the data subject
 - Processing carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided the processing relates

only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes) and provided there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

- Processing relates to personal data manifestly made public by the data subject.
- Processing is necessary for:
 - Carrying out obligations under employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement.
 - Protecting the vital interests of a data subject or another individual where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent.
 - The establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims or where courts are acting in their judicial capacity.
 - Reasons of substantial public interest with a basis in law which is proportionate to the aim pursued and which contains appropriate safeguards.
 - The purposes of preventative or occupational medicine, for assessing the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or management of health or social care systems and services with a basis in law.
 - Reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of healthcare and of medicinal products or medical devices.
 - Archiving purposes in the public interest, or scientific and historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with a basis in law.

When none of the above apply, consent will be obtained by the data subject the processing of their special category personal data.

6.5. For personal data to be processed fairly, data subjects must be made aware: That the personal data is being processed.

- Why the personal data is being processed.
- What the lawful basis is for that processing.
- Whether personal data will be shared, and if so, with whom.
- The existence of the data subject's rights in relation to the processing of that personal data.
- The right of the data subject to raise a complaint with the ICO in relation to any processing.

The school has privacy notices for the following groups, which outline the information above that is specific to them:

- Workforce - which includes employees, self-employed staff and/or consultants and volunteers
- Governance - which includes members, trustees and Local Academy Committee governors
- Pupils - which covers pupils, parent and guardians
- Workforce Occupational health privacy notice

6.6. There may be circumstances where it is considered necessary to process personal data or special category data in order to protect the vital interests of the data subject. This may include medical emergencies where it is not possible for the data subject to give consent for the processing. In such circumstances, the DPO will be consulted wherever possible or kept informed of a decision made without consultation.

6.7. Where the trust and its schools rely on:

- 'Performance of contract' to process a child's data, the trust and its schools consider the child's competence to understand what they are agreeing to, and to enter into a contract.
- 'Legitimate interests' to process a child's data, the trust and its schools take responsibility for identifying the risks and consequences of the processing, and puts age-appropriate safeguards in place.
- Consent to process a child's data, the trust and its schools ensure that the requirements outlined in [7.7](#) and [7.8](#) are met, and the trust and its schools do not exploit any imbalance of power in the relationship between the school and the child.

7. Consent

7.1. Consent must be a positive indication expressly confirmed in words. It cannot be inferred from silence, inactivity, a positive action without words or pre-ticked boxes.

7.2. Consent will only be accepted where it is freely given, specific, informed and an unambiguous indication of the individual's wishes.

7.3. Where consent is given, a record will be kept documenting how and when consent was given, and what the data subject was told.

7.4. The trust and its schools ensure that consent mechanisms meet the standards of the UK GDPR. Where the standard of consent cannot be met, an alternative legal basis for processing the data must be found, or the processing must cease.

7.5. Consent accepted under the DPA will be reviewed to ensure it meets the standards of the UK GDPR; however, acceptable consent obtained under the DPA will not be reobtained.

- 7.6. When pupils and staff join the school. The member of staff or a pupil's parent will be required to complete a consent form for personal data use, the consent form deals with the taking and use of photographs and videos for different purposes. Where appropriate, third parties may also be required to complete a consent form.
- 7.7. Consent can be withdrawn by the individual at any time.
- 7.8. Where the school opts to provide an online service directly to a child, the child is aged 13 or over, and the consent meets the requirements outlined in [7.2](#), the school obtains consent directly from that child; otherwise, consent is obtained from whoever holds parental responsibility for the child, except where the processing is related to preventative or counselling services offered directly to children.
- 7.9. In all other instances with regards to obtaining consent, an appropriate age of consent is considered by the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the requirements outlined in [7.2](#).

8. The right to be informed

- 8.1. Adults and children have the same right to be informed about how the school uses their data.
- 8.2. The privacy notices supplied to individuals, including children, in regard to the processing of their personal data will be written in clear, plain, age-appropriate language which is concise, transparent, easily accessible and free of charge.
- 8.3. In relation to data obtained both directly from the data subject and not obtained directly from the data subject, the following information will be supplied within the privacy notice:
 - The identity and contact details of the controller, the controller's representative, where applicable, and the DPO.
 - The purpose of, and the lawful basis for, processing the data.
 - The legitimate interests of the controller or third party.
 - Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data.
 - Details of transfers to third countries and the safeguards in place.
 - The retention period of criteria used to determine the retention period.
 - The existence of the data subject's rights, including the right to:
 - Withdraw consent at any time.
 - Lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.
 - The existence of automated decision making, including profiling, how decisions are made, the significance of the process and the consequences.
- 8.4. Where data is obtained directly from the data subject, information regarding whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual

requirement, as well as any possible consequences of failing to provide the personal data, will be provided.

