

Cotham School Records Management Policy and Guidelines

Version control

The table below shows the history of the document and the changes made at each version:

Version	Date	Summary of changes
1.0	September 2015	First published version (RMS v4)
2.0	May 2018	Renumbering and re-formating Reference to GDPR and privacy notice and policy

Approved by Governors:

Review Date: 3 Years

Cotham School Records Management Policy

Signed:

Headteacher

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

•	Scope • Responsibilities • Relationships with existing policies
1	Scope of the policy
1.1	This policy applies to all records created, received or maintained by staff of the school in the course of carrying out its functions.
1.2	Records are defined as all those documents which facilitate the business carried out by the school and which are thereafter retained (for a set period) to provide evidence of its transactions or activities. These records may be created or received, and then stored, in hard copy or electronically.
1.3	A small percentage of the school's records may be selected for permanent preservation as part of the institution's archives and for historical research. This should be done in liaison with the local county archives centre.
2	Responsibilities
2.1	The school has a corporate responsibility to maintain its records and record keeping systems in accordance with the regulatory environment. The person with overall responsibility for this policy is the Head of the School.
2.2	The person responsible for records management in the school will give guidance about good records management practice and
	will promote compliance with this policy so that information will be retrieved easily, appropriately and in a timely way. They will also monitor compliance with this policy by surveying at least annually to check if records are stored securely and can be accessed appropriately.
2.3	Individual staff and employees must ensure that records for which they are responsible are accurate, and are maintained and disposed of in accordance with the school's records management guidelines.
3	Relationship with existing policies
	This policy has been drawn up within the context of:
• (includi	Freedom of Information Policy • Privacy Notice and Policy • and with other legislation or regulations ing audit, equal opportunities and ethics) affecting the school

Date: __

Guidelines Student Records

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

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

Managing Student Records

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

1. File covers for student records

It is strongly recommended that schools use a consistent file cover for the student record. This assists the secondary school to ensure consistency of practice when receiving records from a number of different primary schools. If, for example, primary schools have many different file covers for their files, the secondary school that the student files were transferred to would then be holding different levels of information for students which had come from different primary schools.

By using pre-printed file covers all the necessary information is collated and the record looks tidy and reflects the fact that it is the principal record containing all the information about an individual child. The use of standard document wallets should be avoided as it is very difficult to ensure that all the information required by the school is recorded consistently.

2. Recording information

A student or their nominated representative have the legal right to see their file at any point during their education and even until the record is destroyed (when the student is 25 years of age or 35 years from date of closure for students with special educational needs). This is their right of subject access under the Data Protection Act 1998. It is important to remember that all information should be accurately recorded, objective in nature and expressed in a professional manner.

3. Secondary School records

Items which should be included on the student record

- Admission form (application form)
- Fair processing notice [if these are issued annually only the most recent need be on the file]
- Parental permission for photographs to be taken (or not)
- Years Record
- Annual Written Report to Parents

- National Curriculum and R.E. Agreed Syllabus Record Sheets
- Any information relating to a major incident involving the child (either an accident or other incident)
- Any reports written about the child
- Any information about a statement and support offered in relation to the statement
- Any relevant medical information (should be stored in the file in an envelope)
- Child protection reports/disclosures (should be stored in the file in an envelope clearly marked as such)
- Any information relating to exclusions (fixed or permanent)
- Any correspondence with parents or outside agencies relating to major issues
- Details of any complaints made by the parents or the student

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

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

4. Responsibility for the student record once the student leaves the school

The school which the student attended until statutory school leaving age (or the school where the student completed sixth form studies) is responsible for retaining the student record until the student reaches the age of 25 years. This retention is set in line with the Limitation Act 1980 which allows that a claim can be made against an organisation by a minor for up to 7 years from their 18th birthday.

5. Safe destruction of the student record

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

6. Transfer of a student record outside the EU area

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

7. Storage of student records

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

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

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1	Child Protection						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record		
1.1	Child Protection files	Yes	Education Act 2002, s175, related guidance "Safeguarding Children in Education", September 2004	DOB + 25 years ¹	SECURE DISPOSAL		
1.2	Allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff, including where the allegation is unfounded	Yes	Employment Practices Code: Supplementary Guidance 2.13.1 (Records of Disciplinary and Grievance) Education Act 2002 guidance "Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff" November 2005	Until the person's normal retirement age, or 10 years from the date of the allegation whichever is the longer	SECURE DISPOSAL		

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ This amendment has been made in consultation with the Safeguarding Children Group.

