



Data Protection Policy

This policy should be read alongside the 'Common Principles' that apply to all academy HR policies. These 'Common Principles' outline the need for confidentiality, the procedures for and management of formal meetings (including the right to representation by a companion such as a Trade Union representative), the power to issue warnings and make dismissal decisions, and the procedures for appeals against warning and dismissal decisions.

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1. Aims

Our school aims to ensure that all personal data collected about staff, pupils, parents, governors, visitors and other individuals is collected, stored and processed in accordance with the Data protection Act 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 UK GDPR and the expected provisions of the DPA 2018. It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the UK GDPR and the ICO's Code of Practice made under section 121 of the Data Protection Act 2018.

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.

In addition, this policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Personal data	Any information relating to an identified, or identifiable, individual. This may include the individual's: • Name (including initials) • Identification number • Location data • Online identifier, such as a username It may also include factors specific to the individual's physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.
Special categories of personal data	Personal data which is more sensitive and so needs more protection, including information about an individual's: • Racial or ethnic origin • Political opinions • Religious or philosophical beliefs • Trade union membership

	• Genetics • Biometrics (such as fingerprints, retina and iris patterns), where used for identification purposes • Health – physical or mental • Sex life or sexual orientation
Processing	Anything done to personal data, such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, using, disseminating, erasing or destroying. Processing can be automated or manual.
Data subject	The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
Data controller	A person or organisation that determines the purposes and the means of processing of personal data.
Data processor	A person or other body, other than an employee of the data controller, who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.
Personal data breach	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

Our school processes personal data relating to parents, pupils, staff, governors, visitors and others, and therefore is a data controller.

The school is registered as a data controller with the ICO and will renew this registration annually or as otherwise legally required.

5. Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to **all staff** employed by our school, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf. Staff who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

5.1 Governing board

The governing board has overall responsibility for ensuring that our school 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.

They will provide an annual report of their activities directly to the governing board and, where relevant, report to the board their advice and recommendations on school data protection issues.

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

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

Our DPO is Anam Shakure and is contactable on 0208 861 7300. Email: ashakure.310@harrowhigh.com

5.3 Headteacher

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

5.4 All staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy
- Informing the school of any changes to their personal data, such as a change of address
- Contacting the DPO in the following circumstances:
 - With any questions about the operation of this policy, data protection law, retaining personal data or keeping personal data secure
 - If 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 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 UK GDPR is based on data protection principles that our school 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 fulfill 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 the school 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 the school can **fulfill a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked the school to take specific steps before entering into a contract
- The data needs to be processed so that the school 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 the school, as a public authority, 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 the school or a third party (provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden)
- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has freely given clear **consent**

For special categories of personal data, we will also meet one of the special category conditions for processing which are set out in the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018.

If we offer online services to pupils, such as classroom apps, and we intend to rely on consent as a basis for processing, we will get parental consent where the pupil is under 13 (except for online counselling and preventive services).

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

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.

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

When staff no longer need the personal data they hold, they must ensure it is deleted or anonymised. This will be done in accordance with the [Information and Records Management Society's toolkit for schools](#).

8. Sharing personal data

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

- There is an issue with a pupil or parent/carer that puts the safety of our staff at risk
- 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 our staff and pupils – for example, IT companies. 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
- The assessment or collection of tax owed to HMRC
- In connection with legal proceedings
- Where the disclosure is required to satisfy our safeguarding obligations
- Research and statistical purposes, as long as personal data is sufficiently anonymised or consent has been provided

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

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 the school holds about them. This includes:

- Confirmation that their personal data is 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
- 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

Subject access requests should preferably be submitted in writing, either by letter or email to the DPO. However, individuals may make a subject access request verbally or in writing and do not need to use a specific form or wording.

Individuals should provide sufficient information to enable the Academy Trust to identify them and locate the personal data requested. This may 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 Children and subject access requests

Personal data about a child relates to the child and does not automatically give their parents or carers a right to access that information.

