WOODLANDS SCHOOL GDPR POLICY

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Statement of Intent

Woodlands School is required to keep and process certain information about its staff members and students in accordance with its legal obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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

This policy is in place to ensure all staff and governors are aware of their responsibilities and outlines how the school complies with the following core principles of the GDPR.

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

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), as amended
- Data Protection Act 2018, as amended
- Data (Use and Access) Act 2025
- Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005, as amended
- Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

This policy also has regard to the following guidance:

- Department for Education (2026) – *Data protection in schools*
- Department for Education (2026) – *Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUAA): compliance checklist for schools*
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) – *UK GDPR guidance and resources* (current online guidance)
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) – *Children and the UK GDPR* (updated May 2026)
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) – Current guidance on information security, data breaches, records management and secure disposal

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Photography Policy
- Data and E-security Breach Prevention and Management Plan
- Freedom of Information Policy and Model Publication Scheme
- Surveillance and CCTV Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Data Handling Procedures Policy
- Records Management Policy

This policy will also have regard to the following guidance:

- Information Commissioner's Office (2017) 'Overview of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)'
- Information Commissioner's Office (2017) 'Preparing for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 12 steps to take now'

Applicable data

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

‘Sensitive personal data’ is referred to in the UK GDPR as ‘special categories of personal data’, and is defined as:

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

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

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

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

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

In accordance with the requirements outlined in the UK GDPR, personal data will be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes.
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up-to-date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay.
- Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods, insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes, subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the UK GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.

- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

The UK GDPR also requires that "the controller shall be responsible for, and able to demonstrate, compliance with" the above principles.

Principles

In accordance with the requirements outlined in the GDPR, personal data will be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes.
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up-to-date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay.
- Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods, insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes, subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

The GDPR also requires that "the controller shall be responsible for, and able to demonstrate, compliance with the principles".

Accountability

Woodlands school will implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to demonstrate that data is processed in line with the principles set out in the UK GDPR, and will provide comprehensive, clear and transparent privacy policies.

Records of activities relating to higher risk processing will be maintained, such as the processing of activities that:

- Are not occasional.
- Could result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- Involve the processing of special categories of data or criminal conviction and offence data.

Internal records of processing activities will include the following:

- Name and details of the organisation
- Purpose(s) of the processing
- Description of the categories of individuals and personal data
- Retention schedules
- Categories of recipients of personal data
- Description of technical and organisational security measures
- Details of transfers to third countries, including documentation of the transfer mechanism safeguards in place

The school will also document other aspects of compliance with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act where this is deemed appropriate in certain circumstances by the DPO, including the following:

- Information required for privacy notices, e.g. the lawful basis for the processing
- Records of consent
- Controller-processor contracts
- The location of personal data
- Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) reports
- Records of personal data breaches

The school will implement measures that meet the principles of data protection by design and data protection by default, such as:

- Minimising the processing of personal data.
- Pseudonymising personal data as soon as possible.
- Ensuring transparency in respect of the functions and processing of personal data.
- Allowing individuals to monitor processing.
- Continuously creating and improving security features.

DPIAs will be used to identify and reduce data protection risks, where appropriate.

Data protection officer (DPO)

Schools are required to appoint a DPO who will be the central point of contact for all data subjects and others in relation to matters of data protection.

A DPO will be appointed in order to:

- Inform and advise the school and its employees about their obligations to comply with the UK GDPR and other data protection laws.
- Monitor the school's compliance with the UK GDPR and other laws, including managing internal data protection activities, advising on DPIAs, conducting internal audits, and providing the required training to staff members.
- Cooperate with the ICO and act as the first point of contact for the ICO and for individuals whose data is being processed.

The DPO is responsible for:

- Coordinating a proactive and preventative approach to data protection.
- Calculating and evaluating the risks associated with the school's data processing.
- Having regard to the nature, scope, context, and purposes of all data processing.

- Prioritising and focussing on more risky activities, e.g. where special category data is being processed.
- Promoting a culture of privacy awareness throughout the school community.
- Carrying out ad hoc reviews of data practices to ensure staff understand and are acting in accordance with relevant data protection laws.

The individual appointed as DPO will have professional experience and be highly knowledgeable about data protection law, particularly that in relation to schools. An existing employee will be appointed to the role of DPO provided that their duties are compatible with the duties of the DPO and do not lead to a conflict of interests.

