Information Management Toolkit for Schools

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Foreword from the Chair

It is with genuine pleasure that I welcome you to this revised edition of the IRMS Records Management Toolkit for Schools. Over the past years, this booklet has proven very popular in the sector and I am sure that with this refresh along with the increasing profile of 'information', its popularity will only increase!

The Society is very grateful to the indomitable Elizabeth Barber and her team for the work in revising this booklet, as well as to Dr Paul Duller and the Tribal Group for their support once again in funding its production.

Looking ahead, further education sector booklets are planned as is guidance on the important topic of equipping students to reality check the sources they consult online.

However, those things are for the future. The moment here is one to celebrate this new edition of the Toolkit – I hope you find it useful!

Meic Pierce-Owen AMIRMS, FIIM
Chair, IRMS

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Introduction

The Information Management Toolkit for Schools has been created to assist schools to manage their information in line with the current legislative frameworks.

Module 1 consists of the base toolkit designed to assist schools under local authority control in their compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Module 2 consists of additional information which is designed to assist Academies in their compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other business requirements. (In development)

Module 3 consists of additional information which is designed to assist independent schools to manage their records in line with legislative requirements. (In development)

The Information Management Toolkit for Schools is being made available to schools free of charge in pdf format. The Toolkit is available in MSWord format at no additional charge to members of the IRMS and at a fixed charge to non-members of the IRMS. For more details about this please contact IRMS (info@irms.org.uk).

All questions, suggestions and amendments to the toolkit should be sent to schooltoolkit.irms.org.uk. We will only undertake to answer questions from IRMS members, so please make sure that you have quoted your IRMS membership number when sending the question.

The Information Management Toolkit for Schools is designed as guidance and should not be quoted to users as being a "standard". All local authorities should seek the advice of their own legal departments before using the toolkit. Local authorities should not refer members of the public to the IRMS for clarification about the toolkit. The IRMS is not a public body and therefore is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. All requests for information relating to the toolkit used by individual authorities must be addressed by that authority.

The review group consisted of the following members:

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The Records Management Toolkit for Schools contains the following sections, which are hyperlinked from the contents page for ease of reference.

Records Management Policy

Each public authority (including individual schools) should have a records management policy. The toolkit contains a Policy Document which can be adopted in its entirety or adapted to reflect the different needs of different schools.

Records Management Programme

The Records Management Toolkit aims to assist individual schools to manage records throughout their lifecycle. There is advice about managing e-mail to ensure that it becomes part of the vital record. There is information and advice about information security and how to ensure compliance under the Data Protection Act 1998 and information about business continuity to ensure that vital records are not lost or destroyed in the event of fire, flood or theft. There is also some advice about how to conduct an information audit.

Pupil Records

Some guidelines about what should be included in the main pupil record have been included and some advice about what information should be transferred on to the next school and how this information should be transferred.

Retention Guidelines

The core part of the toolkit are the retention guidelines which list all the possible records any school, in England & Wales, might produce and the recommended retention periods. Some of these have a statutory basis, others have been agreed in consultation with schools around the country. There are also retention guidelines for Early Years Providers. There is some information about the benefits of using a retention schedule. There are also guidelines about the safe disposal of records.

This guidance does not cover which records should be sent to the County Archives Service. For information about this please contact your County Archives Service.

Closed School Guidance

There is some general guidance about what needs to be done with records when a school closes or amalgamates with another school in the same area.

Records Management Policy

Background

Section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires schools to follow a Code of Practice on managing their records. Under section 7 of the Code of Practice on the Management of Records, it states that:

"Authorities should have in place a records management policy, either as a separate policy or as part of a wider information or knowledge management policy."

This policy needs to:

be endorsed by senior management, for example at board level, and should be readily available to staff at all levels. (7.1)

provide a mandate for the records and information management function and a framework for supporting standards, procedures and guidelines. The precise contents will depend on the particular needs and culture of the authority but it should as a minimum:

a) Set out the authority's commitment to create, keep and manage records which document its principal activities;
b) Outline the role of records management and its relationship to the authority's overall business strategy;
c) Identify and make appropriate connections to related policies, such as those dealing with email, information security and data protection;
d) Define roles and responsibilities, including the responsibility of individuals to document their work in the authority's records to the extent that, and in the way that, the authority has decided their work should be documented, and to use those records appropriately;
e) Indicate how compliance with the policy and the supporting standards, procedures and guidelines will be monitored. (7.2)

The policy should be kept up-to-date so that it reflects the current needs of the authority. One way of ensuring this is to review it at agreed intervals, for example every three or five years, and after major organisational or technological changes, in order to assess whether it needs amendment. (7.3)

The authority should consider publishing the policy so that members of the public can see the basis on which it manages its records. (7.4)

[For a full copy of the Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice see https://www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/information-access-rights/foi/foi-section-46-code-of-practice.pdf]

The Model Policy

The following is a model policy statement which could be adopted by individual schools. It has been extracted from model action plan for developing records management compliant with the Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice under Section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Model Action Plan for Schools. [https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/schools.rtf]

The model policy statement can be adopted in its entirety or can be amended to reflect the needs of individual schools. Once it has been amended it should be approved by the governing body or other appropriate authority. Once the records management policy has been approved at the appropriate level it should be published, perhaps as part of the publication scheme.

[Name of] School Records Management Policy

The School recognises that by efficiently managing its records, it will be able to comply with its legal and regulatory obligations and to contribute to the effective overall management of the institution. Records provide evidence for protecting the legal rights and interests of the school, and provide evidence for demonstrating performance and accountability. This document provides the policy framework through which this effective management can be achieved and audited. It covers:

- Scope
- Responsibilities
- Relationships with existing policies

1. Scope of the policy

1.1 This policy applies to all records created, received or maintained by staff of the school in the course of carrying out its functions.

1.2 Records are defined as all those documents which facilitate the business carried out by the school and which are thereafter retained (for a set period) to provide evidence of its transactions or activities. These records may be created, received or maintained in hard copy or electronically.

1.3 A small percentage of the school's records will be selected for permanent preservation as part of the institution's archives and for historical research. This should be done in liaison with the County Archives Service.

2. Responsibilities

2.1 The school has a corporate responsibility to maintain its records and record keeping systems in accordance with the regulatory environment. The person with overall responsibility for this policy is the Head of the School.

2.2 The person responsible for records management in the school will give guidance for good records management practice and will promote compliance with this policy so that information will be retrieved easily, appropriately and in a timely way. They will also monitor compliance with this policy by surveying at least annually to check if records are stored securely and can be accessed appropriately.

2.3 Individual staff and employees must ensure that records for which they are responsible are accurate, and are maintained and disposed of in accordance with the school's records management guidelines.

3. Relationship with existing policies

This policy has been drawn up within the context of:

- Freedom of Information policy
- Data Protection policy
- and with other legislation or regulations (including audit, equal opportunities and ethics) affecting the school.

Signed: _____ [Head of School]

Acknowledgements

Content developed in 2012 by: **Anthony Sawyer** Herefordshire Public Services
John Davies TFPL Consultancy

Pupil Records

These guidelines are intended to help provide consistency of practice in the way in which pupil records are managed. These will assist schools about how pupil records should be managed and what kind of information should be included in the file. It is hoped that the guidelines will develop further following suggestions and comments from those members of staff in schools who have the most contact with pupil records.

These guidelines apply to information created and stored in both physical and electronic format.

These are only guidelines and have no legal status, if you are in doubt about whether a piece of information should be included on the file please contact the Local Authority.

Managing Pupil Records

The pupil record should be seen as the core record charting an individual pupil's progress through the Education System[1]. The pupil record should accompany the pupil to every school they attend and should contain information that is accurate, objective and easy to access. These guidelines are based on the assumption that the pupil record is a principal record and that all information relating to the pupil will be found in the file (although it may spread across more than one file cover).

1. File covers for pupil records

It is strongly recommended that schools use a consistent file cover for the pupil record. This assists secondary schools to ensure consistency of practice when receiving records from a number of different primary schools. If, for example, primary schools have many different file covers for their files, the secondary school that the pupil files are transferred to will then be holding different levels of information for pupils coming from different primary schools.

Using pre-printed file ensures all the necessary information is collated and the record looks tidy, and reflects the fact that it is the principal record containing all the information about an individual child.

2. Recording information

Pupils have a right of access to their educational record and so do their parents under the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005. Under the Data Protection Act 1998 a pupil or their nominated representative has a right to see information held about them. This right exists until the point that the file is destroyed. Therefore, it is important to remember that all information should be accurately recorded, objective in nature and expressed in a professional manner.

1 See Education Act 1996 Section 8; The Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998

3. Primary School records

3a. Opening a file

These guidelines apply to information created and stored in both physical and electronic format.

The pupil record starts its life when a file is opened for each new pupil as they begin school. This is the file which will follow the pupil for the rest of his/her school career. If pre-printed file covers are not being used then the following information should appear on the front of the paper file:

- Surname
- Forename
- DOB
- Unique Pupil Number[2]

The file cover should also contain a note of the date when the file was opened and the date when the file is closed if it is felt to be appropriate.