There is no fixed age at which a child is considered capable of exercising their right of access. The Academy Trust will consider the child's level of maturity and understanding on a case-by-case basis.

Where a parent or carer makes a subject access request on behalf of a child, the Academy Trust will consider whether the child is sufficiently mature to understand their rights and the implications of the request. Where appropriate, the Academy Trust may need to obtain the child's consent before providing their personal data to a parent or carer.

Where a child is not considered sufficiently mature to exercise their right of access, a person with parental responsibility may exercise the right on the child's behalf, subject to the child's best interests and any applicable restrictions or exemptions.

9.3 Responding to subject access requests

When responding to requests, we:

- May ask the individual to provide 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 extend the response period by up to a further two months where the request is complex or where the individual has made a number of requests. We will inform the individual of the extension within one month of receiving the request and explain why the extension is necessary.

We will not disclose information if it:

- Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual
- Would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child's best interests
- Is contained in adoption or parental order records
- Is given to a court in proceedings concerning the child

If a SAR is considered manifestly unfounded or excessive, the Academy Trust may refuse to comply with the request or charge a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs of dealing with it. Each request will be considered on its individual circumstances.

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

9.4 Other data protection rights of the individual

In addition to the right to make a subject access request (see above), 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. Parental requests to see the educational record

We will carry out any requests in accordance with our Subject Access Request procedures detailed in Section 9 of this policy.

11. Biometric recognition systems

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. CCTV

We use CCTV in various locations around the school site to ensure it remains safe. We will comply with applicable data protection requirements and follow the ICO's current guidance on video surveillance and CCTV.

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

Any enquiries about the CCTV system should be directed to the designated CCTV operator.

13. Photographs and videos

As part of our school activities, we may take photographs and record images of individuals within our school.

We will obtain written consent from parents/carers, or pupils aged 18 and over, for photographs and videos to be taken of pupils for communication, marketing and promotional materials.

Where we need parental consent, we will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carers and pupil. Where we don't need parental consent, we will clearly explain to the pupil how the photograph and/or video will be used.

Uses may include:

- Within school on notice boards and in school magazines, brochures, newsletters, etc.
- Outside of school by external agencies such as the school photographer, newspapers, campaigns
- Online on our school website or social media pages

Consent can be refused or withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, we will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

When using photographs and videos in this way we will not accompany them with any other personal information about the child, to ensure they cannot be identified.

14. Right to be forgotten

Individuals have the right to have their data 'erased' in certain specified situations - in essence where the processing fails to satisfy the requirements of the UK GDPR. The right can be exercised against Harrow High School and we will respond without undue delay (and in any event within one month, although this can be extended in difficult cases).

When does the right apply?

- When data are no longer necessary for the purpose for which they were collected or processed.
- If the individual withdraws consent to processing (and if there is no other justification for processing).
- If the individual objects and the controller cannot demonstrate that there are overriding legitimate grounds for the processing.
- When the data is otherwise unlawfully processed (i.e. in some way which is otherwise in breach of the UK GDPR).
- If the data has to be erased to comply with Union or Member State law which applies to the controller.

Data put into the public domain

If the controller has made personal data public, and where it is obliged to erase the data, the controller must also inform other controllers who are processing the data that the data subject has requested erasure of that data. The obligation is intended to strengthen individual's rights in an online environment.

Other obligations to notify recipients

If the controller has to erase personal data, then the controller must notify any one to whom it has disclosed such data, unless this would be impossible or involve disproportionate effort.

Exemptions

The obligation does not apply if processing is necessary:

- for the exercise of the right of freedom of expression and information;
- for compliance with a Union or Member State legal obligation;
- for performance of a public interest task or exercise of official authority;
- for public health reasons;
- for archival, research or statistical purposes (if any relevant conditions for this type of processing are met); or

- if required for the establishment, exercise or defense of legal claims

Upon receiving a 'Right to be forgotten' request the DPO will consider the validity of the request and will respond in writing confirming either;

-if the request has been upheld and what action will be taken to ensure complete data erasure and by what timescale this will be completed by

-if the request has been declined specifying the legal reasons for declining the request.