The DPO will operate independently and will not be dismissed or penalised for performing their duties. Sufficient resources and appropriate access will be provided to the DPO to enable them to meet their UK GDPR obligations.

The DPO will report to the highest level of management at the school, which is the governing board. Staff will ensure that they involve the DPO in all data protection matters closely and in a timely manner.

Lawful processing

The legal basis for processing data will be identified and documented prior to data being processed. Under the UK GDPR, data will be lawfully processed under the following conditions:

- The consent of the data subject has been obtained
- Processing is necessary for a contract held with the individual, or because they have asked the school to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation (not including contractual obligations)
- Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller
- Processing is necessary for protecting vital interests of a data subject or another person, i.e. to protect someone's life
- Processing is necessary for the purposes of legitimate interests pursued by the controller or a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests, rights or freedoms of the data subject – this condition is not available to processing undertaken by the school in the performance of its tasks

The school will only process personal data without consent where any of the above purposes cannot reasonably be achieved by other, less intrusive means or by processing less data.

Sensitive data will only be processed under the following conditions:

- Explicit consent of the data subject
- Processing carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided the processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes) and provided there is no disclosure to a third party without consent
- Processing relates to personal data manifestly made public by the data subject

- Processing is necessary for:
  - Carrying out obligations under employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement
  - Protecting the vital interests of a data subject or another individual where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent
  - The establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims or where courts are acting in their judicial capacity
  - Reasons of substantial public interest with a basis in law which is proportionate to the aim pursued and which contains appropriate safeguards
  - The purposes of preventative or occupational medicine, for assessing the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or management of health or social care systems and services with a basis in law
  - Reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of healthcare and of medicinal products or medical devices
  - Archiving purposes in the public interest, or scientific and historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with a basis in law
- When none of the above apply, consent will be obtained by the data subject to the processing of their special category personal data.

For personal data to be processed fairly, data subjects must be made aware:

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

There may be circumstances where it is considered necessary to process personal data or special category personal data in order to protect the vital interests of a data subject. This may include medical emergencies where it is not possible for the data subject to give consent to the processing. In such circumstances, the DPO will be consulted and a decision made only after seeking further clarification.

Where the school relies on:

- 'Performance of contract' to process a child's data, the school considers the child's competence to understand what they are agreeing to, and to enter into a contract.
- 'Legitimate interests' to process a child's data, the school takes responsibility for identifying the risks and consequences of the processing, and puts age-appropriate safeguards in place.
- Consent to process a child's data, the school ensures that the requirements outlined in section 6 are met, and the school does not exploit any imbalance of power in the relationship between the school and the child.

Consent

Consent must be a positive indication expressly confirmed in words. It cannot be inferred from silence, inactivity, a positive action without words or pre-ticked boxes. Consent will only be accepted where it is freely given, specific, informed and an unambiguous indication of the individual's wishes. Consent can be withdrawn by the individual at any time.

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

The school ensures that consent mechanisms meet the standards of the UK GDPR. Where the standard of consent cannot be met, an alternative legal basis for processing the data must be found, or the processing must cease. Consent accepted under the DPA will be reviewed to ensure it meets the standards of the UK GDPR; however, acceptable consent obtained under the DPA will not be reobtained.

When students and staff join the school, the staff member or pupil (or, where appropriate, pupil's parent) will be required to complete a consent form for personal data use. This consent form deals with the taking and use of photographs and videos, amongst other things. Where appropriate, third parties may also be required to compete a consent form.

Where the school opts to provide an online service directly to a child, the child is aged 13 or over, and the consent meets the requirements outlined above, the school obtains consent directly from that child; otherwise, consent is obtained from whoever holds parental responsibility for the child, except where the processing is related to preventative or counselling services offered directly to children. In all other instances with regards to obtaining consent, an appropriate age of consent is considered by the school on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the requirements outlined above.

The right to be informed

Adults and children have the same right to be informed about how the school uses their data. The privacy notices supplied to individuals, including children, in regard to the processing of their personal data will be written in clear, plain, age-appropriate language which is concise, transparent, easily accessible and free of charge.