Inside the front cover the following information should be easily accessible:

- The name of the pupil's doctor
- Emergency contact details
- Gender
- Preferred name
- Position in family
- Ethnic origin[3]
- Language of home (if other than English)[4]
- Religion[5]
- Any allergies or other medical conditions that it is important to be aware of[6]
- Names of adults who hold parental responsibility with home address and telephone number (and any additional relevant carers and their relationship to the child)
- Name of the school, admission number and the date of admission and the date of leaving.
- Any other agency involvement e.g. speech and language therapist, paediatrician

It is essential that these files, which contain personal information, are managed against the information security guidelines also contained in the toolkit.

3b. Items which should be included on the pupil record

- If the pupil has attended an early years setting, then the record of transfer should be included on the pupil file
- Admission form (application form)
- Privacy Notice [if these are issued annually only the most recent need be on the file]
- Photography Consents
- Years Record
- Annual Written Report to Parents
- National Curriculum and Religious Education Locally Agreed Syllabus Record Sheets
- Any information relating to a major incident involving the child (either an accident or other incident)
- Any reports written about the child
- Any information about a statement and support offered in relation to the statement
- Any relevant medical information (should be stored in the file in a sealed envelope clearly marked as such)
- Child protection reports/disclosures (should be stored in the file in a sealed envelope clearly marked as such)
- Any information relating to exclusions (fixed or permanent)
- Any correspondence with parents or outside agencies relating to major issues
- Details of any complaints made by the parents or the pupil

2 The Unique Pupil Number is a number that identifies each pupil in England uniquely. It is intended to remain with them throughout their school career regardless of any change in school or Local Authority. Not to be confused with the the Unique Learner Number allocated to pupils over 14 https://nationalpupildatabase.wikispaces.com/IDs

3 Although this is "sensitive" data under the Data Protection Act 1998, the Department for Education require statistics about ethnicity

4 This needs to be recorded for the School Census (Mother Tongue)

5 Although this is "sensitive" data under the Data Protection Act 1998, the school has good reasons for collecting the information

6 Although this is "sensitive" data under the Data Protection Act 1998, the school has good reasons for collecting the information

The following records should be stored separately to the pupil record as they are subject to shorter retention periods and if they are placed on the file then it will involve a lot of unnecessary weeding of the files before they are transferred on to another school.

- Absence notes
- Parental consent forms for trips/outings [in the event of a major incident all the parental consent forms should be retained with the incident report not in the pupil record]
- Correspondence with parents about minor issues
- Accident forms (these should be stored separately and retained on the school premises until their statutory retention period is reached. A copy could be placed on the pupil file in the event of a major incident)

3c. Transferring the pupil record to the secondary school

The pupil record should not be weeded before transfer to the secondary school unless any records with a short retention period have been placed in the file. It is important to remember that the information which may seem unnecessary to the person weeding the file may be a vital piece of information required at a later stage.

Primary schools do not need to keep copies of any records in the pupil record except if there is an ongoing legal action when the pupil leaves the school. Custody of and responsibility for the records passes to the school the pupil transfers to.

Files should not be sent by post unless absolutely necessary. If files are sent by post, they should be sent by registered post with an accompanying list of the files. The secondary school should sign a copy of the list to say that they have received the files and return that to the primary school. Where appropriate, records can be delivered by hand with signed confirmation for tracking and auditing purposes.

Electronic documents that relate to the pupil file also need to be transferred, or, if duplicated in a master paper file, destroyed.

4. Secondary School records

Items which should be included on the pupil record

- If the pupil has attended an early years setting, then the record of transfer should be included on the pupil file
- Admission form (application form)
- Privacy Notice [if these are issued annually only the most recent need be on the file]
- Photography Consents
- Years Record
- Annual Written Report to Parents
- National Curriculum and Religious Education Locally Agreed Syllabus Record Sheets
- Any information relating to a major incident involving the child (either an accident or other incident)
- Any reports written about the child
- Any information about a statement and support offered in relation to the statement
- Any relevant medical information (should be stored in the file in a sealed envelope clearly marked as such)
- Child protection reports/disclosures (should be stored in the file in a sealed envelope clearly marked as such)
- Any information relating to exclusions (fixed or permanent)
- Any correspondence with parents or outside agencies relating to major issues
- Details of any complaints made by the parents or the pupil

The following records should be stored separately to the pupil record as they are subject to shorter retention periods and if they are placed on the file then it will involve a lot of unnecessary weeding of the files once the pupil leaves the school.

- Absence notes
- Parental consent forms for trips/outings [in the event of a major incident all the parental consent forms should be retained with the incident report not in the pupil record]
- Correspondence with parents about minor issues
- Accident forms (these should be stored separately and retained on the school premises until their statutory retention period is reached. A copy could be placed on the pupil file in the event of a major incident)

5. Responsibility for the pupil record once the pupil leaves the school

The school which the pupil attended until statutory school leaving age[7] is responsible for retaining the pupil record until the pupil reaches the age of 25 years. [See the retention schedule for further information].

6. Safe destruction of the pupil record

The pupil record should be disposed of in accordance with the safe disposal of records guidelines.

7. Transfer of a pupil record outside the EU area

If you are requested to transfer a pupil file outside the EU area because a pupil has moved into that area, please contact the Local Authority for further advice.

8. Storage of pupil records

All pupil records should be kept securely at all times. Paper records, for example, should be kept in lockable storage areas with restricted access, and the contents should be secure within the file. Equally, electronic records should have appropriate security.

Access arrangements for pupil records should ensure that confidentiality is maintained whilst equally enabling information to be shared lawfully and appropriately, and to be accessible for those authorised to see it.

Acknowledgements

Original content developed by: **Anthony Sawyer** Herefordshire Public Services
Joseph Bartoletti Middlesbrough Council

Edited by Elizabeth Barber as part of 2015 Review

7 Statutory school leaving age was raised to 18 years in 2015.

Information Audits

1. What is an information audit?

- An information audit is a form of records survey encompassing:
- Paper documents and records
- Electronic documents and records
- Databases (proprietary or developed in-house)
- Microfilm/microfiche
- Sound recordings
- Video/photographic records (including those records taken on traditional magnetic tape and photographic paper but increasingly digital sound, video and photo files)
- Hybrid files[1]
- Knowledge

The information audit is designed to help organisations complete an information asset register[2]. The terminology grows out of the concept of "knowledge management" which involves the capture of knowledge in whatever form it is held, including encouraging people to document the information they would previously have held in their heads.

It is now generally accepted that information is an organisation's greatest asset and that it should be managed in the same way as the organisation's more tangible assets such as staff, buildings and money.

Effective Information Management is about getting the right information to the right people at the right time and an information audit is key to achieving this.

2. What are the benefits of the information audit?

The information audit is designed to allow organisations to discover the information they are creating, holding, receiving and using and therefore to manage that information in order to get the most effective business use from it. For a school the concept is much more concerned with accessibility of information. The information audit allows the school to identify the personal information it creates and stores to allow correct management under the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998.

NB. Under the DPA all schools, whether they are Local Authority Controlled, Academies or part of the independent sector are Data Controllers in their own right.

Information a school creates and uses to make the decisions which affect people's daily lives may well become subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Academies also fall under FOI (introduced in paragraph 10 of Schedule 2 of the Academies Act 2010) and should use the model publication scheme for schools.

In other words an information audit collects the information necessary to formulate and implement an efficient records management programme and to ensure compliance with legislation.

1 Hybrid files are files which contain both paper and electronic information.

2 The information audit is designed to help create fileplans, file classification schemes, retention/disposal schedule, identify vital records and the assigning of protective marking

3. How to go about an information audit [see the flow chart below]

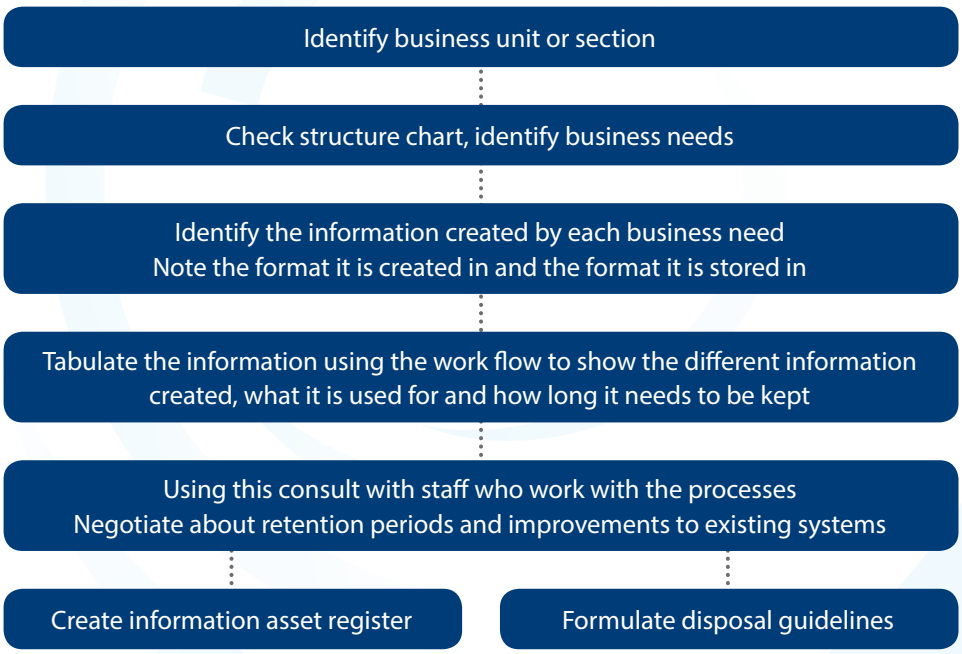
The information audit works on the premise that all information is created for a purpose (business need) and the information created and stored is to support that business need.