15. 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 the school's processing of personal data presents 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 school and 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

16. 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 kept under lock and key when not in use
- Papers containing confidential personal data must not be left on office and classroom desks, on staff room tables, pinned to notice/display boards, or left anywhere else where there is general access

- Where personal information needs to be taken off site, staff must sign it out and in from reception.
- Passwords that are at least 8 characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access school computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Staff and pupils will be reminded to change their passwords at regular intervals
- Encryption software is used to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices
- Staff, pupils or governors who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for school-owned equipment (see our ICT Policy).
- 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)
- Staff are required to sign a Data Protection Agreement Form

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

18. Personal data breaches

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

In the unlikely event of a suspected data breach, 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 in a school context may include, but are not limited to:

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on the school website which shows the exam results of pupils eligible for the pupil premium
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person
- The theft of a school laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about pupils

19. Training

All staff and governors are provided with data protection training as part of their induction process.

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

20. Monitoring arrangements

The DPO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy.

This policy will be reviewed at least every 2 years, or sooner where there are significant changes to data protection legislation, regulatory guidance, the Academy Trust's processing activities, or its policies and procedures.

Any significant amendments to this policy will be reported to and, where appropriate, approved by the full governing body.

21. Links with other policies

This data protection policy is linked to our:

- Freedom of information publication scheme
- ICT Policy
- Staff, Learner, Parent/Carer and Alumni Privacy Policy
- Data Protection Agreement Form

Appendix 1

22. Data Security Breach Policy

This policy is for information on what the Data Protection Officer will do in the event of a personal data information security breach. It sets out what we need to consider in the event of a breach including, containment/recovery, course of action, risks, reporting and evaluation and response.

Overview

As a school we process personal data so we must take appropriate measures against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction of or damage to personal data.

A personal data security breach can happen for a number of reasons:

- Loss or theft of data or equipment on which data is stored
- Inappropriate access controls allowing unauthorised use
- Equipment failure
- Human error
- Unforeseen circumstances, such as a fire or flood
- Hacking attack
- 'Blagging' offences where information is obtained by deceiving the school/employees

It is the duty of the DPO or designated person to complete the Breach Management Plan if a breach occurs. Please see Breach Management Plan for further details.

What is a Personal Data Breach?

A personal data breach means a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. This includes

breaches that are the result of both accidental and deliberate causes. It also means that a breach is more than just about losing personal data.

Personal data breaches can include:

- access by an unauthorised third party;
- deliberate or accidental action (or inaction) by a controller or processor;
- sending personal data to an incorrect recipient;
- computing devices containing personal data being lost or stolen;
- alteration of personal data without permission; and
- loss of availability of personal data.

A personal data breach can be broadly defined as a security incident that has affected the confidentiality, integrity or availability of personal data. In short, there will be a personal data breach whenever any personal data is lost, destroyed, corrupted or disclosed; if someone accesses the data or passes it on without proper authorisation; or if the data is made unavailable and this unavailability has a significant negative effect on individuals.

Types of breach

Breaches can be categorised according to the following three well-known information security principles:

- "Confidentiality breach" - where there is an unauthorised or accidental disclosure of, or access to, personal data.
- "Availability breach" - where there is an accidental or unauthorised loss of access to, or destruction of, personal data.
- "Integrity breach" - where there is an unauthorised or accidental alteration of personal data.

It should also be noted that, depending on the circumstances, a breach can concern confidentiality, availability and integrity of personal data at the same time, as well as any combination of these.

A breach can include but is not limited to:

- Loss/theft of a personal device where school emails/data is accessed
- Loss of memory stick
- Email containing personal data sent to the wrong recipient
- Accidentally/unintentionally clicking on a 'Phishing' link within an email

What to do if you identify a breach

All staff are responsible for reporting actual, suspected, threatened or potential information security incidents and for assisting with investigations as required, particularly if urgent action must be taken to prevent further damage.

