



# Data Protection Policy

<b>Date Created</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2018
<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	September 2025

## Contents

1. Aims.....	3
2. Legislation and guidance .....	3
3. Definitions .....	3/3
4. The data controller .....	4
5. Roles and responsibilities .....	4
6. Data protection principles.....	4/5
7. Collecting personal data.....	5
8. Sharing personal data .....	6
9. Subject access requests and other rights of individuals .....	7
10. Data protection by design and default .....	8
11. Data security and storage of records.....	9
12. Disposal of records .....	9
13. Personal data breaches .....	9
14. Training.....	9
15. Monitoring arrangements .....	9
Appendix 1: Personal data breach procedure .....	10

## 1. Aims

Inspire Governance Services (IGS) aim to ensure that all personal data collected on behalf of our customers, from governors, trustees, members, staff, pupils, parents and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679 \(GDPR\)](#) and the [Data Protection Act 2018 \(DPA 2018\)](#).

This policy applies to all personal data, regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format.

## 2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the requirements of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on [GDPR](#) which includes guidance on subject access requests.

It meets the requirements of the [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) when referring to our use of biometric data.

It also reflects the ICO's [code of practice](#) for the use of surveillance cameras and personal information.

## 3. Definitions

Term	Definition
<b>Personal data</b>	Any information relating to an identified, or identifiable, individual.  This may include the individual's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Name (including initials)</li><li>• Identification number</li><li>• Location data</li><li>• Online identifier, such as a username</li></ul> It may also include factors specific to the individual's physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.
<b>Special categories of personal data</b>	Personal data which is more sensitive and so needs more protection, including information about an individual's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Racial or ethnic origin</li><li>• Political opinions</li><li>• Religious or philosophical beliefs</li><li>• Trade union membership</li><li>• Genetics</li><li>• Biometrics (such as fingerprints, retina and iris patterns), where used for identification purposes</li><li>• Health – physical or mental</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex life or sexual orientation</li> </ul>
<b>Processing</b>	<p>Anything done to personal data, such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, using, disseminating, erasing or destroying.</p> <p>Processing can be automated or manual.</p>
<b>Data subject</b>	The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
<b>Data controller</b>	A person or organisation that determines the purposes and the means of processing of personal data.
<b>Data processor</b>	A person or other body, other than an employee of the data controller, who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.
<b>Personal data breach</b>	A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to personal data.

## 4. The data controller

IGS processes personal data relating to governors, trustees, members, parents, pupils, staff, and others, and therefore are classed as a data controller.

Inspire Multi Academy Trust operate IGS as a traded service to schools and academies and has paid its data protection fee with the ICO, as legally required and will renew this registration annually or as otherwise legally required.

## 5. Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to **all staff** employed by Inspire Multi Academy Trust who undertake tasks associated with IGS, and to external organisations or individuals contracted to work and carry out processing activity on our behalf. Staff who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

### 5.1 Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Inspire MAT has overall responsibility for ensuring that IGS complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

### 5.2 Data protection officer

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

The DPO is also the first point of contact for individuals whose data IGS processes, and for the ICO.

Full details of the DPO's responsibilities are set out in their job description.

Our DPO is Simon Allan and is contactable via email on [dpo@inspiremultiacademytrust.co.uk](mailto:dpo@inspiremultiacademytrust.co.uk) or telephone on 0191 522 7673.

### 5.3 All staff

IGS staff are responsible for:

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

## 6. Data protection principles

The GDPR is based on data protection principles that IGS must comply with.

The principles say that personal data must be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary to fulfil the purposes for which it is processed
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
- Kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which it is processed
- Processed in a way that ensures it is appropriately secure

This policy sets out how IGS aims to comply with these principles.

