



Data Records – Data Retention Policy

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Statement of intent

The Redhill Academy Trust and its individual Academies are committed to maintaining the confidentiality of its information and ensuring that all records within Academies are only accessible by the appropriate individuals. In line with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), each academy also has a responsibility to ensure that all records are only kept for as long as is necessary to fulfil the purpose(s) for which they were intended.

Each academy adopts this policy to outline how records are stored, accessed, monitored, retained and disposed of, in order to meet their statutory responsibilities.

This document complies with the requirements set out in the UK GDPR, which came into effect on 25 May 2018.

For the avoidance of doubt, where the word student is used in the main tabular section, this also refers to pupils and where the document references the Trust this also includes its subsidiary Academies.

1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Data Protection Act (2018)
 - UK General Data Protection Regulation
 - Limitation Act 1980 (as amended by the Limitation Amendment Act 1980)
- 1.2. This policy also has due regard to the following guidance:
 - Information Records Management Society 'Information Management Toolkit for Academies 2019
- 1.3. This policy will be implemented in accordance with the following Trust/Academy policies and procedures:
 - Data Protection Policy
 - Freedom of Information Policy
 - Data Acceptable Use Policy
 - (Individual Academy) E-Safety Policy

2. Responsibilities

- 2.1. The Governing body of each academy has a statutory responsibility for maintaining its own records and record-keeping systems in accordance with statutory requirements specific to the school. The responsibility is delegated to the Head Teacher.
- 2.2. The Trust Data Protection Officer (DPO), supported by Data Protection Leads in each academy, is responsible for checking the academy is compliant with this policy.
- 2.3. The person responsible for day-to-day operational management in school is the Academy Data Protection Lead (DPL), who is responsible for promoting compliance with this policy in their own academy and reviewing the policy in conjunction with the DPO.
- 2.4. The DPL is responsible for ensuring that all records are stored securely in their academy, in accordance with the retention periods outlined in this policy, and are disposed of correctly.
- 2.5. All staff members are responsible for ensuring that any records, for which they are responsible, are accurate, maintained securely and disposed of correctly, in line with the provisions of this policy and the Data Acceptable Use Policy

3. Management of student/pupil records

- 3.1. Student/pupil records are specific documents that are used throughout a student's time in the education system – they are passed to each academy that a student/pupil attends and include all personal information relating to them, e.g. date of birth, home address, as well as their progress and achievement.
- 3.2. The following information is stored on the front of a student/pupil record, and will be easily accessible:
 - Forename, surname, gender and date of birth
 - Unique student number
 - Note of the date when the file was opened
 - Note of the date when the file was closed, if appropriate
- 3.3. The following information is stored inside the front cover of a student record, and will be easily accessible:
 - Ethnic origin, religion and first language (if not English)
 - Any preferred names
 - Position in their family, e.g. eldest sibling
 - Emergency contact details and the name of the student's doctor
 - Any allergies or other medical conditions that are important to be aware of
 - Names of parents, including their home address(es) and telephone number(s)
 - Name of the academy, admission number, the date of admission and the date of leaving, where appropriate
 - Any other agency involvement, e.g. speech and language therapist
- 3.4. The following information may be stored in a student/pupil record or alternatively on the academy's management information system, and will be easily accessible:
 - Admissions form
 - Details of any SEND
 - If the student has attended an early-years setting, the record of transfer
 - Annual written reports to parents
 - National curriculum and agreed syllabus record sheets
 - Notes relating to major incidents and accidents involving the student
 - Any information about an education and healthcare (EHC) plan and support offered in relation to the EHC plan