You must notify your line manager as well as the Data Protection Officer.

You must give as much detail as possible about the breach including your name, department and date and time that the breach was identified on the Data Incident Report form that can be found in Staff resources, forms for staff use.

What breaches do we need to notify the ICO about?

When a personal data breach has occurred, we need to establish the likelihood and severity of the resulting risk to people's rights and freedoms. If it's likely that there will be a risk then we must notify the ICO; if it's unlikely then we don't have to report it. However, if we decide we don't need to report the breach, we need to be able to justify this decision, so we need to document it.

In assessing risk to rights and freedoms, it's important to focus on the potential negative consequences for individuals. Recital 85 of the UK GDPR explains that:

"A personal data breach may, if not addressed in an appropriate and timely manner, result in physical, material or non-material damage to natural persons such as loss of control over their personal data or limitation of their rights, discrimination, identity theft or fraud, financial loss, unauthorised reversal of pseudonymisation, damage to reputation, loss of confidentiality of personal data protected by professional secrecy or any other significant economic or social disadvantage to the natural person concerned."

This means that a breach can have a range of adverse effects on individuals, which include emotional distress, and physical and material damage. Some personal data breaches will not lead to risks beyond possible inconvenience to those who need the data to do their job. Other breaches can significantly affect individuals whose personal data has been compromised. We need to assess this case by case, looking at all relevant factors.

So, on becoming aware of a breach, we should try to contain it and assess the potential adverse consequences for individuals, based on how serious or substantial these are, and how likely they are to happen.

We should ensure that you record all breaches, regardless of whether or not they need to be reported to the ICO.

How much time do we have to report a breach?

We must report a notifiable breach to the ICO without undue delay, but not later than 72 hours after becoming aware of it. If we take longer than this, we must give reasons for the delay.

Section II of the Article 29 Working Party Guidelines on personal data breach notification gives more details of when a controller can be considered to have 'become aware' of a breach.

What information must a breach notification to the supervisory authority contain?

When reporting a breach we must provide:

- a description of the nature of the personal data breach including, where possible:
- the categories and approximate number of individuals concerned; and
- the categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned;
- the name and contact details of the data protection officer or other contact point where more information can be obtained;
- a description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach; and
- a description of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken, to deal with the personal data breach, including, where appropriate, the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects.

The UK GDPR recognises that it will not always be possible to investigate a breach fully within 72 hours to understand exactly what has happened and what needs to be done to mitigate it. So

Article 34(4) allows us to provide the required information in phases, as long as this is done without undue further delay.

However, the ICO expects controllers to prioritise the investigation, give it adequate resources, and expedite it urgently. We must still notify the ICO of the breach when we become aware of it, and submit further information as soon as possible. If we know we won't be able to provide full details within 72 hours, it is a good idea to explain the delay to the ICO and tell them when we expect to submit more information.

How to notify a breach to the ICO

The ICO breach reporting tool is online, use the link below to report a breach.

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/report-a-breach>

When to tell individuals about a breach

If a breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the UK GDPR says we must inform those concerned directly and without undue delay. In other words, this should take place as soon as possible.

A 'high risk' means the threshold for informing individuals is higher than for notifying the ICO. We will need to assess both the severity of the potential or actual impact on individuals as a result of a breach and the likelihood of this occurring. If the impact of the breach is more severe, the risk is higher; if the likelihood of the consequences is greater, then again the risk is higher. In such cases, we will need to promptly inform those affected, particularly if there is a need to mitigate an immediate risk of damage to them. One of the main reasons for informing individuals is to help them take steps to protect themselves from the effects of a breach.

If we decide not to notify individuals, we will still need to notify the ICO unless we can demonstrate that the breach is unlikely to result in a risk to rights and freedoms. We should also remember that the ICO has the power to compel us to inform affected individuals if they consider there is a high risk. In any event, we should document your decision-making process in line with the requirements of the accountability principle.