- 8.5. Where data is not obtained directly from the data subject, information regarding the categories of personal data that the school holds, the source that the personal data originates from and whether it came from publicly accessible sources, will be provided.
- 8.6. For data obtained directly from the data subject, this information will be supplied at the time the data is obtained.
- 8.7. In relation to data that is not obtained directly from the data subject, this information will be supplied:
 - Within one month of having obtained the data.
 - If disclosure to another recipient is envisaged, at the latest, before the data are disclosed.
 - If the data are used to communicate with the individual, at the latest, when the first communication takes place.

9. The right of access

- 9.1. Individuals, including children, have the right to obtain a copy of their personal data as well as other supplementary information, including confirmation that their data is being processed.
- 9.2. Individuals, including children, have the right to submit a subject access request (SAR) to gain access to their personal data in order to verify the lawfulness of the processing.
- 9.3. Where a SAR has been made for information held about a child, the school will evaluate whether the child is capable of fully understanding their rights. If the school determines the child can understand their rights, it will respond directly to the child.
- 9.4. The trust and its schools will verify the identity of the person making the request before any information is supplied.
- 9.5. A copy of the information will be supplied to the individual free of charge; however, the trust and its schools may impose a 'reasonable fee' to cover the administrative costs of complying with requests that are manifestly unfounded or excessive or if an individual requests further copies of the same information.
- 9.6. Where a SAR has been made electronically, the information will be provided in a commonly used electronic format.
- 9.7. Where a request is manifestly unfounded, excessive or repetitive, a reasonable fee will be charged.
- 9.8. All fees will be based on the administrative cost of providing the information.

- 9.9. All requests will be responded to without delay and at the latest, within one month of receipt.
- 9.10. In the event of numerous or complex requests, the period of compliance will be extended by a further two months. The individual will be informed of this extension and will receive an explanation of why the extension is necessary, within one month of the receipt of the request.
- 9.11. Where a request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, the trust and its schools hold the right to refuse to respond to the request. The individual will be informed of this decision and the reasoning behind it, as well as their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy, within one month of the refusal.
- 9.12. The trust and its schools will ensure that information released in response to a SAR does not disclose personal data of another individual. If responding to the SAR in the usual way would disclose such data, the trust and its schools will:
- Omit certain elements from the response if another individual's personal data would be disclosed otherwise.
 - Reject requests that cannot be fulfilled without disclosing another individual's personal data, unless that individual consents or it is reasonable to comply without consent.
 - Explain to the individual who made the SAR why their request could not be responded to in full.
- 9.13. In the event that a large quantity of information is being processed about an individual, the trust and its schools will ask the individual to specify the information the request is in relation to – the time limit for responding to the request will be paused until clarification from the individual is received.

10. The right to rectification

- 10.1. Individuals, including children, are entitled to have any inaccurate or incomplete personal data rectified.
- 10.2. Where the personal data in question has been disclosed to third parties, the trust and its schools will inform them of the rectification where possible.
- 10.3. Where appropriate, the trust and its schools will inform the individual about the third parties that the data has been disclosed to.
- 10.4. Requests for rectification will be responded to within one month; this will be extended by two months where the request for rectification is complex.
- 10.5. Requests for rectification will be investigated and resolved, where appropriate, free of charge; however, the school may impose a 'reasonable fee' to cover the administrative costs of complying with requests that are manifestly unfounded or excessive or if an individual makes multiple requests at once.

- 10.6. The trust and its schools will take reasonable steps to ensure that data is accurate or are rectified if inaccurate, implementing a proportional response for data that has a significant impact on the individual, e.g. if significant decisions are made using that data.
- 10.7. The trust and its schools will restrict processing of the data in question whilst its accuracy is being verified, where possible.
- 10.8. The trust and its schools reserve the right to refuse to process requests for rectification if they are manifestly unfounded or excessive or if exemptions apply.
- 10.9. Where no action is being taken in response to a request for rectification, or where the request has been investigated and the data has been found to be accurate, the trust and its schools will explain the reason for this to the individual and will inform them of their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy.