- Any notes indicating child protection disclosures and reports
 - Any information relating to exclusions
 - Any correspondence with parents or external agencies relating to major issues, e.g. mental health
 - Notes indicating that records of complaints made by parents or the student are held
 - Absence notes
 - Parental and, where appropriate, student consent forms for educational visits, photographs and videos, etc.
 - Correspondence with parents about minor issues, e.g. behaviour
- 3.5. Hard copies of disclosures and reports relating to child protection are stored in a confidential file, in a securely locked filing cabinet in an appropriate location in the academy – a note indicating this is marked on the student/pupil file.
- 3.6. Hard copies of complaints made by parents or students are stored in a file in the headteacher's office.
- 3.7. Actual copies of accident and incident information are stored separately on the academy's electronic information system or accident file and held in line with the retention periods outlined in this policy. An additional copy may be placed in the student/pupil's file in the event of a major accident or incident.
- 3.8. Each academy will ensure that no student/pupil records are altered or amended before transferring them to the next academy that the student/pupil will attend.
- 3.9. The only exception to the above is if any records placed on the student/pupil's file have a shorter retention period and may need to be removed. In such cases, the person responsible for disposing records in the academy, will remove these records.
- 3.10. Electronic records relating to a student's record will also be transferred to the student/pupils' next academy. [Section 10](#) of this policy outlines how electronic records will be transferred.
- 3.11. **[Primary schools only]** The academy will not keep any copies of information stored within a pupil's record, unless there is ongoing legal action at the time during which the student leaves the academy. The responsibility for these records will then transfer to the next academy that the student attends.
- 3.12. **[Secondary schools and sixth form colleges only]** If any student attends the academy until statutory school leaving age, the academy will keep the student's records until the student reaches the age of 25 years.
- 3.13. The academy will, wherever possible, avoid sending a student/pupil record by post. Where a student/pupil record must be sent by post, it will be sent by recorded post and must be signed for by the receiving school. Child Protection

records are sent separately by recorded delivery and the receiver must indicate to the sending school that they have been received.

4. Retention of student/pupil records and other related information

- 4.1. The table below outlines each academy's retention periods for individual student/pupil records and the action that will be taken after the retention period, in line with any requirements.
- 4.2. Electronic copies of any information and files will be destroyed in line with the retention periods below.

Type of file	Retention period	Action taken after retention period ends
Admissions		
Register of admissions	Three years after the date on which the entry was made	Information is reviewed and the register may be kept permanently
[Secondary schools only] Secondary school admissions	The current academic year, plus one year	Securely disposed of
Proof of address (supplied as part of the admissions process)	The current academic year, plus one year	Securely disposed of
Supplementary information submitted, including religious and medical information etc. (where the admission was successful)	Added to the student's record	Securely disposed of
Supplementary information submitted, including religious and medical information etc. (where the admission was not successful)	Until the appeals process has been completed	Securely disposed of
Student/Pupils' educational records		
[Primary schools only] Students' educational records	Whilst the student remains at the academy	Transferred to the next destination – if this is an independent school, home-schooling or outside of the UK, the file will be kept by the LA and retained for the statutory period
[Secondary schools only] Students' educational records	25 years after the student's date of birth	Securely disposed of
Public examination results	Added to the student's record	Returned to the examination board
Internal examination results	Added to the student's record	Securely disposed of

Child protection information held on a student's record	Stored in a confidential file for the same length of time as the student's record	Securely disposed of – shredded
Child protection records held in a separate file	25 years after the student's date of birth	Securely disposed of – shredded
Attendance		
Attendance registers	Last date of entry on to the register, plus three years	Securely disposed of
Letters authorising absence	Current academic year, plus two years	Securely disposed of
SEND		
SEND files, reviews and individual education plans	25 years after the student's date of birth (as stated on the student's record)	Information is reviewed and the file may be kept for longer than necessary if it is required for the academy to defend themselves in a 'failure to provide sufficient education' case
Statement of SEN maintained under section 324 of the Education Act 1996 or an EHC plan maintained under section 37 of the Children and Families Act 2014 (and any amendments to the statement or plan)	25 years after the student's date of birth (as stated on the student's record)	Securely disposed of, unless it is subject to a legal hold
Information and advice provided to parents regarding SEND	25 years after the student's date of birth (as stated on the student's record)	Securely disposed of, unless it is subject to a legal hold
Accessibility strategy	25 years after the student's date of birth (as stated on the student's record)	Securely disposed of, unless it is subject to a legal hold
Curriculum management		
SATs results	25 years after the student's date of birth (as stated on the student's record)	Securely disposed of
Examination papers	Until the appeals/validation process has been completed	Securely disposed of