Information we must provide to individuals when telling them about a breach

We need to describe, in clear and plain language, the nature of the personal data breach and, at least:

- the name and contact details of our data protection officer or other contact point where more information can be obtained;
- a description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach; and
- a description of the measures taken, or proposed to be taken, to deal with the personal data breach and including, where appropriate, of the measures taken to mitigate any possible adverse effects.

What happens if we fail to notify?

Where the Academy Trust is required to notify the ICO of a personal data breach, the Academy Trust will ensure that the notification is made without undue delay and, where feasible, within 72 hours of becoming aware of the breach.

Failure to comply with the requirements for reporting and managing personal data breaches may result in regulatory action by the ICO. The Academy Trust will therefore document all personal data breaches and the decisions made about whether notification is required.

23. Data Breach Management Plan

The management response to any reported data security breach will involve the following four elements.

1. Containment and Recovery

Data security breaches will require an initial response to investigate and contain the situation. It will also require a recovery plan which will include, where necessary, damage limitation. The recovery plan will need to involve input from the Headteacher, Chair of Governors, IT, HR and in some cases external suppliers.

2. Assessing the Risks

Some data security breaches will not lead to risks beyond possible inconvenience, e.g. where a laptop is irreparably damaged but the files were backed up and can be recovered. While this type of incident can still have significant consequences the risks are very different from those posed by theft of parent/student data, whereby someone may use this to commit identity fraud. Before deciding what steps are necessary further to immediate containment, assess the risks which may be associated with the breach. One of the most important is an assessment of potential adverse consequences for the individual/s, how serious or substantial these are and how likely they are to happen.

3. Notification

Informing people and organisations that we have experienced a data security breach can be an important element in our breach management strategy. However, informing people about a breach is not an end in itself. Notification should have a clear purpose, whether this is to enable individuals who may have been affected to take steps to protect themselves or to allow the appropriate regulatory bodies to perform their functions, provide advice and deal with complaints

4. Evaluation

It is important not only to investigate the causes of the breach but also to evaluate the effectiveness of our response to it. Clearly, if the breach was caused, even in part, by systematic and ongoing problems, then simply containing the breach and continuing 'business as usual' is not acceptable; similarly, if our response was hampered by inadequate policies or a lack of a clear allocation of responsibility then it is important to review and update these policies and lines responsibility in the light of experience.

Existing procedures could lead to another breach and we will need to identify where improvements can be made.

Each of these four elements will need to be conducted in accordance with the checklist for Data Security Breaches. An activity log recording the timeline of the incident management should also be completed.

Checklist for Data Security Breaches

Step	Action	Notes
A	Containment and Recovery:	To contain any breach, to limit further damage as far as possible and to seek to recover any lost data.
1	DPO along with relevant members of staff to ascertain the severity of the breach and determine if any personal data is involved.	See Evaluation of Incident Security
2	DPO to investigate breach and speak with person who identified breach and fill out a copy of the data breach report	To oversee full investigation and produce report. Ensure DPO has appropriate resources including sufficient time and authority.
3	Identify the cause of the breach and whether the breach has been contained? Ensure that any possibility of further data loss is removed or mitigated as far as possible	Establish what steps can or need to be taken to contain the breach from further data loss. Contact all relevant departments who may be able to assist in this process. This may involve actions such as taking systems offline or restricting access to systems to a very small number of staff until more is known about the incident.
4	Determine whether anything can be done to recover any losses and limit any damage that may be caused	E.g. physical recovery of data/equipment, or where data corrupted, through use of back-ups.
5	Where appropriate, the DPO or nominee to inform the police	E.g. stolen property, fraudulent activity, offence under Computer Misuse Act.
6	Ensure all key actions and decisions are logged and recorded on the timeline.	See Evaluation of Incident Security

B	Assessing the Risks	To identify and assess the ongoing risks that may be associated with the breach.
8	What type and volume of data is involved?	Data Classification/volume of individual data etc

