



Mayesbrook Park School

Alternative Provision for young people in Barking and Dagenham

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

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DATA PROTECTION POLICY

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DATA PROTECTION POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Mayesbrook Park School ("the School") is fully committed to compliance with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). The School will, therefore, follow procedures which aim to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is processed fairly, lawfully and transparently.

The GDPR, the DPA and Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998, stress that the processing of personal data needs to strike a balance between the needs of the School to function effectively and efficiently and respect for the rights and freedoms of the individual. This policy sets out how the School intends to safeguard those rights and freedoms.

Obligations and responsibilities under the UK General Data Protection Regulations are not optional; **they are mandatory**. There can be harsh penalties, up to £17.5million or 4% of global turnover for the preceding year (whichever is the greater) in relation to breaches of rights and obligations and up to £8.7 million or 2% of global turnover for the preceding year (whichever is the greater) imposed for non-compliance regarding Control and Mitigation.

The School will, therefore, follow procedures that aim to ensure that all staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and any other person working for the School who have access to any personal data held by or on behalf of the School is fully aware of, and abides by their duties and responsibilities under the UK General Data Protection Regulations and Data Protection Act.

All individuals permitted to access personal data in line with their work duties must agree to comply with this policy and agree to undertake any relevant training that may be appropriate to the role being undertaken.

As well as the School, any individual who knowingly or recklessly processes data without appropriate consent or proper authorisation, for purposes other than those for which it is intended or is deliberately acting outside of their recognised responsibilities may be subject to the School's disciplinary procedures, including dismissal where appropriate, and possible legal action liable to prosecution and possible criminal conviction under the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

The Data Use and Access Act 2025 (DUAA) received Royal Assent on 19th June 2025 and will be implemented in stages over a period of twelve months. The School recognises the need to prepare for the new legal duties it will introduce, particularly in relation to transparency, data minimisation and the justified use of personal data beyond direct teaching and learning. Where personal data is used for purposes such as service improvement, research or analysis the School will ensure such use remains proportionate, lawful and clearly communicated to data subjects.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the collection and processing of all personal data held by the School falling within the scope of the GDPR and the DPA in all formats including paper, electronic, audio, and visual. It applies to all staff, governors, volunteers and contractors.

This policy also covers emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) where used by the School to process personal data, whether for educational, administrative or operational purposes.

3. PERSONAL AND SPECIAL CATEGORY PERSONAL DATA

The GDPR and DPA provides conditions for the collection and processing of any personal data. It also makes a distinction between **personal data** and **'special category' personal data**.

Personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

Special category personal data is defined as personal data consisting of information as to:

- racial or ethnic origin;
- political opinion;
- religious or other beliefs;
- trade union membership;
- physical or mental health or condition;
- sexual life or sexual orientation;
- genetics
- biometric data (where used for ID purposes)

Although there are clear distinctions between personal and special category data for the purposes of this policy the term '*personal data*' refers equally to '*special category data*' unless otherwise stated.

The GDPR and DPA rules for special category data do not apply to information about criminal allegations, proceedings, or convictions. Instead, there are separate safeguards for personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences, or related security measures.

4. PERSONAL DATA PROCESSED BY THE SCHOOL

The School processes personal data for many reasons to provide an education to its pupils. A description of the types of personal data processed and the purposes for processing are included in the School's privacy notices.

Personal data must be handled and dealt with in accordance with the GDPR and DPA and this policy. There are safeguards within the GDPR and DPA to ensure personal information is collected, recorded, and used whether it is on paper, computer records or recorded by any other means.

The obligations outlined in this policy apply to everyone who has access to, holds copies of or processes personal data. This includes those who work at/from home or have remote or flexible patterns of working.

5. THE DATA CONTROLLER

The Data Controller is the person who (either alone or jointly or in common with other persons) determines the purposes for which and the manner in which personal data are or are to be processed. The School is the Data Controller for all personal data relating to its pupils, parents and staff.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Governing Board

The governing board has overall responsibility for ensuring that the School complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

6.2 Data Protection Officer

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

The DPO will also support the School in preparing for compliance with the Data Use and Access Act 2025 (DUAA). This includes advising on future duties relating to transparency, justification of data use under a public task, and enhanced access rights where personal data is used for research, analytics or service delivery improvement. The DUAA amends but does not replace the UK GDPR and DPA 2018.