Published Admission Number (PAN) reports	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Valued added and contextual data	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Self-evaluation forms	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Students' work	Returned to students at the end of the academic year, or retained for the current academic year, plus one year	Securely disposed of
Extra-curricular activities		
Parental consent forms for academy trips where no major incident occurred	Until the conclusion of the trip	Up to 22 years after the student's date of birth
Parental consent forms for academy trips where a major incident occurred	25 years after the student's date of birth on the student's record (permission slips of all students on the trip will also be held to show that the rules had been followed for all students)	Securely disposed of
Walking bus registers	Three years from the date of the register being taken	Securely disposed of
Family liaison officers and home-school liaison assistants		
Day books	Current academic year, plus two years	Reviewed and destroyed if no longer required
Reports for outside agencies	Duration of the student's time at academy	Securely disposed of
Referral forms	Whilst the referral is current	Securely disposed of
Contact data sheets	Current academic year	Reviewed and destroyed if no longer active
Contact database entries	Current academic year	Reviewed and destroyed if no longer required
Group registers	Current academic year, plus two years	Securely disposed of

5. Retention of staff records

- 5.1. The table below outlines the academy's retention period for staff records and the action that will be taken after the retention period, in line with any requirements.
- 5.2. Electronic copies of any information and files will also be destroyed in line with the retention periods below.

Type of file	Retention period	Action taken after retention period ends
Operational		
Staff members' personal file	Termination of employment, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Timesheets	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Annual appraisal and assessment records	Current academic year, plus five years	Securely disposed of
Recruitment		
Records relating to the appointment of a new headteacher	Date of appointment, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Records relating to the appointment of new members of staff (unsuccessful candidates)	Date of appointment of successful candidate, plus six months	Securely disposed of
Records relating to the appointment of new members of staff (successful candidates)	Relevant information added to the member of staff's personal file and other information retained for six months	Securely disposed of
DBS certificates	Up to six months	Securely disposed of
Proof of identity as part of the enhanced DBS check	After identity has been proven	Reviewed and a note kept of what was seen and what has been checked – if it is necessary to keep a copy this will be placed on the staff member's personal file, if not, securely disposed of
Evidence of right to work in the UK	Added to staff personal file or, if kept separately, termination of employment, plus no longer than two years	Securely disposed of

Disciplinary and grievance procedures		
Child protection allegations, including where the allegation is unproven	Added to staff personal file, and until the individual's normal retirement age, or 10 years from the date of the allegation – whichever is longer If allegations are malicious, they are removed from personal files	Reviewed and securely disposed of – shredded
Oral warnings	Date of expiration of warning, plus six months	Securely disposed of – if placed on staff personal file, removed from file
Written warning – level 1	Date of expiration of warning, plus six months	Securely disposed of – if placed on staff personal file, removed from file
Written warning – level 2	Date of expiration of warning, plus 12 months	Securely disposed of – if placed on staff personal file, removed from file
Final warning	Date of expiration of warning, plus 18 months	Securely disposed of – if placed on staff personal file, removed from file
Records relating to unproven incidents	Conclusion of the case, unless the incident is child protection related and is disposed of as above	Securely disposed of

6. Retention of senior leadership and management records

6.1. The table below outlines the academy's retention periods for senior leadership and management records, and the action that will be taken after the retention period, in line with any requirements.

Electronic copies of any information and files will also be destroyed in line with the retention periods below.

Type of file	Retention period	Action taken after retention period ends
Governing board		
Agendas for governing board meetings	One copy alongside the original set of minutes – all	Securely disposed of

	others disposed of without retention	
Original, signed copies of the minutes of governing board meetings	Permanent	If unable to store, these will be provided to the county archives service
Inspection copies of the minutes of governing board meetings	Date of meeting, plus three years	Shredded if they contain any sensitive and personal information
Reports presented to the governing board	Minimum of six years, unless they refer to individual reports – these are kept permanently	Securely disposed of or, if they refer to individual reports, retained with the signed, original copy of minutes
Meeting papers relating to the annual parents' meeting	Date of meeting, plus a minimum of six years	Securely disposed of
Instruments of government, including articles of association	Permanent	If unable to store, these will be provided to the county archives service
Trusts and endowments managed by the governing board	Permanent	Retained in the academy whilst it remains open, then provided to the county archives service when the academy closes
Action plans created and administered by the governing board	Duration of the action plan, plus three years	Securely disposed of
Policy documents created and administered by the governing board	Duration of the policy, plus three years	Securely disposed of
Records relating to complaints dealt with by the governing board	Date of the resolution of the complaint, plus a minimum of six years	Reviewed for further retention in case of contentious disputes, then securely disposed of
Annual reports created under the requirements of The Education (Governors' Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	Date of report, plus 10 years	Securely disposed of
Proposals concerning changing the status of the academy	Date proposal accepted or declined, plus three years	Securely disposed of
Headteacher and senior leadership team (SLT)		
Log books of activity in the academy maintained by the headteacher	Date of last entry, plus a minimum of six years	Reviewed and offered to the county archives service if appropriate