9	How sensitive is the data?	Sensitive personal data? By virtue of definition within the Data Protection Act (e.g. health record) or sensitive because of what might happen if misused (banking details).
10	What has happened to the data?	E.g. if data has been stolen, it could be used for purposes which are harmful to the individuals to whom the data relate; if it has been damaged, this poses a different type and level of risk.
11	If the data was lost/stolen, were there any protections in place to prevent access/misuse?	E.g. encryption of data/device.
12	If the data was damaged/corrupted /lost, were there protections in place to mitigate the impact of the loss?	E.g. back-up tapes/copies.
13	How many individuals' personal data are affected by breach?	
14	Who are the individuals whose data has been compromised?	Students, Parents, Staff, or suppliers?
15	What could the data tell a third party about the individual? Could it be misused?	Consider this regardless of what has happened to the data. Sensitive data could mean very little to an opportunistic laptop thief while the loss of apparently trivial snippets of information could help a determined thief.
16	Is there actual/potential harm that could come to any individuals?	E.g. are there risks to: • physical safety; • emotional wellbeing; • reputation; • finances; • identify (theft/fraud from release of non-public identifiers); • or a combination of these and other private aspects of their life?
17	Are there wider consequences to consider?	E.g. a risk to public health or loss of public confidence in an important service we provide?
18	Are there others who might advise on risks/courses of action?	E.g. If individuals' bank details have been lost, consider contacting the banks themselves for advice on anything they can do to help you prevent fraudulent use.

C	Notification	Notification is to enable individuals who may have been affected to take steps to protect themselves or allow the regulatory bodies to perform their functions.
19	Are there any legal, contractual or regulatory requirements to notify?	E.g.: terms of funding; contractual obligations
20	Can notification help the school meet its security obligations under the seventh data protection principle?	E.g. prevent any unauthorised access, use or damage to the information or loss of it.
21	Can notification help the individual?	Could individuals act on the information provided to mitigate risks (e.g. by changing a password or monitoring their account)?
22	If a large number of people are affected, or there are very serious consequences, inform the Information Commissioner's Office.	DPO
23	Consider the dangers of 'over notifying'.	Not every incident will warrant notification "and notifying all staff of an issue affecting only 20 may well cause disproportionate enquiries and work".
24	Consider whom to notify, what you will tell them and how you will communicate the message.	• There are a number of different ways to notify those affected so consider using the most appropriate one. Always bear in mind the security of the medium as well as the urgency of the situation. • Include a description of how and when the breach occurred and what data was involved. Include details of what has already been done to respond to the risks posed by the breach. • When notifying individuals, give specific and clear advice on the steps they can take to protect themselves and also what the institution is willing to do to help them.
25	Consult the ICO guidance on when and how to notify it about breaches.	See Data Security Breach Policy
26	Consider, as necessary, the need to notify any third parties who can assist in helping or mitigating the impact on individuals.	E.g. police, insurers, professional bodies, funders, trade unions, website/system owners, bank/credit card companies.

D	Evaluation and Response	To evaluate the effectiveness of the Schools response to the breach.
27	Establish where any present or future risks lie.	
28	Consider the data and contexts involved.	E.g. what data is held, its extent, sensitivity, where and how it is stored, how long it is kept.
29	Consider and identify any weak points in existing security measures and procedures.	E.g. in relation to methods of storage and/or transmission, use of storage devices, levels of access, systems/network protections.
30	Consider and identify any weak points in levels of security awareness/training.	Fill any gaps through training or tailored advice.
31	Report on findings and implement recommendations.	Report to relevant people

Evaluation of Incident Severity

The severity of the incident will be assessed by the DPO along with others as required. Assessment would be made based upon the following criteria:

High Criticality: Major Incident	Contact:
• Highly Confidential/Confidential Data • Personal data breach involves • External third party data involved • Significant or irreversible consequences • Likely media coverage • Immediate response required regardless of whether it is contained or not • Requires significant response	DPO Other relevant contacts • Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher • IT Manager • Head Of Operations • Contact external parties as required ie police/ICO/individuals impacted
Moderate Criticality: Serious Incident	Contact:
• Confidential Data • Not contained within the School • Breach involves personal data	DPO Other relevant contacts • Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher • IT Manager

• Significant inconvenience will be experienced by individuals impacted • Incident may not yet be contained	• Head Of Operations • Contact external parties as required ie police/ICO/individuals impacted
Low Criticality: Minor Incident	Contact:
• Internal or Confidential Data • Small number of individuals involved • Risk to School low • Inconvenience may be suffered by individuals impacted • Loss of data is contained/encrypted	DPO Other relevant contacts • Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher • IT Manager • Head of Operations

Appendix 2

24. Data Protection Complaints Procedure

1. Making a Complaint

If a parent, pupil, staff member, or visitor believes that the Academy Trust has not complied with its obligations under data protection legislation, or is dissatisfied with how a Subject Access Request (SAR) has been handled, they have the right to lodge a formal complaint.

Complaints must be submitted in writing directly to our designated Data Protection Officer (DPO), Anam Shakure. Complaints can be sent via email to ashakure.310@harrowhigh.com or by post to the main academy office address marked for the attention of the DPO. Complainants do not need to use specific legal terminology to initiate this process.

2. Stage 1: DPO Investigation and Timelines

The Academy Trust operates a strict, structured review procedure to investigate and resolve data protection issues immediately and without undue delay:

Acknowledgment: The Academy Trust will formally acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 30 calendar days. In accordance with statutory guidelines, this timeline continues to run during academy holiday periods, including the summer closure.

Investigation: The DPO, Anam Shakure, will conduct an objective internal investigation. This may involve auditing system access logs, reviewing physical and digital security measures, or interviewing relevant staff members. If the DPO has been involved in the initial investigation, this will be undertaken by a nominated senior leader.

Outcome: The DPO will aim to provide a comprehensive, formal written outcome of the investigation within 40 to 60 calendar days, where reasonably practicable. Where a complaint requires additional time to investigate, the complainant will be kept informed of the progress and provided with an updated expected timescale. The response will detail the findings and, where appropriate, outline any remedial or corrective action taken, such as staff training, system updates, or data rectification.

3. Stage 2: Internal Escalation to the Board of Trustees

As a Single Academy Trust, the Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for ensuring appropriate governance and oversight of data protection compliance.

If the complainant remains dissatisfied with the Stage 1 outcome, they may request an internal review. Requests for escalation should normally be submitted within **14 calendar days** of receiving the Stage 1 outcome and should set out the reasons for requesting a review.

The complaint will be referred to a designated panel of the Board of Trustees, or another suitably independent person appointed by the Board, who will review the Stage 1 findings and the handling of the complaint.

The Academy Trust will aim to provide a final written outcome within **30 calendar days** of receiving the escalation request, where reasonably practicable. If additional time is required due to the complexity of the complaint, the complainant will be kept informed of the progress and provided with an updated expected timescale.

4 Escalation to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

Individuals have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if they believe that the Academy Trust has not complied with its obligations under data protection legislation.

The Academy Trust encourages individuals to raise their concerns through the Academy Trust's internal complaints process first, as this provides an opportunity for the matter to be investigated and, where appropriate, resolved directly. However, individuals do not have to complete the Academy Trust's internal complaints process before contacting the ICO. The ICO recommends giving the organisation an opportunity to resolve the complaint first.

If the complainant remains dissatisfied following the Academy Trust's response, they may complain to the ICO. The ICO can be contacted through its website at <https://ico.org.uk> or by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

5 Record Keeping and Continuous Improvement

The DPO will maintain a secure log of all data protection complaints, investigations, panel outcomes, and remedial actions taken. This log is reviewed quarterly by the Board of Trustees to identify systemic risks, monitor ICO complaint thresholds, and drive continuous improvement in the academy's data governance.