## 7. Collecting personal data

### 7.1 Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

We will only process personal data where we have one of 6 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed so that IGS can **fulfil a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked IGS to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- The data needs to be processed so that IGS can **comply with a legal obligation**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual e.g. to protect someone's life
- The data needs to be processed so that IGS can perform a task **in the public interest**, and carry out its official functions
- The data needs to be processed for the **legitimate interests** of IGS or a third party (provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden)
- The individual has freely given clear **consent**

For special categories of personal data, we will also meet one of the special category conditions for processing under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed to perform or exercise obligations or rights in relation to employment, social security or social protection law
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the vital interests of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The data has already been made manifestly public by the individual
- The data needs to be processed for the establishment, exercise or defense of legal claims
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of substantial public interest as defined in legislation
- The data needs to be processed for health or social care purposes, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health or social work professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law
- The data needs to be processed for public health reasons, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law
- The data needs to be processed for archiving purposes, scientific or historical research purposes, or statistical purposes, and the processing is in the public interest

For criminal offence data, we will meet both a lawful basis and a condition set out under data protection law. Conditions include:

- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has given consent
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the vital interests of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
- The data has already been made manifestly public by the individual
- The data needs to be processed for or in connection with legal proceedings, to obtain legal advice, or for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal rights
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of substantial public interest as defined in legislation

Whenever we first collect personal data directly from individuals, we will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law.

We will always consider the fairness of our data processing. We will ensure we do not handle personal data in ways that individuals would not reasonably expect, or use personal data in ways which have unjustified adverse effects on them.

## 7.2 Limitation, minimisation and accuracy

We will only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate reasons. We will explain these reasons to the individuals when we first collect their data.

If we want to use personal data for reasons other than those given when we first obtained it, we will inform the individuals concerned before we do so, and seek consent where necessary.

IGS staff must only process personal data where it is necessary in order to do their jobs.

When we no longer need the personal data held, IGS staff must ensure it is deleted or anonymised. This will be done in accordance with the [Information and Records Management Society's toolkit for schools](#) or the customer's records management policy requirements.

## 8. Sharing personal data

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

- We need to liaise with other agencies – we will seek consent as necessary before doing this
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to customers, for example, IT provider, billing provider. When doing this, we will:
  - Only appoint suppliers or contractors which can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with data protection law

- Establish a data sharing agreement with the supplier or contractor, either in the contract or as a standalone agreement, to ensure the fair and lawful processing of any personal data we share
- Only share data that the supplier or contractor needs to carry out their service, and information necessary to keep them safe while working with us

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

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

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

## **9. Subject access requests and other rights of individuals**

### **9.1 Subject access requests**

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that IGS holds about them.

This includes:

- Confirmation that their personal data is held and being processed
- Access to a copy of the data
- The purposes of the data processing
- The categories of personal data concerned
- Who the data has been, or will be, shared with
- How long the data will be stored for, or if this isn't possible, the criteria used to determine this period
- Where relevant, the existence of the right to request rectification, erasure or restriction, or to object to such processing
- The right to lodge a complaint with the ICO or another supervisory authority
- The source of the data, if not the individual
- Whether any automated decision-making is being applied to their data, and what the significance and consequences of this might be for the individual
- The safeguards provided if the data is being transferred internationally

Subject access requests must be submitted in writing, either by letter, email or fax to the DPO. They should include:

- Name of individual
- Correspondence address
- Contact number and email address
- Details of the information requested

If staff receive a subject access request they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

### **9.2 Responding to subject access requests**

When responding to requests, we:

- May ask the individual to provide 2 forms of identification
- May contact the individual via phone to confirm the request was made
- Will respond without delay and within 1 month of receipt of the request
- Will provide the information free of charge
- May tell the individual we will comply within 3 months of receipt of the request, where a request is complex or numerous. We will inform the individual of this within 1 month, and explain why the extension is necessary

We may not disclose information for a variety of reasons, such as if it:

- Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of another individual
- Would reveal that the individual is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the person's best interests
- Would include another person's personal data that we can't reasonably anonymise, and we don't have the other person's consent and it would be unreasonable to proceed without it
- Is part of certain sensitive documents, such as those related to crime, immigration, legal proceedings or legal professional privilege, management forecasts, negotiations, confidential references, or exam scripts

If the request is unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee, which takes into account administrative costs.

A request will be deemed to be unfounded or excessive if it is repetitive, or asks for further copies of the same information.