Minutes of SLT meetings and the meetings of other internal administrative bodies	Date of the meeting, plus three years	Reviewed and securely disposed of
Reports created by the headteacher or SLT	Date of the report, plus a minimum of three years	Reviewed and securely disposed of
Records created by the headteacher, deputy headteacher, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	Current academic year, plus six years	Reviewed and securely disposed of
Correspondence created by the headteacher, deputy headteacher, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	Date of correspondence, plus three years	Reviewed and securely disposed of
Professional development plan	Duration of the plan, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Academy development plan	Duration of the plan, plus three years	Securely disposed of

7. Retention of health and safety records

- 7.1. The table below outlines the academy's retention periods for health and safety records, and the action that will be taken after the retention period, in line with any requirements.
- 7.2. Electronic copies of any information and files will also be destroyed in line with the retention periods below.

Type of file	Retention period	Action taken after retention period ends
Health and safety		
Health and safety policy statements	Duration of policy, plus three years	Securely disposed of
Health and safety risk assessments	Duration of risk assessment, plus three years	Securely disposed of

Records relating to accidents and injuries at work	Date of incident, plus 12 years. In the case of serious accidents, a retention period of 15 years is applied	Securely disposed of
Accident reporting – adults	Date of the incident, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Accident reporting – students	25 years after the student's date of birth, on the student's record	Securely disposed of
Control of substances hazardous to health	Current academic year, plus 40 years	Securely disposed of
Information relating to areas where employees and persons are likely to come into contact with asbestos	Date of last action, plus 40 years	Securely disposed of
Information relating to areas where employees and persons are likely to come into contact with radiation	Date of last action, plus 50 years	Securely disposed of
Fire precautions log books	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of

8. Retention of financial records

- 8.1. The table below outlines the academy's retention periods for financial records and the action that will be taken after the retention period, in line with any requirements.
- 8.2. Electronic copies of any information and files will also be destroyed in line with the retention periods below.

Type of file	Retention period	Action taken after retention period ends
Payroll pensions		
Maternity pay records	Current academic year, plus three years	Securely disposed of

Records held under Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Risk management and insurance		
Employer's liability insurance certificate	Closure of the academy, plus 40 years	Securely disposed of
Asset management		
Inventories of furniture and equipment	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Accounts and statements including budget management		
Annual accounts	Current academic year, plus six years	Disposed of against common standards
Loans and grants managed by the academy	Date of last payment, plus 12 years	Information is reviewed then securely disposed of
All records relating to the creation and management of budgets	Duration of the budget, plus three years	Securely disposed of
Invoices, receipts, order books, requisitions and delivery notices	Current financial year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Records relating to the collection and banking of monies	Current financial year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Records relating to the identification and collection of debt	Current financial year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Contract management		
All records relating to the management of contracts under seal	Last payment on the contract, plus 12 years	Securely disposed of
All records relating to the management of contracts under signature	Last payment on the contract, plus six years	Securely disposed of
All records relating to the monitoring of contracts	Current academic year, plus two years	Securely disposed of
School fund		
Cheque books, paying in books, ledgers, invoices, receipts, bank statements and journey books	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of

School meals		
Free school meals registers	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
School meals registers	Current academic year, plus three years	Securely disposed of
School meals summary sheets	Current academic year, plus three years	Securely disposed of

9. Retention of other records

- 9.1. The table below outlines the academy's retention periods for any other records held by the academy, and the action that will be taken after the retention period, in line with any requirements.
- 9.2. Electronic copies of any information and files will also be destroyed in line with the retention periods below.