11. The right to erasure

- 11.1. Individuals, including children, hold the right to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.
- 11.2. Individuals, including children, have the right to erasure in the following circumstances:
 - Where the personal data is no longer necessary in relation to the purpose for which it was originally collected/processed
 - When the individual withdraws their consent where consent was the lawful basis on which the processing of the data relied
 - When the individual objects to the processing and there is no overriding legitimate interest for continuing the processing
 - The personal data was unlawfully processed
 - The personal data is required to be erased in order to comply with a legal obligation
 - The personal data is processed in relation to the offer of information society services to a child
- 11.3. The trust and its schools will comply with the request for erasure without undue delay and at the latest within one month of receipt of the request.
- 11.4. The trust and its schools have the right to refuse a request for erasure where the personal data is being processed for the following reasons:
 - To exercise the right of freedom of expression and information
 - To comply with a legal obligation for the performance of a public interest task or exercise of official authority

- For public health purposes in the public interest
 - For archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research, historical research or statistical purposes
 - The establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims
- 11.5. The trust and its schools have the right to refuse a request for erasure for special category data where processing is necessary for:
- Public health purposes in the public interest, e.g. protecting against serious cross-border threats to health.
 - Purposes of preventative or occupational medicine, the working capacity of an employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care, or the management of health or social care systems or services.
- 11.6. Requests for erasure will be handled free of charge; however, the trust and its schools may impose a 'reasonable fee' to cover the administrative costs of complying with requests that are manifestly unfounded or excessive or if an individual makes multiple requests at once.
- 11.7. As a child may not fully understand the risks involved in the processing of data when consent is obtained, special attention will be given to existing situations where a child has given consent to processing and they later request erasure of the data, regardless of age at the time of the request.
- 11.8. Where personal data has been disclosed to third parties, they will be informed about the erasure of the personal data, unless it is impossible or involves disproportionate effort to do so.
- 11.9. Where personal data has been made public within an online environment, the trust and its schools will inform other organisations who process the personal data to erase links to and copies of the personal data in question.

12. The right to restrict processing

- 12.1. Individuals, including children, have the right to block or suppress the trust and its schools' processing of personal data.
- 12.2. In the event that processing is restricted, the trust and its schools will store the personal data, but not further process it, guaranteeing that just enough information about the individual has been retained to ensure that the restriction is respected in future.
- 12.3. The trust and its schools will restrict the processing of personal data in the following circumstances:
- Where an individual contests the accuracy of the personal data, processing will be restricted until the trust and its schools have verified the accuracy of the data

- Where an individual has objected to the processing and the trust and its schools are considering whether their legitimate grounds override those of the individual
 - Where processing is unlawful and the individual opposes erasure and requests restriction instead
 - Where the trust and its schools no longer need the personal data but the individual requires the data to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim
- 12.4. If the personal data in question has been disclosed to third parties, the trust and its schools will inform them about the restriction on the processing of the personal data, unless it is impossible or involves disproportionate effort to do so.
- 12.5. Where the trust and its schools are restricting the processing of personal data in response to a request, it will make that data inaccessible to others, where possible, e.g. by temporarily moving the data to another processing system or unpublishing published data from a website.
- 12.6. The trust and its schools will inform individuals when a restriction on processing has been lifted.
- 12.7. The trust and its schools reserve the right to refuse requests for restricting processing if they are manifestly unfounded or excessive or if exemptions apply. The individual will be informed of this decision and the reasoning behind it, as well as their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy, within one month of the refusal.

13. The right to data portability

- 13.1. Individuals, including children, have the right to obtain and reuse their personal data for their own purposes across different services.
- 13.2. Personal data can be easily moved, copied or transferred from one IT environment to another in a safe and secure manner, without hindrance to usability.
- 13.3. The right to data portability only applies in the following cases:
- Where personal data has been provided directly by an individual to a controller
 - Where the processing is based on the individual's consent or for the performance of a contract
 - When processing is carried out by automated means
- 13.4. Personal data will be provided in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable form.
- 13.5. The trust and its schools will provide the information free of charge.