When we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO.

### **9.3 Other data protection rights of the individual**

In addition to the right to make a subject access request, and to receive information when we are collecting their data about how we use and process it (see section 7), individuals also have the right to:

- Withdraw their consent to processing at any time
- Ask us to rectify, erase or restrict processing of their personal data, or object to the processing of it (in certain circumstances)
- Prevent use of their personal data for direct marketing
- Challenge processing which has been justified on the basis of public interest
- Request a copy of agreements under which their personal data is transferred outside of the European Economic Area
- Object to decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (decisions taken with no human involvement, that might negatively affect them)
- Prevent processing that is likely to cause damage or distress
- Be notified of a data breach in certain circumstances
- Make a complaint to the ICO
- Ask for their personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format (in certain circumstances)

Individuals should submit any request to exercise these rights to the DPO. If staff receive such a request, they must immediately forward it to the DPO.

## 10. Data protection by design and default

We will put measures in place to show that we have integrated data protection into all of our data processing activities, including:

- Appointing a suitably qualified DPO, and ensuring they have the necessary resources to fulfil their duties and maintain their expert knowledge
- Only processing personal data that is necessary for each specific purpose of processing, and always in line with the data protection principles set out in relevant data protection law (see section 6)
- Completing privacy impact assessments where there is a high risk to rights and freedoms of individuals, and when introducing new technologies (the DPO will advise on this process)
- Integrating data protection into internal documents including this policy, any related policies and privacy notices
- Regularly training members of staff on data protection law, this policy, any related policies and any other data protection matters; we will also keep a record of attendance
- Regularly conducting reviews and audits to test our privacy measures and make sure we are compliant
- Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:
  - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of our DPO and all information we are required to share about how we use and process their personal data (via our privacy notices)
  - For all personal data that we hold, maintaining an internal record of the type of data, data subject, how and why we are using the data, any third-party recipients, how and why we are storing the data, retention periods and how we are keeping the data secure

## 11. Data security and storage of records

We will protect personal data and keep it safe from unauthorised or unlawful access, alteration, processing or disclosure, and against accidental or unlawful loss, destruction or damage.

In particular:

- Paper-based records and portable electronic devices, such as laptops and hard drives that contain personal data are stored securely when not in use within locked offices or locked cabinets
- Papers containing confidential personal data must not be left on office and classroom desks, on staffroom tables, or left anywhere else where there is general access
- Where personal information needs to be taken off site, staff must sign it in and out from the Trust or individual academy office
- Passwords that are at least 10 characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access school computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Staff and pupils are reminded that they should not reuse passwords from other sites
- Encryption software is used to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices – staff must not use unencrypted devices
- Staff utilise the agreed Cloud storage solution rather than removable media storage
- Staff, pupils, Trustees or governors who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for school-owned equipment
- Where we need to share personal data with a third party, we carry out due diligence and take reasonable steps to ensure it is stored securely and adequately protected (see section 8)

## 12. Disposal of records

Personal data that is no longer needed will be disposed of securely. Personal data that has become inaccurate or out of date will also be disposed of securely, where we cannot or do not need to rectify or update it.

For example, we will shred paper-based records, and overwrite or delete electronic files. We may also use a third party to safely dispose of records on the company's behalf. If we do so, we will require the third party to provide sufficient guarantees that it complies with data protection law.

### **13. Personal data breaches**

IGS will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches.

In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, we will follow the procedure set out in appendix 1.

When appropriate, we will report the data breach to the ICO within 72 hours. Such breaches may include, but are not limited to:

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on the company website which releases identifiable information
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person
- The theft of a company laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about our customers

### **14. Training**

All staff are provided with data protection training as part of their induction process. Staff training will be delivered by the person completing induction.

Data protection will also form part of continuing professional development, where changes to legislation, guidance or the school's processes make it necessary.

### **15. Monitoring arrangements**

The DPO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually, or in line with changes to legislation.

## Appendix 1: Personal data breach procedure

This procedure is based on [guidance on personal data breaches](#) produced by the ICO.