The information audit works through a work-flow process [see flow chart below] identifying which information is created at which point in the process, what it is used for, how long it is needed, whether or not it should be captured as part of the "vital" record of the school (i.e. whether it is a working document or a final policy or report) and whether it needs to be protectively marked.

The information audit can be conducted in a number of ways:

- Interviewing key staff from the key areas to identify the information and information flows etc.
- Sending out questionnaires to key staff to identify the information and information flows etc., although these may be less likely to be returned as staff are busy and see a questionnaire as low priority
- A mixture of the above

Information Audit



Whichever option you chose it is important that you speak with senior management in order to get their buy-in and understanding of what it is and why you're doing it. Even if you decide to send out questionnaires it is important that you let staff know what it is you're doing and why. After all, they work with the information so they are best placed to identify it and any requirements. It also helps senior management and staff to start to understand their information responsibilities and should help ensure questionnaires are completed and returned on time.

Once this process has been completed the information audit should contain a list of business needs, the kind of information created to meet that business need, the format in which it is stored, how long it needs to be kept, vital records status and any protective marking. Where local copies have been recorded by the information audit it might also be useful to stipulate who is responsible for retaining the master document/record (eg. local copies of minutes of a meeting may be kept by individual members of the school senior management team on a temporary basis but the Head will usually be responsible, as Chair of that meeting for the master set of minutes).

Once the information audit can be formulated like this then the person completing the audit needs to consult with the staff actually involved in the processes to ensure that this is an accurate reflection of what happens. At this point some negotiation may need to take place if there are any anomalies. The purpose of the information audit is to identify where processes can be improved, not merely to document what happens at present.

Example (specimen only)

Bursar				
Business Function: Payment Of Invoices				
Record	Format	Retention/Disposal Period	Vital Record Status	Protective Marking
Invoice	Paper	Payment plus 5 years (Audit)	Not important	Not protectively marked
Payment authorisation	Electronic			
Payment made	Electronic			
Acknowledgement	Paper			

Once the information audit is felt to be accurate then the information can be tabulated into an information asset register if it is appropriate. This enables all members of staff to see what information is created, by which business process, where it should be filed and how it should be managed. This helps with business continuity in the case of an emergency as members of staff are encouraged to consider what information they would need to carry on with their work.

The results of the information audit should be presented to senior managers for comments and final approval. This will provide the audit with senior endorsement.

Finally, any information audit is only a snapshot in time and is only as good as the information which is provided by those taking part. Therefore in order for information systems to be kept up-to-date, including capturing information created by new and developing technologies, formats and to take account of new functions, and legislation the audit results should be regularly reviewed and updated.

Acknowledgements

Original content developed by: **Craig Ferguson** Warwickshire County Council
Suzy Taylor New College Durham
Keith Batchelor Batchelor Associates

Minor amendments made at time of 2015 review.

Appendix A

Sample Information Survey Form

1. Name of school:	2. Department and contact details:	3. Interviewee/person completing form: 3a. Day to day responsibility:
4. What is the information series called?	5. Purpose of information:	
6. What is the format? (tick as appropriate) ☐ Paper ☐ Film ☐ Electronic 6a. If electronic: ☐ CD ☐ Tape ☐ Floppy ☐ Hard drive ☐ Server ☐ Cloud storage ☐ Other	7. What other Sections / Teams have access to them? 8. Finding aids:	9. How many individual records in the series? 9a. If paper or film – type of storage: 9b. Linear metreage / cms /megabytes: 9c. Annual growth:

10. How often are they accessed? ☐ Less than once a month ☐ At least once a month but not every week ☐ At least once a week but not every day ☐ Daily	11. How long do you need to keep this information? ☐ Less than 1 year ☐ Less than 2 years ☐ 2 to 6 years ☐ 6 to 10 years ☐ 10 to 25 years ☐ 25 to 50 years ☐ 50 to 100 years ☐ Archived for research
12. State the reason for the retention period:	13. Does a duplicate exist? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know 13a. If yes, where? 13b. In what form? ☐ Paper ☐ Film ☐ Electronic 13c. If electronic, what format? ☐ CD ☐ Tape ☐ Floppy ☐ Hard drive ☐ Server ☐ Other

14. The loss of certain information through fire or some other disaster would have serious consequences for the school's operations.

Does this information fall into this category? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know

14a. If yes please explain why:

15. Any other comments? (Use reverse of form if necessary.)

Good Practice for Managing E-mail

1. Introduction

These guidelines are intended to assist school staff to manage their e-mail in the most effective way, and must be used in conjunction with your school's policies on the use of ICT.

Information about how your e-mail application works is not included in this document.

2. Eight Things You Need to Know About E-mail

E-mail has replaced telephone calls and memos

As communicating by e-mail is quick and easy, many people have replaced telephone conversations and memos with e-mail discussions. However, the language in which e-mail is written is often less formal and more open to misinterpretation than a written memo or a formal letter. Remember that e-mail should be laid out and formulated to your school's standards for written communications.

E-mail is not always a secure medium to send confidential information

You need to think about information security when you send confidential information by e-mail. The consequences of an e-mail containing sensitive information being sent to an unauthorised person could be a civil penalty of up to £500,000 from the Information Commissioner or it could end up on the front page of a newspaper. Confidential or sensitive information should only be sent by a secure encrypted e-mail system. Never put personal information (such as a pupil's name) in the subject line of an e-mail.

E-mail is disclosable under the access to information regimes

All school e-mail is disclosable under Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation. Be aware that anything you write in an email could potentially be made public.

E-mail is not necessarily deleted immediately

E-mails can remain in a system for a period of time after you have deleted them. You must remember that although you may have deleted your copy of the e-mail, the recipients may not and therefore there will still be copies in existence. These copies could be disclosable under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or under the Data Protection Act 1998.

E-mail can form a contractual obligation

Agreements entered into by e-mail can form a contract. You need to be aware of this if you enter into an agreement with anyone, especially external contractors. Individual members of staff should not enter into agreements either with other members of staff internally or with external contractors unless they are authorised to do so.

E-mail systems are commonly used to store information which should be stored somewhere else

All attachments in e-mail should be saved into any appropriate electronic filing system or printed out and placed on paper files.

Employers must be careful how they monitor e-mail

Any employer has a right to monitor the use of e-mail provided it has informed members of staff that it may do so. Monitoring the content of e-mail messages is a more sensitive matter and if you intend to do this you will need to be able to prove that you have the consent of staff. If you intend to monitor staff e-mail or telephone calls you should inform them how you intend to do this and who will carry out the monitoring.

The Information Commissioner's Employment Practices Code is an excellent guide to this subject.

E-mail is one of the most common causes of stress in the work-place

Whilst e-mail can be used to bully or harass people, it is more often the sheer volume of e-mail which causes individuals to feel that they have lost control of their e-mail and their workload. Regular filing and deletion can prevent this happening.

3. Creating and sending e-mail

Here are some steps to consider when sending e-mail.

Do I need to send this e-mail?

Ask yourself whether this transaction needs to be done by e-mail? It may be that it is more appropriate to use the telephone or to check with someone face to face.

To whom do I need to send this e-mail?

Limit recipients to the people who really need to receive the e-mail. Avoid the use of global or group address lists unless it is absolutely necessary. Never send on chain e-mails.

When sending emails containing personal or sensitive data always respond to an authorised, approved address. All emails that are used for official business must be sent from an official business domain address.

Use a consistent method of defining a subject line

Having a clearly defined subject line helps the recipient to sort the e-mail on receipt. A clear subject line also assists in filing all e-mails relating to individual projects in one place. For example, the subject line might be the name of the policy, or the file reference number.

Ensure that the e-mail is clearly written

- Do not use text language or informal language in school e-mails.
- Always sign off with a name (and contact details).
- Make sure that you use plain English and ensure that you have made it clear how you need the recipient to respond.
- Never write a whole e-mail in capital letters. This can be interpreted as shouting.
- Always spell check an e-mail before you send it. Do not use the urgent flag unless it is absolutely necessary, recipients will not respond to the urgent flag if they perceive that you use it routinely.
- If possible, try to stick to one subject for the content of each e-mail, as it will be easier to categorise it later if you need to keep the e-mail.