- 13.6. Where feasible, data will be transmitted directly to another organisation at the request of the individual.
- 13.7. The trust and its schools are not required to adopt or maintain processing systems which are technically compatible with other organisations.
- 13.8. In the event that the personal data concerns more than one individual, the trust and its schools will consider whether providing the information would prejudice the rights of any other individual.
- 13.9. The trust and its schools will respond to any requests for portability within one month.
- 13.10. Where the request is complex, or a number of requests have been received, the timeframe can be extended by two months, ensuring that the individual is informed of the extension and the reasoning behind it within one month of the receipt of the request.
- 13.11. Where no action is being taken in response to a request, the trust and its schools will, without delay and at the latest within one month, explain to the individual the reason for this and will inform them of their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy.

14. The right to object

- 14.1. The trust and its schools will inform individuals, including children, of their right to object at the first point of communication, and this information will be outlined in the privacy notice and explicitly brought to the attention of the data subject, ensuring that it is presented clearly and separately from any other information.
- 14.2. Individuals, including children, have the right to object to the following:
 - Processing based on legitimate interests or the performance of a task in the public interest
 - Processing used for direct marketing purposes
 - Processing for purposes of scientific or historical research and statistics.
- 14.3. Where personal data is processed for the performance of a legal task or legitimate interests:
 - An individual's grounds for objecting must relate to his or her particular situation.
 - The trust and its schools will stop processing the individual's personal data unless the processing is for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims, or, where the trust and its schools can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds for the processing, which override the interests, rights and freedoms of the individual.

- The trust and its schools will respond to objections proportionally, granting more weight to an individual's objection if the processing of their data is causing them substantial damage or distress.

14.4. Where personal data is processed for direct marketing purposes:

- The right to object is absolute and the trust and its schools will stop processing personal data for direct marketing purposes as soon as an objection is received.
- The trust and its schools cannot refuse an individual's objection regarding data that is being processed for direct marketing purposes.
- The trust and its schools will retain only enough information about the individual to ensure that the individual's preference not to receive direct marketing is respected in future.

14.5. Where personal data is processed for research purposes:

- The individual must have grounds relating to their particular situation in order to exercise their right to object.
- Where the processing of personal data is necessary for the performance of a public interest task, the trust and its schools are not required to comply with an objection to the processing of the data.

14.6. The DPO will ensure that details are recorded for all objections received, including those made by telephone or in person, and will clarify each objection with the individual making the request to avoid later disputes or misunderstandings.

14.7. Where the processing activity is outlined above, but is carried out online, the trust and its schools will offer a method for individuals to object online.

14.8. The trust and its schools will respond to all objections without undue delay and within one month of receiving the objection; this may be extended by a further two months if the request is complex or repetitive.

14.9. Where no action is being taken in response to an objection, the trust and its schools will, without delay and at the latest within one month, explain to the individual the reason for this and will inform them of their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy.

15. Automated decision making and profiling

15.1. The trust and its schools will only ever conduct solely automated decision making with legal or similarly significant effects if the decision is:

- Necessary for entering into or performance of a contract.
- Authorised by law.
- Based on the individual's explicit consent.

- 15.2. Automated decisions will not concern a child nor use special category personal data, unless:
- The trust and its schools have the explicit consent of the individual.
 - The processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest.
- 15.3. The trust and its schools will conduct a DPIA for automated decision making to mitigate risk of errors, bias and discrimination.
- 15.4. The trust and its schools will ensure that individuals concerned are given specific information about the processing and an opportunity to challenge or request a review of the decision.
- 15.5. Individuals have the right not to be subject to a decision when both of the following conditions are met:
- It is based on automated processing, e.g. profiling
 - It produces a legal effect or a similarly significant effect on the individual
- 15.6. The trust and its schools will take steps to ensure that individuals are able to obtain human intervention, express their point of view, and obtain an explanation of the decision and challenge it.
- 15.7. When automatically processing personal data for profiling purposes, the trust and its schools will ensure that the appropriate safeguards are in place, including:
- Ensuring processing is fair and transparent by providing meaningful information about the logic involved, as well as the significance and the predicted impact.
 - Using appropriate mathematical or statistical procedures.
 - Implementing appropriate technical and organisational measures to enable inaccuracies to be corrected and minimise the risk of errors.
 - Securing personal data in a way that is proportionate to the risk to the interests and rights of the individual and prevents discriminatory effects.