Type of file	Retention period	Action taken after retention period ends
Property management		
Title deeds of properties belonging to the academy	Permanent	Transferred to new owners if the building is leased or sold
Plans of property belonging to the academy	For as long as the building belongs to the academy	Transferred to new owners if the building is leased or sold
Leases of property leased by or to the academy	Expiry of lease, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Records relating to the letting of academy premises	Current financial year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Maintenance		
All records relating to the maintenance of the academy carried out by contractors	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
All records relating to the maintenance of the academy carried out by academy employees	Current academic year, plus six years	Securely disposed of
Operational administration		
General file series	Current academic year, plus five years	Reviewed and securely disposed of

Records relating to the creation and publication of the academy brochure and/or prospectus	Current academic year, plus three years	Disposed of against common standards
Records relating to the creation and distribution of circulars to staff, parents or students	Current academic year, plus one year	Disposed of against common standards
Newsletters and other items with short operational use	Current academic year plus one year	Disposed of against common standards
Visitors' books and signing-in sheets	Current academic year, plus six years	Reviewed then securely disposed of
Records relating to the creation and management of parent-teacher associations and/or old student associations	Current academic year, plus six years	Reviewed then securely disposed of

10. Storing and protecting information

- 10.1. For details on Data Acceptable Use, please refer to the Trust Data Acceptable Use Policy
- 10.2. Any damage to or theft of data will be managed in accordance with the Trust's Data Protection Policy and if appropriate the staff disciplinary policy..

11. Accessing information

- 11.1. Each academy is transparent with data subjects, the information we hold and how it can be accessed.
- 11.2. All members of staff, parents of registered students/pupils and other users of the academy, e.g. visitors and third-party clubs, are entitled to:
- Know what information the academy holds and processes about them or their child and why.
 - Understand how to gain access to it.
 - Understand how to provide and withdraw consent to information being held.
 - Understand what the academy is doing to comply with its obligations under the GDPR.
- 11.3. All members of staff, parents of registered students and other users of the academy and its facilities have the right, under the GDPR, to access certain personal data being held about them or their child.

- 11.4. Personal information can be shared with students/pupils once they are considered to be at an appropriate age and responsible for their own affairs; although, this information can still be shared with parents.
- 11.5. Students who are considered to be at an appropriate age to make decisions for themselves are entitled to have their personal information handled in accordance with their rights.
- 11.6. The academy will adhere to the provisions outlined in the Trust's Data Protection Policy when responding to requests seeking access to personal information.

12. Information audit

- 12.1. The academy conducts information audits on an annual basis against all information held by the academy to evaluate the information the academy is holding, receiving and using, and to ensure that this is correctly managed in accordance with the GDPR. This includes the following information:
 - Paper documents and records
 - Electronic documents and records
 - Databases
 - Microfilm or microfiche
 - Sound recordings
 - Video and photographic records
 - Hybrid files, containing both paper and electronic information
- 12.2. The information audit may be completed in a number of ways, including, but not limited to:
 - Interviews with staff members with key responsibilities – to identify information and information flows, etc.
 - Questionnaires to key staff members to identify information and information flows, etc.
 - A mixture of the above
- 12.3. The Operations Manager is responsible for completing the information audit. The information audit will include the following:
 - The academy's data needs
 - The information needed to meet those needs
 - The format in which data is stored
 - How long data needs to be kept for
 - Vital records status and any protective marking
 - Who is responsible for maintaining the original document

- 12.4. The Operations Manager will consult with staff members involved in the information audit process to ensure that the information is accurate.
- 12.5. Once it has been confirmed that the information is accurate, Operations Manager will record all details on the academy's Information Mapping Register.
- 12.6. The information displayed on the Information Asset Register will be shared annually with the Governors Business Committee.
- 12.7. The DPO will conduct an annual audit of GDPR compliance with each individual academy.
- 12.8. The Trust will conduct a Data Protection Audit bi-annually on all Academies, to ensure compliance with the UK GDPR.

13. Disposal of data

- 13.1. Where disposal of information is outlined as standard disposal, this will be recycled appropriate to the form of the information, e.g. paper recycling, electronic recycling.
- 13.2. Where disposal of information is outlined as secure disposal, this will be shredded or pulped.
- 13.3. If, after the review, it is determined that the data should be disposed of, it will be destroyed in accordance with the disposal action outlined in this policy.
- 13.4. Where information must be kept permanently, this information is exempt from the normal review procedures.

14. Monitoring and review

- 14.1. This policy will be reviewed on a three yearly basis by the Trust Data Protection Officer – the next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2024.
- 14.2. Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to all members of staff, the governing body of each academy and the Trust Executive Board.