2 Governors

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
2.1	Minutes				
	□ Principal set (signed)	No		Permanent	Retain in school for 6 years from date of meeting Transfer to Archives
	☐ Inspection copies	No		Date of meeting + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL [If these minutes contain any sensitive personal information they should be SECURE DISPOSAL
2.2	Agendas	No		Date of meeting	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.3	Reports	No		Date of report + 6 years	Retain in school for 6 years from date of meeting Transfer to Archives
2.4	Annual Parents' meeting papers	No		Date of meeting + 6 years	Retain in school for 6 years from date of meeting Transfer to Archives
2.5	Instruments of Government	No		Permanent	Retain in school whilst school is open Transfer to Archives when the school has closed
2.6	Trusts and Endowments	No		Permanent	Retain in school whilst operationally required Transfer to Archives
2.7	Action Plans	No		Date of action plan + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
2.8	Policy documents	No		Expiry of policy	Retain in school whilst policy is operational (this includes if the expired policy is part of a past decision making process)]
2.9	Complaints files	Yes		Date of resolution of complaint + 6 years	Retain in school for the first six years Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes

2	C
2	Governors

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
					SECURE DISPOSAL routine complaints
2.10	Annual Reports required by the Department for Education	No		Education (Governors' Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002.SI 2002 No 1171	Date of report + 10 years Transfer to Archives
2.11	Proposals for schools to become, or be established as Specialist Status schools	No			Current year + 3 years

3 Management

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.1	Log Books	Yes		Date of last entry in the book + 6 years	Retain in the school for 6 years from the date of the last entry. SECURE DISPOSAL
3.2	Minutes of the Senior Management Team and other internal administrative bodies	Yes		Date of meeting + 5 years	Retain in the school for 5 years from meeting. SECURE DISPOSAL
3.3	Reports made by the head teacher or the management team	Yes		Date of report + 3 years	Retain in the school for 3 years from meeting. SECURE DISPOSAL
3.4	Records created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	Yes		Closure of file + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

3 Management

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
3.5	Correspondence created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	No		Date of correspondence + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.6	Professional development plans	Yes		Closure + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.7	School development plans	No		Closure + 6 years	Review
3.8	Admissions – if the admission is successful	Yes		Admission + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.9	Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful	Yes		Resolution of case + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.10	Admissions – Secondary Schools – Casual	Yes		Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.11	Proofs of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process	Yes		Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
3.12	Supplementary information form including additional information e.g. religion, medical conditions etc.	Yes		Retain for the time which the student remains at the school	SECURE DISPOSAL

4	Students				
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
4.1	Admission Registers	Yes		Date of last entry in the book (or file) + 6 years	Retain in the school for 6 years from the date of the last entry. Transfer to the Archives
4.2	Attendance registers	Yes		Date of register + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.3	Student files	Yes	Limitation Act 1980	DOB of the student + 25 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.4	Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans	Yes		NOTE: This retention period is the minimum period that any student file should be kept. Some authorities choose to keep SEN files for a longer period of time to defend themselves in a "failure to provide a sufficient education" case. There is an element of business risk analysis involved in any decision to keep the records longer than the minimum retention period.	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.5	Correspondence relating to authorised absence and issues	No		Date of absence + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.6	Examination results	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.6a	□ Public	No		Year of examinations + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL Any certificates left unclaimed should be returned to the appropriate Examination Board
4.6b	☐ Internal examination results	Yes		Current year + 5 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

4	Students				
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
4.7	Any other records created in the course of contact with students	Yes/No		Current year + 3 years	Review at the end of 3 years and either allocate a further retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
4.8	Statement maintained under The Education Act 1996 - Section 324	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1	DOB + 30 years	SECURE DISPOSAL unless legal action is pending
4.9	Proposed statement or amended statement	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1	DOB + 30 years	SECURE DISPOSAL unless legal action is pending
4.10	Advice and information to parents regarding educational needs	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 2	Closure + 12 years	SECURE DISPOSAL unless legal action is pending
4.11	Accessibility Strategy	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 14	Closure + 12 years	SECURE DISPOSAL unless legal action is pending
4.12	Children's SEN Files	Yes		DOB of student + 25 years then review – it may be appropriate to add an additional retention period in certain cases	SECURE DISPOSAL unless legal action is pending
4.13	Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been no major incident	Yes		Conclusion of the trip	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.14	Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been a major incident	Yes	Limitation Act 1980	DOB of the student involved in the incident + 25 years. The permission slips for all students on the trip need to be retained to show that the rules had been followed for all students	SECURE DISPOSAL
4.15	Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom	N	3 part supplement to the Health & Safety of Students on Educational Visits (HASPEV) (1998).	Date of visit + 10 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

5 Curriculum

	Basic file description	Data Prot	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
		Issues			
5.1	School Development Plan	No		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
5.2	Curriculum returns	No		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
5.3	Timetable	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
5.4	Schemes of work	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
5.5	Class record books	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
5.6	Mark Books	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
5.7	Record of homework set	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
5.8	Students' work	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SECURE DISPOSAL
5.9	Examination results	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
5.10	SATS records	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