The DPO will provide guidance to ensure that third-party data sharing arrangements include appropriate data protection measures, particularly where data is used for broader system-wide purposes. While it is not the DPO's role to monitor all data sharing activity directly, they will advise on governance frameworks, DPIA's and contractual clauses to help ensure lawful and proportionate sharing in line with evolving legal standards.

The DPO is also the first point of contact for individuals whose data the School process, and for the Information Commissioner.

The School DPO is contactable via email at: info@dpenterprise.co.uk

6.3 Headteacher

The Headteacher acts as the representative of the data controller on a day-to-day basis.

6.4 All Staff

All Staff are responsible for:

- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy;
- Informing the School of any changes to their personal data, such as a change of address
- Contacting the DPO in the following circumstances:
 - With any questions about the operation of this policy, data protection law, retaining personal data or keeping personal data secure
 - If you have concerns that this policy is not being followed
 - If you are unsure whether or not you have a lawful basis to use personal data in a particular way
 - If you need to rely on or capture consent, deal with the rights of the data subjects or transfer personal data outside the European Economic Area
 - If there has been a data breach
 - Whether you are engaging in a new activity that may affect the privacy rights of individuals
 - If you need help with any contracts or sharing personal data with third parties

7. DATA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES

Anyone processing personal data must comply with 6 principles of good practice. These principles are legally enforceable and can be summarised as follows:

1. Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals;
2. Obtained 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;
3. Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed;

4. Accurate and kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that is inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased, or rectified without delay;
5. 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;
6. 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. In accordance with the rights of data subjects under the GDPR and DPA.

Article 5(2) adds:

The controller shall be responsible for and be able to demonstrate compliance with the above principles ('accountability').

Under the DUAA, the School will be required to demonstrate proportionality and necessity in their use of personal data, particularly where it is used beyond core teaching and pastoral purposes, for example, in support of data analysis, educational research or policy development. The School will begin to prepare for this by ensuring decisions about such use are clearly recorded and justifiable.

8. FAIR PROCESSING

In meeting any obligation to ensure that processing of information is fair, due consideration will be given to the adoption of any recognised standards or advice to provide individuals with such information as is necessary to ensure that they are likely to understand: -

- a) The purposes for which their personal data are to be processed;
- b) The likely consequences of such processing and;
- c) Whether particular disclosures can be reasonably envisaged

9. NOTIFICATION

The national body for the supervision of GDPR is the Information Commissioner to whom the Headteacher notifies his/her purposes for processing personal data.

This notification process serves to provide transparency and openness about the processing of personal data. It is a fundamental principle of the GDPR that the public should know or be able to find out who is carrying out the processing of personal data and for what purpose.

A copy of the School's notification details is available on the Information Commissioner website www.ico.org.uk

10. INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS

The School recognises that access to personal data held about an individual is a fundamental right provided in the Act. These rights include: -

- The right to be informed
- The right of access to personal information
- The right to request rectification
- The right to request erasure
- The right to restrict processing in certain circumstances
- The right to data portability
- The right to object to processing
- Rights related to automated decision-making including profiling

Children below the age of 13 are generally not regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Therefore, most subject access requests from parents or carers of pupils at the School may be granted without the express permission of the pupil.

This is not a rule and a pupil's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

The School will ensure that all requests from parents to access their child's educational file are dealt with as a request made under the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 within the 15 school-day timescale permitted in the legislation, as long as the data subject meets the requirements set out in this policy.

If any other information is required not contained in the educational file, the School response time permitted in the Data Protection Act 2018 shall be one calendar month. However the calendar month will not commence until after receipt of all identity or clarification of information sought is received. To minimise delays and unnecessary work all requests from data subjects must:

- Be made to School DPO in writing by email/post to info@dpenterprise.co.uk. Requests can be made verbally or via social media, but this is not recommended.
- Be accompanied by adequate proof of the identity of the data subject where required and, where applicable, the written authorisation of the data subject (if the request is being made on their behalf by a legal or lawfully appointed representative or, authorised agent).
- Specify clearly and simply the information required.
- Give adequate information to enable the requested data to be located
- Make it clear where the response should be sent.

The Data Protection Officer must be informed of any request to action against one or more of these rights.

The Act allows exemptions from providing information to individuals making a subject access request, and non-disclosure of information, in specific and limited circumstances.