Sending attachments

Sending large attachments (e.g. graphics or presentations) to a sizeable circulation list can cause resource problems on your network. Where possible put the attachment in an appropriate area on a shared drive and send the link round to the members of staff who need to access it.

Disclaimers

Adding a disclaimer to an e-mail mitigates risk, such as sending information to the wrong recipient, or helps to clarify the school's position in relation to the information being e-mailed. Typically, they cover the fact that information may be confidential, the intention of being solely used by the intended recipient, and any views or opinions of the sender are not necessarily those of the school.

There is some debate about how enforceable disclaimers are. Legal advice should be sought when using or drafting a disclaimer for your organisation to ensure it meets your specific needs.

4. Managing received e-mails

This section contains some hints and tips about how to manage incoming e-mails.

a) Manage interruptions

Incoming e-mail can be an irritating distraction. The following tips can help manage the interruptions.

- Turn off any alert that informs you e-mail has been received
- Plan times to check e-mail into the day (using an out of office message to tell senders when you will be looking at your e-mail can assist with this).

b) Use rules and alerts

- By using rules and alerts members of staff can manage their inbox into theme-based folders. For example:
- E-mails relating to a specific subject or project can be diverted to a named project folder
- E-mails from individuals can be diverted to a specific folder
- Warn senders that you will assume that if you are copied in to an e-mail, the message is for information only and requires no response from you.
- Internally, use a list of defined words to indicate in the subject line what is expected of recipients (for example:"For Action:", FYI:", etc)
- Use electronic calendars to invite people to meetings rather than sending e-mails asking them to attend

c) Using an out of office message

If you check your e-mail at stated periods during the day you can use an automated response to incoming e-mail which tells the recipient when they might expect a reply. A sample message might read as follows:

Thank you for your e-mail. I will be checking my e-mail at three times today, 8:30am, 1:30pm and 3:30pm. If you require an immediate response to your e-mail please telephone me on xxxxxxxxx.

This gives the sender the option to contact you by phone if they need an immediate response.

5. Filing e-mail

Attachments only

Where the main purpose of the e-mail is to transfer documents, then the documents should be saved into the appropriate place in an electronic filing system or printed out and added to a paper file. The e-mail can then be deleted.

E-mail text and attachments

Where the text of the e-mail adds to the context or value of the attached documents it may be necessary to keep the whole e-mail. The best way to do this and retain information which makes up the audit trail, is to save the e-mail in .msg format. This can be done either by clicking and dragging the e-mail into the appropriate folder in an application such as MS Outlook, or by using the "save as" function to save the e-mail in an electronic filing system.

If the e-mail needs to be re-sent it will automatically open into MS Outlook.

Where appropriate the e-mail and the attachments can be printed out to be stored on a paper file, however, a printout does not capture all the audit information which storing the e-mail in .msg format will.

E-mail text only

If the text in the body of the e-mail requires filing, the same method can be used as that outlined above. This will retain information for audit trail purposes.

Alternatively the e-mail can be saved in .html or .txt format. This will save all the text in the e-mail and a limited amount of the audit information. The e-mail can not be re-sent if it is saved in this format.

The technical details about how to undertake all of these functions are available in application Help functions.

How long to keep e-mails?

E-mail is primarily a communications tool, and e-mail applications are not designed for keeping e-mail as a record in a storage area meeting records management storage standards.

E-mail that needs to be kept should be identified by content; for example, does it form part of a pupil record? Is it part of a contract? The retention for keeping these e-mails will then correspond with the classes of records according to content in the retention schedule for schools found elsewhere in the Records Management Tool Kit for Schools. These e-mails may need to be saved into any appropriate electronic filing system or printed out and placed on paper files.

Acknowledgements

Original Content developed by:	**Suzy Taylor**	New College Durham
	Anthony Sawyer	Herefordshire Public Services
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Information Security and Business Continuity

Information Security and Business Continuity are both important activities in ensuring good information management and are vital for compliance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Taking measures to protect your records can ensure that:

- Your school can demonstrate compliance with the law and avoid data loss incidents;
- In the event of a major incident, your school should be able to stay open and will at least have access to its key administrative and teaching records.

An Information Security Policy should incorporate a Business Continuity Plan and should deal with records held in all media across all school systems:

- Electronic (including but not limited to databases, word processed documents and spreadsheets, scanned images)
- Hard copy (including but not limited to paper files, plans)

1. Digital Information

In order to mitigate against the loss of electronic information a school needs to:

a. Operate an effective back-up system

You should undertake regular backups of all information held electronically to enable restoration of the data in the event of an environmental or data corruption incident. Where possible these backups should be stored in a different building to the servers and if possible off the main school site. This is to prevent loss of data, reduce risk in case of theft or the possibility of the backups becoming temporarily inaccessible. Options for the management of back-up facilities include:

- Use of an off-site, central back up service (usually operated by the local authority or other provider). This involves a back up being taken remotely over a secure network (usually overnight) and stored in encrypted format in premises other than the school.

- Storage in a data safe in another part of the school premises
  The back-up may be stored in a fireproof safe which is located in another part of the premises. These premises must also be physically secure and any hard copy supporting data regarding the location of records should also be stored in the safe.

b. Control the way data is stored within the school

Personal information should not be stored on the hard drive of any laptop or PC unless the device is running encryption software. Staff should be advised not to hold personal information about students or other staff on mobile storage devices including but not limited to memory sticks, phones, iPads, portable hard drives or even on CD.

c. Maintain strict control of passwords

Ensure that the data is subject to a robust password protection regime, ideally with users changing their passwords every 30 days. Discourage password sharing strongly and seek alternative ways for users to share data – like shared network drives or proxy access to email and calendars. In addition staff should always lock their PCs when they are away from the desk to prevent unauthorised use.

d. Manage the location of server equipment

Ensure that the server environment is managed to prevent access by unauthorised people.

e. Ensure that business continuity plans are tested

Test restore processes on a regular basis to ensure that the first time you identify a problem with the backup is not the first time you need to retrieve data from it.

For advice on preserving information security when using email see the fact-sheet on good practice for managing email.

2. Hard Copy Information and Records

Records which are not stored on the school's servers are at greater risk of damage by fire and flood as well as risk of loss and of unauthorised access.

a. Fire and flood

The cost of restoring records damaged by water can be high but a large percentage may be saved, fire is much more destructive of records. In order to limit the amount of damage which a fire or flood can do to paper records, all vital information should be stored in filing cabinets, drawers or cupboards. Metal filing cabinets are a good first level barrier against fire and water.

Where possible vital records should not be left on open shelves or on desks as these records will almost certainly be completely destroyed in the event of fire and will be seriously damaged (possibly beyond repair) in the event of a flood. The bottom shelves of a storage cupboard should be raised at least 2 inches from the ground. Physical records should not be stored on the floor.

b. Unauthorised access, theft or loss

Staff should be encouraged not to take personal data on staff or students out of the school unless there is no other alternative. Records held within the school should be in lockable cabinets. Consider restricting access to offices in which personal information is being worked on or stored. All archive or records storage areas should be lockable and have restricted access.

Where paper files are checked out from a central system, log the location of the file and the borrower, creating an audit trail.

For the best ways of disposing of sensitive, personal information see Safe Disposal.

c. Clear Desk Policy

A clear desk policy is the best way to avoid unauthorised access to physical records which contain sensitive or personal information and will protect physical records from fire and/or flood damage.

A clear desk policy involves the removal of the physical records which contain sensitive personal information to a cupboard or drawer (lockable where appropriate). It does not mean that the desk has to be cleared of all its contents.

3. Disclosure

Staff should be made aware of the importance of ensuring that personal information is only disclosed to people who are entitled to receive it. Ensure that where you intend to share personal information with a third party that you have considered the requirements of the Data Protection Act. Be careful of giving out personal information over the telephone; invite the caller to put the request in writing, supplying a return address which can be verified.

Where appropriate you may wish to develop a data sharing protocol with the third parties with whom you regularly share data.

4. Risk Analysis

Individual schools should undertake a business risk analysis to identify which records are vital to school management and these records should be stored in the most secure manner. Reference materials or resources which could be easily replaced are more suitable for storage on open shelves or desks.

The development of an information asset/risk register can assist with this process.

5. Responding to Incidents

In the event of an incident involving the loss of information or records the school should be ready to pull together an incident response team to manage the situation. Schools should consider assigning a specific member of staff to deal with press/media enquiries.

a. Major Data Loss/Information Security Breach

You should have a process which must be used by all members of staff if there is a major data loss or information security breach. This will involve appointing a named member of staff to liaise with the Information Commissioner's Office if an information security breach needs to be reported.

Do not put off informing the Information Commissioner's Office if the incident is serious enough to justify notification. It is better to have notified the Information Commissioner before someone makes a complaint to him.

b. Fire/Flood Incident

You should create a team of people who are trained to deal with a fire/flood incident. This will include the provision of an equipment box and the appropriate protective clothing. The team and equipment should be reviewed on a regular basis.