In relation to data obtained both directly from the data subject and not obtained directly from the data subject, the following information will be supplied within the privacy notice:

- The identity and contact details of the controller, the controller's representative, where applicable, and the DPO
- The purpose of, and the lawful basis for, processing the data
- The legitimate interests of the controller or third party
- Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data
- Details of transfers to third countries and the safeguards in place
- The retention period of criteria used to determine the retention period
- The existence of the data subject's rights, including the right to:
    - Withdraw consent at any time
    - Lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority
- The existence of automated decision making, including profiling, how decisions are made, the significance of the process and the consequences

Where data is obtained directly from the data subject, information regarding whether the provision of personal data is part of a statutory or contractual requirement, as well as any possible

consequences of failing to provide the personal data, will be provided – this information will be supplied at the time the data is obtained.
Where data is not obtained directly from the data subject, information regarding the categories of personal data that the school holds, the source that the personal data originates from and whether it came from publicly accessible sources, will be provided – this information will be supplied:

- Within one month of having obtained the data.
- If disclosure to another recipient is envisaged, at the latest, before the data are disclosed.
- If the data are used to communicate with the individual, at the latest, when the first communication takes place.

The right of access

- Individuals have the right to obtain confirmation that their data is being processed.
- Individuals have the right to submit a subject access request (SAR) to gain access to their personal data in order to verify the lawfulness of the processing.
- The school will verify the identity of the person making the request before any information is supplied.
- A copy of the information will be supplied to the individual free of charge; however, the school may impose a 'reasonable fee' to comply with requests for further copies of the same information.
- Where a SAR has been made electronically, the information will be provided in a commonly used electronic format.
- Where a request is manifestly unfounded, excessive or repetitive, a reasonable fee will be charged.
- All fees will be based on the administrative cost of providing the information.
- All requests will be responded to without delay and at the latest, within one month of receipt.
- In the event of numerous or complex requests, the period of compliance will be extended by a further two months. The individual will be informed of this extension, and will receive an explanation of why the extension is necessary, within one month of the receipt of the request.
- Where a request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, the school holds the right to refuse to respond to the request. The individual will be informed of this decision and the reasoning behind it, as well as their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy, within one month of the refusal.
- In the event that a large quantity of information is being processed about an individual, the school will ask the individual to specify the information the request is in relation to.

The right to rectification

- Individuals are entitled to have any inaccurate or incomplete personal data rectified.

- Where the personal data in question has been disclosed to third parties, the school will inform them of the rectification where possible.
- Where appropriate, the school will inform the individual about the third parties that the data has been disclosed to.
- Requests for rectification will be responded to within one month; this will be extended by two months where the request for rectification is complex.
- Where no action is being taken in response to a request for rectification, the school will explain the reason for this to the individual, and will inform them of their right to complain to the supervisory authority and to a judicial remedy.

The right to erasure

Individuals hold the right to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.

Individuals have the right to erasure in the following circumstances:

- Where the personal data is no longer necessary in relation to the purpose for which it was originally collected/processed
- When the individual withdraws their consent
- When the individual objects to the processing and there is no overriding legitimate interest for continuing the processing
- The personal data was unlawfully processed
- The personal data is required to be erased in order to comply with a legal obligation
- The personal data is processed in relation to the offer of information society services to a child

The school has the right to refuse a request for erasure where the personal data is being processed for the following reasons:

- To exercise the right of freedom of expression and information
- To comply with a legal obligation for the performance of a public interest task or exercise of official authority
- For public health purposes in the public interest
- For archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research, historical research or statistical purposes
- The exercise or defence of legal claims

As a child may not fully understand the risks involved in the processing of data when consent is obtained, special attention will be given to existing situations where a child has given consent to processing and they later request erasure of the data, regardless of age at the time of the request.

Where personal data has been disclosed to third parties, they will be informed about the erasure of the personal data, unless it is impossible or involves disproportionate effort to do so.

Where personal data has been made public within an online environment, the school will inform other organisations who process the personal data to erase links to and copies of the personal data in question.

The right to restrict processing

Individuals have the right to block or suppress the school's processing of personal data.

In the event that processing is restricted, the school will store the personal data, but not further process it, guaranteeing that just enough information about the individual has been retained to ensure that the restriction is respected in future.