16. Data protection by design and default

- 16.1. The trust and its schools will act in accordance with the UK GDPR by adopting a data protection by design and default approach and implementing technical and organisational measures which demonstrate how they have considered and integrated data protection into all aspects of processing activities.
- 16.2. In line with the data protection by default approach, the trust and its schools will ensure that only data that is necessary to achieve its specific purpose will be processed.
- 16.3. The trust and its schools will implement a data protection by design and default approach by using a number of methods, including, but not limited to:

- Considering data protection issues as part of the design and implementation of systems, services and practices.
- Making data protection an essential component of the core functionality of processing systems and services.
- Automatically protecting personal data in school ICT systems.
- Implementing basic technical measures within the school network and ICT systems to ensure data is kept secure.
- Promoting the identity of the DPO as a point of contact.
- Ensuring that documents are written in plain language, so individuals can easily understand what is being done with personal data.

17. Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs)

- 17.1. DPIAs will be used in certain circumstances to identify the most effective method of complying with the trust's data protection obligations and meeting individuals' expectations of privacy.
- 17.2. DPIAs will allow the trust and its schools to identify and resolve problems at an early stage, thus reducing associated costs and preventing damage from being caused to the trust and its schools' reputation which might otherwise occur.
- 17.3. A DPIA will be carried out when using new technologies or when the processing is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- 17.4. A DPIA will be used for more than one project, where necessary.
- 17.5. High risk processing includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- Systematic and extensive processing activities, such as profiling
 - Large scale processing of special categories of data or personal data which is in relation to criminal convictions or offences
 - The use of CCTV.
- 17.6. The trust and its schools will ensure that all DPIAs include the following information:
- A description of the processing operations and the purposes
 - An assessment of the necessity and proportionality of the processing in relation to the purpose
 - An outline of the risks to individuals
 - The measures implemented in order to address risk
- 17.7. Where a DPIA indicates high risk data processing, the trust will consult the ICO to seek its opinion as to whether the processing operation complies with the UK GDPR.

18. Data breaches

- 18.1. The term 'personal data breach' refers to a breach of security which has led to the destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data.
- 18.2. Principals and trust managers will ensure that all staff members are made aware of, and understand, what constitutes a data breach as part of their training.
- 18.3. Where the trust or its schools face a data security incident, the DPO will be informed immediately. The DPO will then coordinate an effort to establish whether a personal data breach has occurred, assess the significance of any breach, and take prompt and appropriate steps to address it.
- 18.4. Where a breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the relevant supervisory authority will be informed.
- 18.5. All notifiable breaches will be reported to the relevant supervisory authority within 72 hours of the trust or its schools becoming aware of it.
- 18.6. The risk of the breach having a detrimental effect on the individual, and the need to notify the relevant supervisory authority, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 18.7. In the event that a breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of an individual, the trust or the school will notify those concerned directly.
- 18.8. A 'high risk' breach means that the threshold for notifying the individual is higher than that for notifying the relevant supervisory authority.
- 18.9. In the event that a breach is sufficiently serious, the public will be notified without undue delay.
- 18.10. Effective and robust breach detection, investigation and internal reporting procedures are in place at the trust, which facilitate decision-making in relation to whether the relevant supervisory authority or the public need to be notified.
- 18.11. Within a breach notification to the supervisory authority, the following information will be outlined:
 - The nature of the personal data breach, including the categories and approximate number of individuals and records concerned
 - The name and contact details of the DPO
 - An explanation of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
 - A description of the proposed measures to be taken to deal with the personal data breach
 - Where appropriate, a description of the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects

- 18.12. Where notifying an individual about a breach to their personal data, the trust and its schools will provide specific and clear advice to individuals on the steps they can take to protect themselves and their data, where possible and appropriate to do so.
- 18.13. Failure to report a breach when required to do so may result in a fine, as well as a fine for the breach itself.
- 18.14. The trust will ensure all facts regarding the breach, the effects of the breach and any decision-making processes and actions taken are documented in line with the UK GDPR accountability principle and in accordance with the Records Management Policy.
- 18.15. The trust and its schools will work to identify the cause of the breach and assess how a recurrence can be prevented, e.g. by mandating data protection refresher training where the breach was a result of human error.