Further Information and Guidance

UCISA Toolkit http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/ist
Local Authority Resiliance Forums
Cabinet Office Guidance http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/business-continuity

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Original Content developed by:	**Suzy Taylor**	New College Durham
	Elizabeth Wells	Westminster School
	Tim McGarr	BSI Group
	David Fatscher	BSI Group

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School Closures and Record Keeping

When a school closes records management is often low on the list of priorities. School closures are often imposed on schools, therefore, at the time where records management needs to be considered the staff at the school will be on different parts of the change management cycle.

The school will have records which will need to be assessed and either:

1. Securely disposed of; or
2. Stored securely until they reach the end of the statutory retention period; or
3. Transferred to another organisation (for example the local authority, or where appropriate the successor body such as an Academy).
4. Transferred to the appropriate County Record Office.

It is the responsibility of each Local Authority [LA] to manage the records of closed schools until they have reached the end of their administrative life and to arrange for their disposal when required.

There may be a number of different reasons why schools close which may affect where school records need to be stored.

- If the school has been closed and the site is being sold or reallocated to another use then the LA should take responsibility for the records from the date the school closes.
- If two schools have merged and function as one school, it will be necessary for the new school to retain any records originating from the two schools for the appropriate time.
- If a secondary school closes and subsequently becomes an Academy, the records relating to the pupils who are transferring to the Academy will be transferred. If the Academy is retaining the current buildings, then all records relating to the maintenance of the buildings should also be transferred. All other records become the responsibility of the Local Authority.

However, some local authorities have decided that the responsibility for managing the records of the school prior to it receiving Academy status is to be transferred to the Academy. Each local authority should seek legal advice before making any decision about the management of records relating to schools which have become Academies.

Sorting out records, when a building has to be vacated, is time consuming especially if records management has not been a priority in the past. Sufficient time to ensure that the records have been properly sorted, listed and boxed before transfer to the LA must be allowed as part of the project timescales for the school closure. Proper resources must be allocated to this to ensure that the job can be completed before the school closes. It is much more difficult to sort records which have been boxed haphazardly in a hurry in the few days before the school closes.

It is important to bear in mind that when a school closes the staff teams may well feel a real sense of bereavement and this will affect the way in which they view the work which has to be done before the school closes. Sorting out records is usually low on the priority list, but nonetheless needs to be tackled. Managers will need to consider this when allocating the different elements of the task.

It is suggested that a project to sort out records could be managed in the following steps:

1. As soon as notification is received that the school is to be closed, a thorough review of all the records on the premises needs to take place. Agreement needs to be reached with the LA about where the records which need to be stored until they can be disposed of will be sent and who in the LA will be taking responsibility for them. This may include transfer to a records management service or to the County Record Office.

2. The next step is to identify what should happen to all different records by using the retention guidelines found below. This will include safe disposal, transfer to the LA and transfer to the County Record Office.

3. The records can then be sorted in preparation for disposal or transfer.

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Original content developed by: **John Davies** TFPL Consultancy

Amendments made by the Editor as part of the 2015 Review.

Safe disposal of records which have reached the end of their administrative life

NB: Please be aware that this guidance applies to all types of record, whether they are in paper or digital format.

1. Disposal of records that have reached the end of the minimum retention period allocated

The fifth data protection principle[9] states that:
Personal data processed for any purpose or purposes shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose or those purposes

In each organisation, local records managers must ensure that records that are no longer required for business use are reviewed as soon as possible under the criteria set out so that only the appropriate records are destroyed.

The local review will determine whether records are to be selected for permanent preservation, destroyed, digitised to an electronic format or retained by the organisation for research or litigation purposes.

Refer to the Retention Guidelines at the end of the toolkit.

Whatever decisions are made they need to be documented as part of the records management policy within the organisation.

2. Safe destruction of records

All records containing personal information, or sensitive policy information should be made either unreadable or unreconstructable.

- Paper records should be shredded using a cross-cutting shredder
- CDs / DVDs / Floppy Disks should be cut into pieces
- Audio / Video Tapes and Fax Rolls should be dismantled and shredded
- Hard Disks should be dismantled and sanded

Any other records should be bundled up and disposed of to a waste paper merchant or disposed of in other appropriate ways. Do not put records in with the regular waste or a skip unless there is no other alternative.

There are companies who can provide confidential waste bins and other services which can be purchased to ensure that records are disposed of in an appropriate way.

1. Where an external provider is used it is recommended that all records must be shredded on-site in the presence of an employee. The organisation must also be able to prove that the records have been destroyed by the company who should provide a Certificate of Destruction. Staff working for the external provider should have been trained in the handling of confidential documents.

   The shredding needs to be planned with specific dates and all records should be identified as to the date of destruction.

   It is important to understand that if the records are recorded as to be destroyed but have not yet been destroyed and a request for the records has been received they MUST still be provided.

2. Where records are destroyed internally, the process must ensure that all records are recorded are authorised to be destroyed by a Senior Manager and the destruction recorded. Records should be shredded as soon as the record has been documented as being destroyed.

9 Data Protection Act 1998

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA 2000)

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the school to maintain a list of records which have been destroyed and who authorised their destruction[10]. Members of staff should record at least:

- File reference (or other unique identifier);
- File title (or brief description);
- Number of files and date range
- The name of the authorising officer
- Date action taken

Following this guidance will ensure that the school is compliant with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

3. Transfer of records to the Archives

Where records have been identified as being worthy of permanent preservation arrangements should be made to transfer the records to the County Archives Service. The school should contact the local record office if there is a requirement to permanently archive the records, and the records will continue to be managed via the DPA 1998 and the FoIA 2000.

If you would like to retain archive records in a special archive room in the school for use with pupils and parents please contact the local record office for specialist advice.

4. Transfer of information to other media

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

Consideration should also be given to the legal admissibility of records that have been converted from paper to electronic media. It is essential to have procedures in place so that conversion is done in a standard way. This means that organisations can prove that the electronic version is a genuine original and could not have been tampered with in any way. Reference should be made to 'British Standard 10008:2008 'Evidential weight and legal admissibility of electronic information' when preparing such procedures.

5. Recording of all archiving, permanent destruction and digitisation of records

Sample appendices are provided for the recording of all records to be used. These records could be kept in an Excel spreadsheet or other database format.

Acknowledgements

Original contents developed by:	**Sarah Graham**	Information Governance Officer (Records Management) Newcastle City Council
	Lia Lutfi	Birmingham City Council
	Alison Marsh	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

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10 Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Management of Records issued under section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 sections 12.13 and 12.14

Schedule of Records transferred by [Name of School] to [Name of Organisation/Record Office]

Date	Description / Volume

Signed:

Name:

Designation:

Organisation:

Signed:

Name:

Designation:

Organisation:

Please return to the Records Manager for retention.

Proforma of individual records to be converted to electronic media

Unique Identifier	Full Name	Date of Birth	Type of Record	Date to be Digitised (once known)

Date completed

Signed

Name

Designation

Date completed

Signed

Name

Designation

Please contact [enter appropriate person] on [insert contact number] before destroying any records.

The destruction of records must be authorised by your line manager.

Digital Continuity

The long term preservation of digital records is more complex than the retention of physical records. A large number of organisations create data in electronic format which needs to be retained for longer than 7 years. If this data is not retained in accessible formats the organisation will be unable to defend any legal challenge which may arise.

In order to ensure that digital records are retained in a way that ensures they can be retrieved in an accessible format when they are required, all records which are required to be retained for longer than 6 years should be part of a digital continuity statement.

The average life of a computer system can be as little as 5 years, however, as digital continuity is resource intensive, only records which are required to be retained for 6 years (in line with the Limitation Act 1980) or longer should be subject to digital continuity statements.

8.1 The Purpose of Digital Continuity Statements

A digital continuity statement will not need to be applied to all the records created by the school. The retention schedule should indicate which records need to be subject to a digital continuity statement. Any record which needs to be preserved for longer than 6 years needs to be subject to a digital continuity statement.

Appropriate records need to be identified as early in their lifecycle as possible so that the relevant standards can be applied to them and conversely any records which do not need to be included in the policy should also be identified in the early part of the lifecycle. Digital continuity statements should only be applied to principal copy records.

8.2 Allocation of Resources

Responsibility for the management of the digital continuity strategy, including the completion of the digital continuity statements should rest with one named post holder. This will ensure that each information assets is "vetted" for inclusion in the strategy and that resources are not allocated to records which should not be included in the strategy.

8.3 Storage of records

Where possible records subject to a digital continuity statement should be "archived" to dedicated server space which is being backed up regularly.

Where this is not possible the records should be transferred to high quality CD/DVD, if they are to be included with paper documentation in a paper file or onto an external hard drive which is clearly marked and stored appropriately. Records stored on these forms of storage media must be checked regularly for data degradation.

Flash drives (also known as memory sticks) must not be used to store any records which are subject to a digital continuity statement. This storage media is prone to corruption and can be easily lost or stolen.

Storage methods should be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that new technology and storage methods are assessed and where appropriate added to the digital continuity policy.