The school will restrict the processing of personal data in the following circumstances:

- Where an individual contests the accuracy of the personal data, processing will be restricted until the school has verified the accuracy of the data
- Where an individual has objected to the processing and the school is considering whether their legitimate grounds override those of the individual
- Where processing is unlawful and the individual opposes erasure and requests restriction instead
- Where the school no longer needs the personal data but the individual requires the data to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim

If the personal data in question has been disclosed to third parties, the school will inform them about the restriction on the processing of the personal data, unless it is impossible or involves disproportionate effort to do so.

The school will inform individuals when a restriction on processing has been lifted.

The right to data portability

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

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

The right to object

The school will inform individuals of their right to object at the first point of communication, and this information will be outlined in the privacy notice and explicitly brought to the attention of the data subject, ensuring that it is presented clearly and separately from any other information.

Individuals have the right to object to the following:

- Processing based on legitimate interests or the performance of a task in the public interest
- Direct marketing
- Processing for purposes of scientific or historical research and statistics.

Where personal data is processed for the performance of a legal task or legitimate interests:

- An individual's grounds for objecting must relate to his or her particular situation.
- The school will stop processing the individual's personal data unless the processing is for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims, or, where the school can demonstrate compelling legitimate grounds for the processing, which override the interests, rights and freedoms of the individual.

Where personal data is processed for direct marketing purposes:

- The school will stop processing personal data for direct marketing purposes as soon as an objection is received.
- The school cannot refuse an individual's objection regarding data that is being processed for direct marketing purposes.

Where personal data is processed for research purposes:

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

Where the processing activity is outlined above, but is carried out online, the school will offer a method for individuals to object online.

Automated decision making and profiling

Individuals have the right not to be subject to a decision when:

- It is based on automated processing, e.g. profiling.
- It produces a legal effect or a similarly significant effect on the individual.

The school will take steps to ensure that individuals are able to obtain human intervention, express their point of view, and obtain an explanation of the decision and challenge it.

When automatically processing personal data for profiling purposes, the school will ensure that the appropriate safeguards are in place, including:

- Ensuring processing is fair and transparent by providing meaningful information about the logic involved, as well as the significance and the predicted impact.
- Using appropriate mathematical or statistical procedures.
- Implementing appropriate technical and organisational measures to enable inaccuracies to be corrected and minimise the risk of errors.
- Securing personal data in a way that is proportionate to the risk to the interests and rights of the individual and prevents discriminatory effects.

Automated decisions must not concern a child or be based on the processing of sensitive data, unless:

- The school has the explicit consent of the individual.
- The processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest on the basis of Union/Member State law.

Privacy by design and privacy impact assessments

Data protection by design and default

The school will act in accordance with the UK GDPR by adopting a data protection by design and default approach and implementing technical and organisational measures which demonstrate how the school has considered and integrated data protection into all aspects of processing activities. In line with the data protection by default approach, the school will ensure that only data that is necessary to achieve its specific purpose will be processed.

The school will implement a data protection by design and default approach by using a number of methods, including, but not limited to:

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

Data breaches

The term 'personal data breach' refers to a breach of security which has led to the destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data.

The headteacher will ensure that all staff members are made aware of, and understand, what constitutes a data breach as part of their CPD training.

Where a breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the relevant supervisory authority will be informed.

All notifiable breaches will be reported to the relevant supervisory authority within 72 hours of the school becoming aware of it.

The risk of the breach having a detrimental effect on the individual, and the need to notify the relevant supervisory authority, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

In the event that a breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of an individual, the school will notify those concerned directly.

A 'high risk' breach means that the threshold for notifying the individual is higher than that for notifying the relevant supervisory authority.

In the event that a breach is sufficiently serious, the public will be notified without undue delay.

Effective and robust breach detection, investigation and internal reporting procedures are in place at the school, which facilitate decision-making in relation to whether the relevant supervisory authority or the public need to be notified.

Within a breach notification, the following information will be outlined:

- The nature of the personal data breach, including the categories and approximate number of individuals and records concerned
- The name and contact details of the DPO
- An explanation of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
- A description of the proposed measures to be taken to deal with the personal data breach

- Where appropriate, a description of the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects

Failure to report a breach when required to do so may result in a fine, as well as a fine for the breach itself.