19. Data security

- 19.1. Confidential paper records will be kept in a locked filing cabinet, drawer or safe, with restricted access.
- 19.2. Confidential paper records will not be left unattended or in clear view anywhere with general access.
- 19.3. Digital data is coded, encrypted or password-protected, both on a local hard drive and on a network drive that is regularly backed up off-site.
- 19.4. Where data is saved on removable storage or a portable device, the device will be kept in a locked filing cabinet, drawer or safe when not in use.
- 19.5. Memory sticks will not be used to hold personal information unless they are password-protected and fully encrypted. Personal memory sticks will not be used. The trust and its schools will issue staff with encrypted memory sticks and log who has possession of these memory sticks. Issued memory sticks must be returned when employment ceases.
- 19.6. All electronic devices are password-protected to protect the information on the device in case of theft.
- 19.7. Where possible, the trust and its schools enable electronic devices to allow the remote blocking or deletion of data in case of theft.
- 19.8. Trust computers and portable devices such as laptops and tablets will be used whenever possible. Staff, governors and trustees will not use their personal devices for trust purposes involving the storing of personal data. When working on personal data away from trust sites staff and governors will adhere to the same data security procedures expected when working on trust premises. If personal computers are used for trust purposes staff are required to follow the trust's security of devices guidance available in the AET guidance for safety in

remote online video and telephone communication with pupils and parents document.

- 19.9. All necessary members of staff are provided with their own secure login and password.
- 19.10. Emails containing sensitive or confidential information are sent using encryption software. If encryption is not available, sensitive and confidential information should be password protected. Passwords must be shared separate to the e-mail.
- 19.11. All staff receive information on how to use passwords to protect personal data using guidance from National Cyber Security Centre.
- 19.12. Staff, Local Academy Committee governors and trustees will use governor/school e-mail accounts for all trust related communications.
- 19.13. Circular emails to parents are sent blind carbon copy (bcc), so email addresses are not disclosed to other recipients.
- 19.14. When delivering information to those with parental responsibility by pupil mail, schools will have local systems in place to ensure the correct information is delivered to the correct recipient.
- 19.15. When sending information, especially confidential information, via email, staff will always check that the recipient is correct before sending.
- 19.16. When sending confidential information by fax, staff will always check that the recipient is correct before sending and that the recipient's systems are set up for the fax to be received directly and immediately by the intended recipient.
- 19.17. Where personal information that could be considered private or confidential is taken off the premises, either in electronic or paper format, staff will take extra care to follow the same procedures for security, e.g. keeping devices under lock and key. The person taking the information from the school premises accepts full responsibility for the security of the data.
- 19.18. Before sharing data, all staff members will ensure:
 - They are allowed to share it.
 - That adequate security is in place to protect it.
 - Who will receive the data has been outlined in a privacy notice.
- 19.19. Under no circumstances are visitors allowed access to confidential or personal information. Visitors to areas of the school containing sensitive information are supervised at all times.
- 19.20. The physical security of the trust's buildings and storage systems, and access to them, including keys, is reviewed locally on a termly basis. If an increased risk in vandalism/burglary/theft is identified, extra measures to secure data storage will be put in place.

- 19.21. The trust and its schools will regularly test, assess and evaluate the effectiveness of any and all measures in place for data security.
- 19.22. The bursar or business manager of each premises (individual school and trust office) is responsible for ensuring continuity and recovery measures are in place to ensure the security of protected data.
- 19.23. When disposing of data, paper documents will be shredded and digital storage devices will be physically destroyed when they are no longer required. ICT assets will be disposed of in accordance with the ICO's guidance on the disposal of ICT assets.
- 19.24. The trust and its schools take their duties under the UK GDPR seriously and any unauthorised disclosure or breach of the trust's security measures may result in disciplinary action.
- 19.25. The Aspire Educational Trust will promote a culture of prompt reporting of data and cyber issues and incidents in order to effectively deal with a situation and to effectively develop and improve data and cyber security within the organisation.
- 19.26. A Business Continuity Plan and risk register is in place for the trust and its schools which includes core IT services.

20. Safeguarding

- 20.1. The trust and its schools understand that the UK GDPR does not prevent or limit the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe.
- 20.2. The trust and its schools will ensure that information pertinent to identify, assess and respond to risks or concerns about the safety of a child is shared with the relevant individuals or agencies proactively and as soon as is reasonably possible.
- 20.3. Where there is doubt over whether safeguarding information is to be shared, especially with other agencies, the DSL will ensure that they record the following information:
- Whether data was shared
 - What data was shared
 - With whom data was shared
 - For what reason data was shared
 - Where a decision has been made not to seek consent from the data subject or their parent
 - The reason that consent has not been sought, where appropriate

20.4. The trust and its schools will aim to gain consent to share information where appropriate; however, will not endeavour to gain consent if to do so would place a child at risk.