When the School collect personal data, the School does not need to provide the individual with any information they may already have.

When obtaining personal data from other sources, the School do not need to provide individuals with privacy information if:

- The individual already has the information;
- Providing the information to the individual would be impossible;
- Providing the information to the individual would involve disproportionate effort;
- Providing the information to the individual would render impossible or seriously impair the achievement of the objectives of the processing;
- The School is required by law to obtain or disclose the personal data; or
- The School is subject to an obligation of professional secrecy regulated by law that covers personal data

If a data subject remains dissatisfied with a response received, they may ask for the matter to be reviewed, or, in the case of an employee a resolution may be sought through the School's grievance process.

Ultimately if a data subject continues to be dissatisfied, she/he has the right to ask the Information Commissioner to carry out an assessment of their case and/or pursue a legal remedy.

11. COMPLAINTS

If you have a concern about the way the School process your personal data, please raise your concern with the School Data Protection Officer in the first instance.

The Data Protection Officer will deal with any written complaint about the way your personal data is processed.

12. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The School may be required to disclose personal data by a court order, or to comply with other legal requirements including the prevention or detection of crime, apprehension of an offender or gathering of taxation.

External agencies or companies contracted to undertake processing of personal data on behalf of the School must demonstrate, via a written agreement, that personal information belonging to the School will be handled in compliance with the UK GDPR and DPA and that it has the necessary technical and organisational security measures in place to ensure this.

Any sharing of school data with external partners for the purpose of service provision must comply with all statutory requirements.

The School will follow relevant guidance issued by the Government and the Information Commissioner for users of CCTV and similar surveillance equipment monitoring spaces to which the public, residents, service users and employees have access and will also strive to ensure that partner organisations involved in joint or multi-agency initiatives seek to do the same. The

School reserves the right to monitor telephone calls, email and internet access in compliance with relevant legislation. This will be handled in line with guidance issued by the ICO.

The legal basis for this policy is the UK GDPR and DPA which provides the legal parameters for the processing of personal data. However, compliance with other legislation, codes of practice, policies, and guidance also has relevance, such as:-

- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Computer Misuse Act 1990
- The Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Data Use and Access Act 2025

The School does not make solely automated decisions that have a legal or similarly significant effect on individuals, including pupils and staff. Where AI tools are used to assist with decision-making, human oversight and professional judgment will always be maintained in line with Article 22 of the UK GDPR.

Where AI systems are introduced that process personal data, the School will ensure an appropriate lawful basis is identified, and a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) will be completed where necessary.

13. DATA SECURITY

The School will process personal data in accordance with its Information Security Policy (and other related Policies and Procedures). To ensure the security of personal data, the School has appropriate physical, technical and organisational measures in place. Employees are required to comply with the Information Security Policy.

The UK GDPR and DPA requires that appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken to protect data against:

- Unauthorised access;
- Unauthorised or unlawful processing;
- Accidental loss, destruction, or damage

Appropriate technical and organisational security measures will include:

- using and developing technological solutions to ensure compliance with the data protection principles
- using and developing physical measures to protect school assets
- ensuring the reliability of any persons who have access to school information
- reporting and investigating security breaches

These obligations include the need to consider the nature of the data to be protected and the harm that might arise from such unauthorised or unlawful processing or accidental loss, destruction, or damage.

All printout material, magnetic tape, diskettes, CDs or DVDs, manual files, handwritten notes etc, which contain personal data and are no longer required, will be treated as confidential waste, and disposed of securely.

Where processing of school data is to be carried out by a third party on behalf of the School, the Headteacher must ensure that the third party provides sufficient guarantees in respect of the technical and organisation measures governing the processing to be undertaken.

14. SHARING PERSONAL DATA

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

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

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

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

The School may also share personal data with emergency services and local authorities to help them to respond to an emergency situation that affects any of the School pupils or staff.

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

15. BIOMETRIC RECOGNITION SYSTEMS

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

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

Parents/carers and pupils have the right to choose not to use the School's biometric system(s). The School will provide alternative means of accessing the relevant services for those pupils.

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

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

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

16. CCTV

The School use CCTV in various locations around the School site to ensure it remains safe. The School will adhere to the [ICO's guidance](#) for the use of CCTV.

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

Further information about the School's CCTV system can be found in the School CCTV policy on the website.