Data security

Confidential paper records will be kept in a locked filing cabinet, drawer or safe, with restricted access, and will not be left unattended or in clear view anywhere with general access.

Digital data is coded, encrypted or password-protected, both on a local hard drive and on a network drive that is regularly backed up off-site. Where digital data is saved on removable storage or a portable device, the device will be kept in a locked filing cabinet, drawer or safe when not in use. Memory sticks will not be used to hold personal information unless they are password-protected and fully encrypted. All electronic devices are password-protected to protect the information on the device in case of theft. Where possible, the school enables electronic devices to allow the remote blocking or deletion of data in case of theft.

Where possible, staff and governors will not use their personal laptops or computers for school purposes. All necessary members of staff are provided with their own secure login and password, and every computer regularly prompts users to change their password.

If staff and governors need to use their personal laptops for school purposes, particularly if they are working from home, they will bring their device into school before using it for work to ensure the appropriate software can be downloaded and information encrypted.

Emails containing sensitive or confidential information are password-protected if there are unsecure servers between the sender and the recipient. Circular emails to parents are sent blind carbon copy (bcc), so email addresses are not disclosed to other recipients. When sending confidential information staff will always check that the recipient is correct before sending.

Before sharing data, all staff members will ensure:

- They are allowed to share it.
- That adequate security is in place to protect it.
- Who will receive the data has been outlined in a privacy notice.

Where personal information that could be considered private or confidential is taken off the premises, either in electronic or paper format, staff will take extra care to follow the same procedures for security, e.g. keeping devices under lock and key. The person taking the information from the school premises accepts full responsibility for the security of the data.

Under no circumstances are visitors allowed access to confidential or personal information. Visitors to areas of the school containing sensitive information are supervised at all times.

The physical security of the school's buildings and storage systems, and access to them, is reviewed on regularly. If an increased risk in vandalism, burglary or theft is identified, extra measures to secure data storage will be put in place.

The school will regularly test, assess and evaluate the effectiveness of any and all measures in place for data security.

The school takes its duties under the UK GDPR seriously and any unauthorised disclosure may result in disciplinary action. The SBM is responsible for continuity and recovery measures are in place to ensure the security of protected data.

When disposing of data, paper documents will be shredded and digital storage devices will be physically destroyed when they are no longer required. ICT assets will be disposed of in accordance with the ICO's guidance on the disposal of ICT assets.

The school holds the right to take the necessary disciplinary action against a staff member if they believe them to be in breach of the above security measures.

Publication of information

Woodlands School publishes a publication scheme on its website outlining classes of information that will be made routinely available, including:

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

Classes of information specified in the publication scheme are made available quickly and easily on request.

Woodlands School will not publish any personal information, including photos, on its website without the permission of the affected individual.

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

Photography

The school understands that recording images of identifiable individuals constitutes as processing personal information, so it is done in line with data protection principles.

Before the school is able to obtain the data of students or staff, it is required to give notification and obtain consent for this Special Category Data due to additional requirements for processing such data under the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

The school will always indicate its intentions for taking photographs of students and will retrieve permission before publishing them. If the school wishes to use images or video footage of students in a publication, such as the school website, prospectus, or recordings of school plays, written permission will be sought for the particular usage from the parent of the pupil. Precautions, as outlined in the Photography Policy, are taken when publishing photographs of students, in print, video or on the school website.

Images captured by individuals for recreational or personal purposes, and videos made by parents for family use, are exempt from the UK GDPR.

Parents and others attending school events are able to take photographs and videos of those events as long as they are for domestic purposes only. Photographs or videos being used for any other purpose are prohibited to be taken by parents or visitors to the school.

The school asks that parents and others do not post any images or videos which include any child other than their own child(ren) on any social media or otherwise publish those images or videos.

Data retention

Data will not be kept for longer than is necessary.

Unrequired data will be deleted as soon as practicable.

Some educational records relating to former students or employees of the school may be kept for an extended period for legal reasons, but also to enable the provision of references or academic transcripts.

Paper documents will be shredded or pulped, and electronic memories scrubbed clean or destroyed, once the data should no longer be retained.

DBS data

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

Data provided by the DBS will never be duplicated.

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

Policy review

This policy is reviewed every year by the SBM and the headteacher.