20.5. The trust and its schools will manage all instances of data sharing for the purposes of keeping a child safe in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

21. Publication of information

21.1. The Aspire Educational Trust and its individual academies publish information on their website in accordance with the latest DfE guidance. Classes of information that will be made routinely available, include:

- Policies and procedures
- Minutes of meetings
- Annual reports
- Financial information

21.2. Classes of information specified by the DfE guidance are made available quickly and easily on request.

21.3. The trust and its schools will not publish any personal information, including photos, on its website without the permission of the affected individual.

21.4. When uploading information to the school or trust website, staff are considerate of any metadata or deletions which could be accessed in documents and images on the site.

22. CCTV and photography

22.1. The trust and its schools understand that recording images of identifiable individuals constitutes as processing personal information, so it is done in line with data protection principles.

22.2. The trust and its schools notify all pupils, staff and visitors of the purpose for collecting CCTV images via notice boards, letters and email.

22.3. Cameras are only placed where they do not intrude on anyone's privacy and are necessary to fulfil their purpose. Required signage is in place.

22.4. All CCTV footage will be kept for a specified period for security purposes; the principal at each site is responsible for keeping the records secure and allowing and recording access.

22.5. The school will always indicate its intentions for taking photographs of pupils and will retrieve permission before publishing them.

- 22.6. If the school wishes to use images/video footage of pupils in a publication, such as the school website, prospectus, or recordings of school plays, written permission will be sought for the particular usage from the parent of the pupil.
- 22.7. Precautions, as outlined in the Photographic and Images Policy, are taken when publishing photographs of pupils, in print, video or on the school website.
- 22.8. Images captured by individuals for recreational/personal purposes, and videos made by parents and others for family use, are exempt from the UK GDPR. Schools will always inform parents that images and videos which include any child other than their own child(ren) must only be for immediate family use and may not be distributed more widely, including on any social media platform.
- 22.9. The principal at each individual academy will assess the level of risk to privacy on each occasion before allowing individuals and parents the opportunity to capture images and videos as detailed in 22.8. If the principal assesses there to be a safeguarding risk, permission to capture images and videos will be withdrawn.

23. Data retention

- 23.1. Data will not be kept for longer than is necessary.
- 23.2. Data will be retained in accordance with the data retention policy.
- 23.3. Data retention guidelines and retention schedule to be used is [the IRMS Schools Toolkit](#)
- 23.4. If a data item is not included on the IRMS Schools Toolkit the data controller will make a decision using the 4 periods of retention as detailed in the [DfE Data protection: a toolkit of schools](#).
- 23.5. Unrequired data will be deleted as soon as practicable.
- 23.6. Some educational records relating to former pupils or employees of the school may be kept for an extended period for legal reasons, but also to enable the provision of references or academic transcripts.
- 23.7. Paper documents will be shredded or pulped, and electronic memories scrubbed clean or destroyed, once the data should no longer be retained.
- 23.8. A record of data deletion will be kept by each controller on a data destruction log. Certificates of destruction will be required for off-site shredding and IT equipment.

24. DBS data

- 24.1. All data provided by the DBS will be handled in line with data protection legislation; this includes electronic communication.

24.2. Data provided by the DBS will never be duplicated.

24.3. Any third parties who access DBS information will be made aware of the data protection legislation, as well as their responsibilities as a data handler.

25. Training

24.1 The trust and its schools will regularly raise awareness of staff to their responsibilities and duties in relation to handling personal information in their job role.

24.2 Trustees will be aware of their responsibility for compliance with data protection legislation.

24.3 Data protection will be part of the induction programme for all staff when commencing employment with The Aspire Educational Trust.

26.4 Job role specific training will be provided when identified as necessary through appraisal.

26.5 Data Protection awareness training will be refreshed every two years as a minimum. In addition, all staff will receive data protection updates (for example, via email, e-bulletins and staff meetings), as required, and at least annually, to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to protect personal data.

26. Policy monitoring and review

26.1. This policy is reviewed annually by the Data Protection Officer