8.4 Migration of Electronic Data

Migration of electronic data must be considered where the data contained within the system is likely to be required for longer than the life of the system. Where possible system specifications should state the accepted file formats for the storage of records within the system.

If data migration facilities are not included as part of the specification, then the system may have to be retained in its entirety for the whole retention period of the records it contains. This is not ideal as it may mean that members of staff have to look on a number of different systems to collate information on an individual or project.

Software formats should be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure usability and to avoid obsolescence.

8.5 Degradation of Electronic Documents

In the same way as physical records can degrade if held in the wrong environmental conditions, electronic records can degrade or become corrupted. Whilst it is relatively easy to spot if physical records are becoming unusable it is harder to identify whether an electronic record has become corrupted, or if the storage medium is becoming unstable.

When electronic records are transferred from the main system to an external storage device, the data should be backed up and two safe copies of the data should be made. The data on the original device and the back-ups should be checked periodically to ensure that it is still accessible. Additional back-ups of the data should be made at least once a year and more frequently if appropriate.

Where possible digital records should be archived within a current system, for example, a designated server where "archived" material is stored or designated storage areas within collaborative working tools such as SharePoint.

8.6 Internationally Recognised File Formats

Records which are the subject of a digital continuity statement must be "archived" in one of the internationally recognised file formats.

8.7 Exemplar Digital Continuity Strategy Statement

An exemplar digital continuity strategy statement can be found below.

8.8 Review of Digital Continuity Policy

The Digital Continuity Policy should be reviewed on a bi-annual (or more frequently if required) basis to ensure that the policy keeps pace with the development in technology.

Exemplar Digital Continuity Strategy Statement

Each digital continuity statement should include the following information:

1. Statement of business purpose and statutory requirements for keeping records

The statement should contain a description of the business purpose for the information assets and any statutory requirements including the retention period for the records. This should also include a brief description of the consequences of any loss of data.

By doing this the records owner will be able to show why and for how long the information assets needs to be kept. As digital continuity can be resource intensive, it is important that the resources are allocated to the information assets which require them.

2. Names of the people/functions responsible for long term data preservation

The statement should name the post-holder who holds responsibility for long term data preservation and the post holder responsible for the information assets. The statement should be updated whenever there is a restructure which changes where the responsibility for long term data preservation is held.

If the responsibility is not clearly assigned there is the danger that it may disappear as part of a restructure process rather than be reassigned to a different post.

3. Description of the information assets to be covered by the digital preservation statement

A brief description of the information asset taken from the IAR.

4. Description of when the record needs to be captured into the approved file formats

The record may not need to be captured in to the approved file format at its creation. For example, an MSWord document need not be converted to portable document format until it becomes semi-current. The digital preservation statement should identify when the electronic record needs to be converted to the long term supported file formats identified above.

Workflow process diagrams can help identify the appropriate places for capture.

5. Description of the appropriate supported file formats for long term preservation

This should be agreed with the appropriate technical staff.

6. Retention of all software specification information and licence information

Where it is not possible for the data created by a bespoke computer system to be converted to the supported file formats, the system itself will need to be mothballed. The statement must contain a complete system specification for the software that has been used and any licence information which will allow the system to be retained in its entirety.

If this information is not retained it is possible that the data contained within the system may become inaccessible with the result that the data is unusable with all the ensuing consequences

7. Description of where the information asset is to be stored.

See section 4 above.

8. Description of how access to the information asset is to be managed within the data security protocols

The data held for long term preservation must be accessible when required but also must be protected against the standard information security requirements which are laid down for records within the authority. The statement must contain the policy for accessing the records and the information security requirements attached to the information assets.

Appropriate Storage for Physical Records

Records must be stored in the workplace in a way that does not cause a health and safety hazard. Records must not be stored in corridors or gangways and must not impede or block fire exits. There should be where appropriate, heat/smoke detectors connected to fire alarms, a sprinkler system and the required number of fire extinguishers. The area should be secured against intruders and have controlled access as far as possible to the working space.

Storage areas should be regularly monitored and checked for any damage or emerging risks, especially during holiday periods.

The following are hazards which need to be considered before approving areas where physical records can be stored.

Environmental Damage - Fire

Records can be damaged beyond repair by fire. Smoke and water damage will also occur to records which have been in a fire, although generally records damaged by smoke or water can be repaired.

Core records should be kept in cabinets or cupboards. Metal filing cabinets will usually suffice, but for important core records, fire proof cabinets may need to be considered. However, fireproof cabinets are expensive and very heavy so they should only be used in special circumstances.

Records which are stored on desks or in cupboards which do not have doors will suffer more damage than those which are stored in cupboards/cabinets which have close fitting doors.

Environmental Damage - Water

Records damaged by water can usually be repaired by a specialist document salvage company. The salvage process is expensive, therefore, records need to be protected against water damage where possible. Where flooding is involved the water may not always be clean and records could become contaminated as well as damaged.

Records should not be stored directly under water pipes or in places which are liable to flooding (either from excess rainfall or from the overflow of toilet cisterns). Records should be stored in cabinets/cupboards with tight fitting doors which provide protection from water ingress. Records stored on desks or in cabinets/cupboards without close fitting doors will suffer serious water damage.

Records should be stored at least 2 inches off the ground. Most office furniture stands 2 inches off the ground. Portable storage containers (i.e. boxes or individual filing drawers) should be raised off the ground by at least 2 inches. This is to ensure that in the case of a flood that records are protected against immediate flood damage.

Storage areas should be checked for possible damage after extreme weather to ensure no water ingress has occurred.

Environmental Damage – Sunlight

Records should not be stored in direct sunlight (e.g. in front of a window). Direct sunlight will cause records to fade and the direct heat causes paper to dry out and become brittle.

Environmental Damage – High Levels of Humidity

Records should not be stored in areas which are subject to high levels of humidity. Excess moisture in the air can result in mould forming on the records. Mould can be a hazard to human health and will damage records often beyond repair.

The temperature in record storage areas should not exceed 18oC and the relative humidity should be between 45% and 65%.

Temperature and humidity should be regularly monitored and recorded. Storage areas should be checked for damage after extreme weather conditions to reduce the risk of mould growth.

Environmental Damage – Insect/Rodent Infestation

Records should not be stored in areas which are subject to insect infestation or which have a rodent problem (rats or mice).

Retention Guidelines

1. The purpose of the retention guidelines

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, schools are required to maintain a retention schedule listing the record series which the school creates in the course of its business. The retention schedule lays down the length of time which the record needs to be retained and the action which should be taken when it is of no further administrative use. The retention schedule lays down the basis for normal processing under both the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Members of staff are expected to manage their current record keeping systems using the retention schedule and to take account of the different kinds of retention periods when they are creating new record keeping systems.

The retention schedule refers to record series regardless of the media in which they are stored.

2. Benefits of a retention schedule

There are a number of benefits which arise from the use of a complete retention schedule:

Managing records against the retention schedule is deemed to be "normal processing" under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Members of staff should be aware that once a Freedom of Information request is received or a legal hold imposed then records disposal relating to the request or legal hold must be stopped.

Members of staff can be confident about safe disposal information at the appropriate time.

Information which is subject to Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation will be available when required. The school is not maintaining and storing information unnecessarily.

3. Maintaining and amending the retention schedule

Where appropriate the retention schedule should be reviewed and amended to include any new record series created and remove any obsolete record series.

Version 5

This retention schedule contains recommended retention periods for the different record series created and maintained by schools in the course of their business. The schedule refers to all information regardless of the media in which it is stored.

Some of the retention periods are governed by statute. Others are guidelines following best practice. Every effort has been made to ensure that these retention periods are compliant with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Managing record series using these retention guidelines will be deemed to be "normal processing" under the legislation mentioned above. If record series are to be kept for longer or shorter periods than laid out in this document the reasons for this need to be documented.

This schedule should be reviewed on a regular basis.

This document is a guideline only and liability is the liability of the end user and not of the IRMS. Individual organisations should seek the appropriate legal advice and senior management approval.

These retention guidelines are free for use to schools. Questions will only be dealt with if they are submitted by IRMS members. Please complete the form on the webpage remembering to include your IRMS membership number.

Further details about the benefits of IRMS membership can be found at: http://www.irms.org.uk/join

Using the Retention Schedule

The Retention Schedule is divided into five sections:

1. Management of the School
2. Human Resources
3. Financial Management of the School
4. Property Management
5. Pupil Management
6. Curriculum Management
7. Extra-Curricular Activities
8. Central Government and Local Authority

There are sub headings under each section to help guide you to the retention period you are looking for. Each entry has a unique reference number. If you are sending a query to the IRMS about an individual retention period, please ensure that you have quoted the unique reference number.

The IRMS will only deal with queries relating to the retention schedule from IRMS members.

Management of the School

This section contains retention periods connected to the general management of the school. This covers the work of the Governing Body, the Headteacher and the senior management team, the admissions process and operational administration.