17. DATA PROTECTION BY DESIGN AND DEFAULT

The School will use a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) toolkit to evaluate all new computer systems to help it determine how data protection compliance can be assured. In addition, all existing systems will be subject to periodic assessment.

Under the UK GDPR and DPA 2018, DPIAs are a mandatory legal requirement when processing personal data that is likely to result in high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals. The School must conduct a DPIA before beginning any processing that involves:

- Systematic and extensive evaluation or scoring of individuals, including profiling
- Large-scale processing of special category data or data relating to criminal convictions
- Systematic monitoring of publicly accessible areas on a large scale
- Use of new technologies that may pose high risks to individuals' rights
- Processing that involves vulnerable individuals, particularly children
- Data matching or combining datasets from different sources
- Processing that prevents individuals from exercising their rights or accessing services

Where a DPIA identifies high risks that cannot be adequately mitigated, the School/DPO will consult with the Information Commissioner before proceeding with the processing.

DPIA toolkits provide a step-by-step approach to evaluate the test proposed, new or existing information systems for compliance with the legislation. The DPIA process helps to identify weaknesses or risks to data losses or breaches and consider action that needs to be taken to ensure compliance where such compliance is not yet achieved. DPIA applies equally to paper as well as electronic data holding systems.

The Data Protection Officer **must** be consulted when implementing a new process or system that involves personal data and will determine whether a DPIA is required based on the risk assessment criteria as above.

18. PERSONAL DATA BREACHES

The School will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches. In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, the School will follow the procedure set out in the School Security Incident and Data Breach Policy.

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

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on the School website which shows the exam results of pupils eligible for the pupil premium
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person
- The theft of a school or personal electronic device containing non-encrypted personal data about pupils
- Accidental disclosure of personal data to another person or organisation
- Inappropriate access to or use of personal data
- The theft of personal information, either paper based or electronic
- Accidental loss of personal data
- Information that has not arrived at its destination
- Fraudulent acquisition of personal data (Blaggers)

19. TRAINING AND AWARENESS

Data Protection training and awareness is crucial so that all staff understand their responsibilities relating to data protection and the use of personal data. Failure to comply with the UK GDPR, DPA and the principles could lead to serious problems, and in some cases may result in significant fines or criminal prosecution.

It is the School's policy that all employees including managers and governors are required to complete the applicable training course every twelve to eighteen months. This includes employees that do not have internet or email access. Line managers will be responsible for ensuring that staff without internet or email access receive appropriate training.

20. THE SCHOOL COMMITMENT TO DATA PROTECTION

The Headteacher of Mayesbrook park school will be accountable for ensuring compliance with this policy.

The School will ensure that individuals handling personal information will be trained to an appropriate level in the use and control of personal data.

The School have implemented a process to ensure all staff handling personal information know when and how to report any actual or suspected data breach(es), and that appropriately trained staff manage these breaches correctly, lawfully and in a timely manner.

The School will monitor and review its processing activities to ensure these are consistent with the principles of the GDPR and DPA and will ensure that its notification is kept up to date.

The School will ensure that any new or altered processing identifies and assesses the impact on a data subject's privacy as a result of any processing of their personal data, and that appropriate Privacy Notices are maintained to inform data-subjects of how their data will be used.

The School is committed to protecting personal data and ensuring its responsible use. This includes anticipating changes in data protection law and adapting practices accordingly. The DPO will monitor the development of new legislation, including the DUAA and implement appropriate changes when necessary.

The School will review and supplement this policy to ensure it remains consistent with the Law and any compliance advice and Codes of Practice issued from time to time by the Information Commissioner.

21. POLICY REVIEW

The Data Protection Officer is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy. In addition, changes to legislation, national guidance, codes of practice or commissioner advice may trigger interim reviews.

The DUAA 2025 may require updates to this policy, especially in relation to rights of access, reuse of data and transparency provisions. The DPO will ensure this policy remains aligned with any statutory codes or ICO guidance issued under the DUAA.

22. LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

This data protection policy is linked to the School:

- Freedom of Information Policy
- Security Incident and Data Breach Policy
- Information Security Policy
- CCTV Policy
- Information Sharing Policy
- Data Protection Impact Assessment Policy

- Acceptable Use Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- UK GDPR Privacy Notices

The Information Commissioner also provides a free helpdesk that can be used by anyone and a website containing a large range of resources and guidance on all aspects of Information Law for use by organisations and the public. See www.ico.org.uk