



Akaal  
Primary School

# Data Protection Policy



**Approved by Trustees : June 2015**

**Approved by Staff : September 2015**

**Date for Review : September 2017**

# Akaal Primary School: Data Protection Policy

The Data Protection Act 1998 is the law that protects personal privacy and upholds individuals' rights. It applies to anyone who handles or has access to people's personal data.

This policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with properly and securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act. It will apply to information regardless of the way it is used, recorded and stored and whether it is held in paper files or electronically.

## 1. Scope of the Policy

Personal information is any information that relates to a living individual who can be identified from the information. This includes any expression of opinion about an individual and intentions towards an individual. It also applies to personal data held visually in photographs or video clips (including CCTV) or as sound recordings.

Akaal Primary School collects a large amount of personal data every year including: staff records, names and addresses of those requesting admission information, examination marks, references, fee collection as well as the many different types of research data used by the School. In addition, it may be required by law to collect and use certain types of information to comply with statutory obligations of Local Authorities (LAs), government agencies and other bodies.

## 2. The Eight Principles

The Act is based on eight data protection principles, or rules for 'good information handling':

1. Data must be processed fairly and lawfully.
2. Personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specific and lawful purposes.
3. Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose(s) for which they are processed.
4. Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary kept up to date.
5. Personal data processed for any purpose(s) shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose.
6. Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the 1998 Data Protection Act.
7. Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.
8. Personal data shall not be transferred to a country outside the EEA, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.

## 3. Responsibilities

Akaal Primary School must:

- Manage and process personal data properly
- Protect the individual's right to privacy
- Provide an individual with access to all personal data held on them.

Akaal Primary School has a legal responsibility to comply with the Act. The school, as a corporate body, is named as the Data Controller under the Act.

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Data Controllers are people or organisations who hold and use personal information. They decide how and why the information is used and have a responsibility to establish workplace practices and policies that are in line with the Act.

The school is required to 'notify' the Information Commissioner of the processing of personal data. This information will be included in a public register which is available on the Information Commissioner's website at the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/what-we-do/register-of-data-controllers/>.

Every member of staff that holds personal information has to comply with the Act when managing that information.

Akaal Primary School is committed to maintaining the eight principles at all times. This means that the school will:

- inform Data Subjects why they need their personal information, how they will use it and with whom it may be shared. This is known as a **Privacy Notice**.
- check the quality and accuracy of the information held
- apply the records management policies and procedures to ensure that information is not held longer than is necessary
- ensure that when information is authorised for disposal it is done appropriately
- ensure appropriate security measures are in place to safeguard personal information whether that is held in paper files or on a computer system
- only share personal information with others when it is necessary and legally appropriate to do so
- set out clear procedures for responding to requests for access to personal information known as subject access in the Data Protection Act.
- train all staff so that they are aware of their responsibilities and of the schools relevant policies and procedures.

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice or amendments made to the Data Protection Act 1998.

## Procedures for responding to subject access requests made under the Data Protection Act 1998

### Rights of access to information

There are two distinct rights of access to information held by schools about pupils.

1. Under the Data Protection Act 1998 any individual has the right to make a request to access the personal information held about them.
2. The right of those entitled to have access to curricular and educational records as defined within the Education Pupil Information (Wales) Regulations 2004.

These procedures relate to subject access requests made under the Data Protection Act 1998.

### Actioning a subject access request

1. Requests for information must be made in writing; which includes email, and be addressed to the Head Teacher. If the initial request does not clearly identify the information required, then further enquiries will be made.
2. The identity of the requestor must be established before the disclosure of any information, and checks should also be carried out regarding proof of relationship to the child.
3. Any individual has the right of access to information held about them. However with children, this is dependent upon their capacity to understand (normally age 12 or above) and the nature of the request. The Head Teacher should discuss the request with the child and take their views into account when making a decision. A child with competency to understand can refuse to consent to the request for their records. Where the child is not deemed to be competent an individual with parental responsibility or guardian shall make the decision on behalf of the child.
4. The school may make a charge for the provision of information, dependent upon the following:
  - Should the information requested contain the educational record then the amount charged will be dependent upon the number of pages provided.
  - Should the information requested be personal information that does not include any information contained within educational records schools can charge up to £10 to provide it.
  - If the information requested is only the educational record viewing will be free, but a charge not exceeding the cost of copying the information can be made by the Head Teacher.
5. The response time for subject access requests, once officially received, is 40 days (**not working or school days but calendar days, irrespective of school holiday periods**). However the 40 days will not commence until after receipt of fees or clarification of information sought.
6. The Data Protection Act 1998 allows exemptions as to the provision of some information; **therefore all information will be reviewed prior to disclosure.**
7. Third party information is that which has been provided by another, such as the Police, Local Authority, Health Care professional or another school. Before disclosing third party information consent should normally be obtained. There is still a need to adhere to the 40 day statutory timescale.

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8. Any information which may cause serious harm to the physical or mental health or emotional condition of the pupil or another should not be disclosed, nor should information that would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, or information relating to court proceedings.
9. If there are concerns over the disclosure of information then additional advice should be sought.
10. Where redaction (information blacked out/removed) has taken place then a full copy of the information provided should be retained in order to establish, if a complaint is made, what was redacted and why.
11. Information disclosed should be clear, thus any codes or technical terms will need to be clarified and explained. If information contained within the disclosure is difficult to read or illegible, then it should be retyped.
12. Information can be provided at the school with a member of staff on hand to help and explain matters if requested, or provided at face to face handover.
13. The views of the applicant should be taken into account when considering the method of delivery. If postal systems have to be used then registered/recorded mail must be used.

### **Complaints**

Complaints about the above procedures should be made to the Board of Trustees who will decide whether it is appropriate for the complaint to be dealt with in accordance with the school's complaint procedure.

Complaints which are not appropriate to be dealt with through the school's complaint procedure can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner. Contact details of both will be provided with the disclosure information.

### **Contacts**

If you have any queries or concerns regarding these policies/procedures then please contact the Head Teacher.

Further advice and information can be obtained from the Information Commissioner's Office [www.ico.org.uk/](http://www.ico.org.uk/).