5 Curriculum

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
5.11	PAN reports	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
5.12	Value added records	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
5.13	Self-Evaluation Forms	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.1	Timesheets, sick pay	Yes	Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.2	Staff Personal files	Yes		Termination + 7 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.3	Interview notes and recruitment records	Yes		Date of interview + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.4	Pre-employment vetting information (including DBS checks)	No	DBS guidelines	Date of check + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL [by the designated member of staff]
6.5	Disciplinary proceedings:	Yes	Where the warning relates to child protection issues see 1.2. If the disciplinary proceedings relate to a child protection matter please contact your safeguarding children officer for further advice.		
6.5a	□ oral warning			Date of warning + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.5b	□ written warning – level one			Date of warning + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.5c	□ written warning – level two			Date of warning + 12 months	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.5d	☐ final warning			Date of warning + 18 months	SECURE DISPOSAL

6 Personnel Records held in Schools

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.5e	□ case not found			If child protection related please see 1.2 otherwise SECURE DISPOSAL immediately at the conclusion of the case	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.6	Records relating to accident/injury at work	Yes		Date of incident + 12 years In the case of serious accidents a further retention period will need to be applied	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.7	Annual appraisal/assessment records	No		Current year + 5 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.8	Maternity pay records	Yes	Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1960), revised 1999 (SI 1999/567)	Current year, +3yrs	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.9	Records held under Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
6.10	Proofs of identity collected as part of the process of checking "portable" enhanced DBS disclosure	Yes		Where possible these should be checked and a note kept of what was seen and what has been checked. If it is felt necessary to keep copy documentation then this should be placed on the member of staff's personal file.	

7	7 Health and Safety					
ı	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
7.1	Accessibility Plans		Disability Discrimination Act	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.2	Accident Reporting		Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979 Regulation 25. Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 8. Limitation Act 1980			
7.2a	□ Adults	Yes		Date of incident + 7 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.2b	□ Children	Yes		DOB of child + 25 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.3	СОЅНН			Current year + 10 years [where appropriate an additional retention period may be allocated]	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.4	Incident reports	Yes		Current year + 20 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.5	Policy Statements			Date of expiry + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.6	Risk Assessments			Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.7	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with asbestos			Last action + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.8	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have come in contact with radiation			Last action + 50 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
7.9	Fire Precautions log books			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

8	Administra	ative
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	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
8.1	Employer's Liability certificate			Closure of the school + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.2	Inventories of equipment and furniture			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.3	General file series			Current year + 5 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required
8.4	School brochure or prospectus			Current year + 3 years	
8.5	Circulars (staff/parents/students)			Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL
8.6	Newsletters, ephemera			Current year + 1 year	Review to see whether a further retention period is required
8.7	Visitors book			Current year + 2 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required
8.8	PTA/Old Students Associations			Current year + 6 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required

Finance

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
9.1	Annual Accounts		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.2	Loans and grants		Financial Regulations	Date of last payment on loan + 12 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required
9.3	Contracts				

9 Finance

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
9.3a	□ under seal			Contract completion date + 12 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.3b	□ under signature			Contract completion date + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.3c	☐ monitoring records			Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.4	Copy orders			Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.5	Budget reports, budget monitoring etc			Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.6	Invoice, receipts and other records covered by the Financial Regulations		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.7	Annual Budget and background papers			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.8	Order books and requisitions			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.9	Delivery Documentation			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.10	Debtors' Records		Limitation Act 1980	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.11	School Fund – Cheque books			Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.12	School Fund – Paying in books			Current year + 6 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.13	School Fund – Ledger			Current year + 6 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.14	School Fund – Invoices			Current year + 6 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.15	School Fund – Receipts			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.16	School Fund – Bank statements			Current year + 6 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.17	School Fund – School Journey books			Current year + 6 years then review	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.18	Student grant applications			Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.19	Free school meals registers	Yes	Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL
9.20	Petty cash books		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL

10	Property					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
10.1	Title Deeds			Permanent	Permanent these should follow the property unless the property has been registered at the Land Registry	
10.2	Plans			Permanent	Retain in school whilst operational	
10.3	Maintenance and contractors		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
10.4	Leases			Expiry of lease + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
10.5	Lettings			Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
10.6	Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
10.7	Maintenance log books			Last entry + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
10.8	Contractors' Reports			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	

11	Local Authority					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
11.1	Secondary transfer sheets (Primary)	Yes		Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
11.2	Attendance returns	Yes		Current year + 1 year	SECURE DISPOSAL	
11.3	Circulars from LA			Whilst required operationally	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	

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12	Department for Education					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
12.1	HMI reports			These do not need to be kept any longer		
12.2	OFSTED reports and papers			Replace former report with any new inspection report	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	
12.3	Returns			Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
12.4	Circulars from Department for Education			Whilst operationally required	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	

13	Schools Meals					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
14.1	Dinner Register			Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
14.2	School Meals Summary Sheets			Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	