1.1 Governing Body					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
1.1.1	Agendas for Governing Body meetings	There may be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff		One copy should be retained with the master set of minutes. All other copies can be disposed of	SECURE DISPOSAL[1]
1.1.2	Minutes of Governing Body meetings	There may be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff			
	Principal Set (signed)			PERMANENT	If the school is unable to store these then they should be offered to the County Archives Service
	Inspection Copies[2]			Date of meeting + 3 years	If these minutes contain any sensitive, personal information they must be shredded.
1.1.3	Reports presented to the Governing Body	There may be data protection issues if the report deals with confidential issues relating to staff		Reports should be kept for a minimum of 6 years. However, if the minutes refer directly to individual reports then the reports should be kept permanently	SECURE DISPOSAL or retain with the signed set of the minutes
1.1.4	Meeting papers relating to the annual parents' meeting held under section 33 of the Education Act 2002	No	Education Act 2002, Section 33	Date of the meeting + a minimum of 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

1 In this context SECURE DISPOSAL should be taken to mean disposal using confidential waste bins, or if the school has the facility, shredding using a cross cut shredder.

2 These are the copies which the clerk to the Governor may wish to retain so that requestors can view all the appropriate information without the clerk needing to print off and collate redacted copies of the minutes each time a request is made.

1.1 Governing Body					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
1.1.5	Instruments of Government including Articles of Association	No		PERMANENT	These should be retained in the school whilst the school is open and then offered to County Archives Service when the school closes.
1.1.6	Trusts and Endowments managed by the Governing Body	No		PERMANENT	These should be retained in the school whilst the school is open and then offered to County Archives Service when the school closes.
1.1.7	Action plans created and administered by the Governing Body	No		Life of the action plan + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.1.8	Policy documents created and administered by the Governing Body	No		Life of the policy + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.1.9	Records relating to complaints dealt with by the Governing Body	Yes		Date of the resolution of the complaint + a minimum of 6 years then review for further retention in case of contentious disputes	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.1.10	Annual Reports created under the requirements of the Education (Governor's Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	No	Education (Governor's Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 SI 2002 No 1171	Date of report + 10 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.1.11	Proposals concerning the change of status of a maintained school including Specialist Status Schools and Academies	No		Date proposal accepted or declined + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

Please note that all information about the retention of records concerning the recruitment of Head Teachers can be found in the Human Resources section below.

1.2 Head Teacher and Senior Management Team					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
1.2.1	Log books of activity in the school maintained by the Head Teacher	There may be data protection issues if the log book refers to individual pupils or members of staff		Date of last entry in the book + a minimum of 6 years then review	These could be of permanent historical value and should be offered to the County Archives Service if appropriate
1.2.2	Minutes of Senior Management Team meetings and the meetings of other internal administrative bodies	There may be data protection issues if the minutes refers to individual pupils or members of staff		Date of the meeting + 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.2.3	Reports created by the Head Teacher or the Management Team	There may be data protection issues if the report refers to individual pupils or members of staff		Date of the report + a minimum of 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.2.4	Records created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	There may be data protection issues if the records refer to individual pupils or members of staff		Current academic year + 6 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.2.5	Correspondence created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	There may be data protection issues if the correspondence refers to individual pupils or members of staff		Date of correspondence + 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.2.6	Professional Development Plans	Yes		Life of the plan + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.2.7	School Development Plans	No		Life of the plan + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

1.3 Admissions Process					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
1.3.1	All records relating to the creation and implementation of the School Admissions' Policy	No	School Admissions Code Statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014	Life of the policy + 3 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.3.2	Admissions – if the admission is successful	Yes	School Admissions Code Statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014	Date of admission + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.3.3	Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful	Yes	School Admissions Code Statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014	Resolution of case + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.3.4	Register of Admissions	Yes	School attendance: Departmental advice for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities October 2014	Every entry in the admission register must be preserved for a period of three years after the date on which the entry was made.[3]	REVIEW Schools may wish to consider keeping the admission register permanently as often schools receive enquiries from past pupils to confirm the dates they attended the school.
1.3.5	Admissions – Secondary Schools – Casual	Yes		Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.3.6	Proofs of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process	Yes	School Admissions Code Statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014	Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL

3 School attendance: Departmental advice for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities October 2014 p6

1.3 Admissions Process					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
1.3.7	Supplementary Information form including additional information such as religion, medical conditions etc	Yes			
	For successful admissions			This information should be added to the pupil file	SECURE DISPOSAL
	For unsuccessful admissions			Until appeals process completed	SECURE DISPOSAL

1.4 Operational Administration					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
1.4.1	General file series	No		Current year + 5 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.4.2	Records relating to the creation and publication of the school brochure or prospectus	No		Current year + 3 years	STANDARD DISPOSAL
1.4.3	Records relating to the creation and distribution of circulars to staff, parents or pupils	No		Current year + 1 year	STANDARD DISPOSAL
1.4.4	Newsletters and other items with a short operational use	No		Current year + 1 year	STANDARD DISPOSAL
1.4.5	Visitors' Books and Signing in Sheets	Yes		Current year + 6 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL
1.4.6	Records relating to the creation and management of Parent Teacher Associations and/or Old Pupils Associations	No		Current year + 6 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL

2. Human Resources

This section deals with all matters of Human Resources management within the school.

2.1 Recruitment					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
2.1.1	All records leading up to the appointment of a new headteacher	Yes		Date of appointment + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.1.2	All records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff – unsuccessful candidates	Yes		Date of appointment of successful candidate + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.13	All records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff – successful candidate	Yes		All the relevant information should be added to the staff personal file (see below) and all other information retained for 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.1.4	Pre-employment vetting information – DBS Checks	No	DBS Update Service Employer Guide June 2014: Keeping children safe in education. July 2015 (Statutory Guidance from Dept. of Education) Sections 73, 74	The school does not have to keep copies of DBS certificates. If the school does so the copy must NOT be retained for more than 6 months	
2.1.5	Proofs of identity collected as part of the process of checking "portable" enhanced DBS disclosure	Yes		Where possible these should be checked and a note kept of what was seen and what has been checked. If it is felt necessary to keep copy documentation then this should be placed on the member of staff's personal file	
2.1.6	Pre-employment vetting information – Evidence proving the right to work in the United Kingdom[4]	Yes	An employer's guide to right to work checks [Home Office May 2015]	Where possible these documents should be added to the Staff Personal File [see below], but if they are kept separately then the Home Office requires that the documents are kept for termination of Employment plus not less than two years	

2.2 Operational Staff Management					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
2.2.1	Staff Personal File	Yes	Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2)	Termination of Employment + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.2.2	Timesheets	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.2.3	Annual appraisal/ assessment records	Yes		Current year + 5 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

2.3 Management of Disciplinary and Grievance Processes					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
2.3.1	Allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff including where the allegation is unfounded[5]	Yes	"Keeping children safe in education Statutory guidance for schools and colleges March 2015"; "Working together to safeguard children. A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children March 2015"	Until the person's normal retirement age or 10 years from the date of the allegation whichever is the longer then REVIEW. Note allegations that are found to be malicious should be removed from personnel files. If found they are to be kept on the file and a copy provided to the person concerned	SECURE DISPOSAL These records must be shredded
2.3.2	Disciplinary Proceedings	Yes			
	oral warning			Date of warning[6] + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file]
	written warning – level 1			Date of warning + 6 months	
	written warning – level 2			Date of warning + 12 months	
	final warning			Date of warning + 18 months	
	case not found			If the incident is child protection related then see above otherwise dispose of at the conclusion of the case	SECURE DISPOSAL

2.4 Health and Safety					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
2.4.1	Health and Safety Policy Statements	No		Life of policy + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.4.2	Health and Safety Risk Assessments	No		Life of risk assessment + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.4.3	Records relating to accident/ injury at work	Yes		Date of incident + 12 years In the case of serious accidents a further retention period will need to be applied	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.4.4	Accident Reporting	Yes	Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979 Regulation 25. Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 8. Limitation Act 1980		
	Adults			Date of the incident + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
	Children			DOB of the child + 25 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.4.5	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)	No	Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. SI 2002 No 2677 Regulation 11; Records kept under the 1994 and 1999 Regulations to be kept as if the 2002 Regulations had not been made. Regulation 18 (2)	Current year + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.4.6	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with asbestos	No	Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2012 SI 1012 No 632 Regulation 19	Last action + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.4.7	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with radiation	No		Last action + 50 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.4.8	Fire Precautions log books	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

4 Employers are required to take a "clear copy" of the documents which they are shown as part of this process

2.5 Payroll and Pensions					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
2.5.1	Maternity pay records	Yes	Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI1986/1960), revised 1999 (SI1999/567)	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.5.2	Records held under Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

3. Financial Management of the School

This section deals with all aspects of the financial management of the school including the administration of school meals.