- On finding or causing a breach, or potential breach, the customer or data processor must immediately notify the DPO
- The DPO will investigate the report, and determine whether a breach has occurred. To decide, the DPO will consider whether personal data has been accidentally or unlawfully:
  - Lost
  - Stolen
  - Destroyed
  - Altered
  - Disclosed or made available where it should not have been
  - Made available to unauthorised people
- The DPO will alert the relevant school/academy Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the breach
- The DPO will make all reasonable efforts to contain and minimise the impact of the breach, assisted by relevant staff members or data processors where necessary. (Actions relevant to specific data types are set out at the end of this procedure)
- The DPO will assess the potential consequences, based on how serious they are, and how likely they are to happen
- The DPO will work out whether the breach must be reported to the ICO. This must be judged on a case-by-case basis. To decide, the DPO will consider whether the breach is likely to negatively affect people's rights and freedoms, and cause them any physical, material or non-material damage (e.g. emotional distress), including through:
  - Loss of control over their data
  - Discrimination
  - Identify theft or fraud
  - Financial loss
  - Unauthorised reversal of pseudonymisation (for example, key-coding)
  - Damage to reputation
  - Loss of confidentiality
  - Any other significant economic or social disadvantage to the individual(s) concerned

If it's likely that there will be a risk to people's rights and freedoms, the DPO must notify the ICO.

- The DPO will document the decision (either way), in case it is challenged at a later date by the ICO or an individual affected by the breach. Documented decisions are stored securely on the IT network.
- Where the ICO must be notified, the DPO will do this via the ['report a breach' page of the ICO website](#) within 72 hours. As required, the DPO will set out:
  - A description of the nature of the personal data breach including, where possible:
    - The categories and approximate number of individuals concerned
    - The categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned
  - The name and contact details of the DPO
  - A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
  - A description of the measures that have been, or will be taken, to deal with the breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned

- If all the above details are not yet known, the DPO will report as much as they can within 72 hours. The report will explain that there is a delay, the reasons why, and when the DPO expects to have further information. The DPO will submit the remaining information as soon as possible
- The DPO will also assess the risk to individuals, again based on the severity and likelihood of potential or actual impact. If the risk is high, the DPO will promptly inform, in writing, all individuals whose personal data has been breached. This notification will set out:
  - The name and contact details of the DPO
  - A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
  - A description of the measures that have been, or will be, taken to deal with the data breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned
- The DPO will notify any relevant third parties who can help mitigate the loss to individuals – for example, the police, insurers, banks or credit card companies
- The DPO will document each breach, irrespective of whether it is reported to the ICO. For each breach, this record will include the:
  - Facts and cause
  - Effects
  - Action taken to contain it and ensure it does not happen again (such as establishing more robust processes or providing further training for individuals)

Records of all breaches will be stored securely on the IT network.

- The DPO, CEHT and trustees will meet to review what happened and how it can be stopped from happening again. This meeting will happen as soon as reasonably possible

### **Actions to minimise the impact of data breaches**

We will take the actions (examples set out below) to mitigate the impact of different types of data breach, focusing especially on breaches involving particularly risky or sensitive information. We will review the effectiveness of these actions and amend them as necessary after any data breach.

#### ***Sensitive information being disclosed via email (including safeguarding records)***

- *If special category data (sensitive information) is accidentally made available via email to unauthorised individuals, the sender must attempt to recall the email as soon as they become aware of the error*
- *Members of staff who receive personal data sent in error must alert the sender and the DPO as soon as they become aware of the error*
- *If the sender is unavailable or cannot recall the email for any reason, the DPO will ask the ICT department to recall it*
- *In any cases where the recall is unsuccessful, the DPO will contact the relevant unauthorised individuals who received the email, explain that the information was sent in error, and request that those individuals delete the information and do not share, publish, save or replicate it in any way*
- *The DPO will ensure we receive a written response from all the individuals who received the data, confirming that they have complied with this request*
- *The DPO will carry out an internet search to check that the information has not been made public; if it has, we will contact the publisher/website owner or administrator to request that the information is removed from their website and deleted*