3.1 Risk Management and Insurance					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.1.1	Employer's Liability Insurance Certificate	No		Closure of the school + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

3.2 Asset Management					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.2.1	Inventories of furniture and equipment	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.2.2	Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

5 This review took place as the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse was beginning. In light of this, it is recommended that all records relating to child abuse are retained until the Inquiry is completed. This section will then be reviewed again to take into account any recommendations the Inquiry might make concerning record retention

6 Where the warning relates to child protection issues see above. If the disciplinary proceedings relate to a child protection matter please contact your Safeguarding Children Officer for further advice

3.3 Accounts and Statements including Budget Management					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.3.1	Annual Accounts	No		Current year + 6 years	STANDARD DISPOSAL
3.3.2	Loans and grants managed by the school	No		Date of last payment on the loan + 12 years then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.3.3	Student Grant applications	Yes		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.3.4	All records relating to the creation and management of budgets including the Annual Budget statement and background papers	No		Life of the budget + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.3.5	Invoices, receipts, order books and requisitions, delivery notices	No		Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.3.6	Records relating to the collection and banking of monies	No		Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.3.7	Records relating to the identification and collection of debt	No		Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

3.4 Contract Management					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.4.1	All records relating to the management of contracts under seal	No	Limitation Act 1980	Last payment on the contract + 12 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.4.2	All records relating to the management of contracts under signature	No	Limitation Act 1980	Last payment on the contract + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.4.3	Records relating to the monitoring of contracts	No		Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

3.5 School Fund					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.5.1	School Fund - Cheque books	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.5.2	School Fund - Paying in books	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.5.3	School Fund – Ledger	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.5.4	School Fund – Invoices	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.5.5	School Fund – Receipts	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.5.6	School Fund - Bank statements	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.5.7	School Fund – Journey Books	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

3.6 School Meals Management					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.6.1	Free School Meals Registers	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.6.2	School Meals Registers	Yes		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.6.3	School Meals Summary Sheets	No		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

4. Property Management

This section covers the management of buildings and property.

4.1 Property Management					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
4.1.1	Title deeds of properties belonging to the school	No		PERMANENT These should follow the property unless the property has been registered with the Land Registry	
4.1.2	Plans of property belong to the school	No		These should be retained whilst the building belongs to the school and should be passed onto any new owners if the building is leased or sold.	
4.1.3	Leases of property leased by or to the school	No		Expiry of lease + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.1.4	Records relating to the letting of school premises	No		Current financial year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

4.2 Maintenance					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
4.2.1	All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by contractors	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.2.2	All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by school employees including maintenance log books	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

5. Pupil Management

This section includes all records which are created during the time a pupil spends at the school. For information about accident reporting see under Health and Safety above.

5.1 Pupil's Educational Record					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
5.1.1	Pupil's Educational Record required by The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005	Yes	The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 SI 2005 No. 1437		
	Primary			Retain whilst the child remains at the primary school	The file should follow the pupil when he/she leaves the primary school. This will include: • to another primary school • to a secondary school • to a pupil referral unit • If the pupil dies whilst at primary school the file should be returned to the Local Authority to be retained for the statutory retention period. If the pupil transfers to an independent school, transfers to home schooling or leaves the country the file should be returned to the Local Authority to be retained for the statutory retention period. Primary Schools do not ordinarily have sufficient storage space to store records for pupils who have not transferred in the normal way. It makes more sense to transfer the record to the Local Authority as it is more likely that the pupil will request the record from the Local Authority
	Secondary		Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2)	Date of Birth of the pupil + 25 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
5.1.2	Examination Results – Pupil Copies	Yes			
	Public			This information should be added to the pupil file	All uncollected certificates should be returned to the examination board.
	Internal			This information should be added to the pupil file	

5.1 Pupil's Educational Record					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
	This review took place as the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse was beginning. In light of this, it is recommended that all records relating to child abuse are retained until the Inquiry is completed. This section will then be reviewed again to take into account any recommendations the Inquiry might make concerning record retention				
5.1.3	Child Protection information held on pupil file	Yes	"Keeping children safe in education Statutory guidance for schools and colleges March 2015"; "Working together to safeguard children. A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children March 2015"	If any records relating to child protection issues are placed on the pupil file, it should be in a sealed envelope and then retained for the same period of time as the pupil file.	SECURE DISPOSAL – these records MUST be shredded
5.1.4	Child protection information held in separate files	Yes	"Keeping children safe in education Statutory guidance for schools and colleges March 2015"; "Working together to safeguard children. A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children March 2015"	DOB of the child + 25 years then review This retention period was agreed in consultation with the Safeguarding Children Group on the understanding that the principal copy of this information will be found on the Local Authority Social Services record	SECURE DISPOSAL – these records MUST be shredded

Retention periods relating to allegations made against adults can be found in the Human Resources section of this retention schedule.

5.2 Attendance					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
5.2.1	Attendance Registers	Yes	School attendance: Departmental advice for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities October 2014	Every entry in the attendance register must be preserved for a period of three years after the date on which the entry was made.	SECURE DISPOSAL
5.2.2	Correspondence relating to authorized absence		Education Act 1996 Section 7	Current academic year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

5.3 Special Educational Needs					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
5.3.1	Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans	Yes	Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2)	Date of Birth of the pupil + 25 years	REVIEW NOTE: This retention period is the minimum retention period that any pupil file should be kept. Some authorities choose to keep SEN files for a longer period of time to defend themselves in a "failure to provide a sufficient education" case. There is an element of business risk analysis involved in any decision to keep the records longer than the minimum retention period and this should be documented.
5.3.2	Statement maintained under section 234 of the Education Act 1990 and any amendments made to the statement	Yes	Education Act 1996 Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1	Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]	SECURE DISPOSAL unless the document is subject to a legal hold
5.3.3	Advice and information provided to parents regarding educational needs	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 2	Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]	SECURE DISPOSAL unless the document is subject to a legal hold
5.3.4	Accessibility Strategy	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 14	Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years [This would normally be retained on the pupil file]	SECURE DISPOSAL unless the document is subject to a legal hold

6. Curriculum Management

6.1 Statistics and Management Information					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.1.1	Curriculum returns	No		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.1.2	Examination Results (Schools Copy)	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
	SATS records –	Yes			
	Results			The SATS results should be recorded on the pupil's educational file and will therefore be retained until the pupil reaches the age of 25 years. The school may wish to keep a composite record of all the whole year SATs results. These could be kept for current year + 6 years to allow suitable comparison	SECURE DISPOSAL
	Examination Papers			The examination papers should be kept until any appeals/validation process is complete	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.1.3	Published Admission Number (PAN) Reports	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.1.4	Value Added and Contextual Data	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.1.5	Self Evaluation Forms	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

6.2 Implementation of Curriculum					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.2.1	Schemes of Work	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
6.2.2	Timetable	No		Current year + 1 year	
6.2.3	Class Record Books	No		Current year + 1 year	
6.2.4	Mark Books	No		Current year + 1 year	
6.2.5	Record of homework set	No		Current year + 1 year	
6.2.6	Pupils' Work	No		Where possible pupils' work should be returned to the pupil at the end of the academic year if this is not the school's policy then current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL

7. Extra Curricular Activities

7.1 Educational Visits outside the Classroom					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
7.1.1	Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom – Primary Schools	No	Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel National Guidance website http://oeapng.info specifically Section 3 - "Legal Framework and Employer Systems" and Section 4 - "Good Practice".	Date of visit + 14 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
7.1.2	Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom – Secondary Schools	No	Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel National Guidance website http://oeapng.info specifically Section 3 - "Legal Framework and Employer Systems" and Section 4 - "Good Practice".	Date of visit + 10 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
7.1.3	Parental consent forms for school trips where there has been no major incident	Yes		Conclusion of the trip	Although the consent forms could be retained for DOB + 22 years, the requirement for them being needed is low and most schools do not have the storage capacity to retain every single consent form issued by the school for this period of time.
7.1.4	Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been a major incident	Yes	Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2)	DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 25 years The permission slips for all the pupils on the trip need to be retained to show that the rules had been followed for all pupils	

7.2 Walking Bus					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
7.2.1	Walking Bus Registers	Yes		Date of register + 3 years This takes into account the fact that if there is an incident requiring an accident report the register will be submitted with the accident report and kept for the period of time required for accident reporting	SECURE DISPOSAL [If these records are retained electronically any back up copies should be destroyed at the same time]

7.3 Family Liaison Officers and Home School Liaison Assistants					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
7.3.1	Day Books	Yes		Current year + 2 years then review	
7.3.2	Reports for outside agencies - where the report has been included on the case file created by the outside agency	Yes		Whilst child is attending school and then destroy	
7.3.3	Referral forms	Yes		While the referral is current	
7.3.4	Contact data sheets	Yes		Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy	
7.3.5	Contact database entries	Yes		Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy	
7.3.6	Group Registers	Yes		Current year + 2 years	

8. Central Government and Local Authority

This section covers records created in the course of interaction between the school and the local authority.

8.1 Local Authority					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
8.1.1	Secondary Transfer Sheets (Primary)	Yes		Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.1.2	Attendance Returns	Yes		Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.1.3	School Census Returns	No		Current year + 5 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.1.4	Circulars and other information sent from the Local Authority	No		Operational use	SECURE DISPOSAL

8.2 Central Government					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
8.2.1	OFSTED reports and papers	No		Life of the report then REVIEW	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.2.2	Returns made to central government	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.2.3	Circulars and other information sent from central government	No		Operational use	SECURE DISPOSAL

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