Ascend Learning Trust

Ascend Retention Schedule

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| Policy Level: | Tier 1 |
| Approved by: | Full Trust Board |
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# Version Control

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| Version | Details | Author | Date |
| 1.0 | Policy formation | Kyle Gaskin | 1st September 2024 |
|  |  |  |  |

# Introduction

This Ascend Learning Trust Policy applies to Ascend Learning Trust as a whole and to all the schools in the Trust.

It is the responsibility of the Local Governing Body and Headteacher of each school, and the Board of Trustees and CEO for Trust Shared Services, to ensure that everyone adheres to this policy. In implementing the policy and associated procedures the Governing Body, Headteacher and Trust staff must take account of any advice given to them by the ALT Trust Data Protection Lead, the ALT CEO and/or Board of Trustees.

This Policy is subject to the Scheme of Delegation approved for Ascend Learning Trust. If there is any ambiguity or conflict then the Scheme of Delegation and any specific Scheme or alteration or restriction to the Scheme approved by the Board of Trustees, takes precedence.

If there is any question or doubt about the interpretation or implementation of this Policy, the ALT Trust Data Protection Lead should be consulted.

# Policy Statement

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, schools are required to maintain a retention schedule, listing the record series which the school creates in the course of its business. The retention schedule lays down the length of time over which the record needs to be retained, and the action which should be taken when it is of no further administrative use.

This schedule applies to all schools in Ascend Learning Trust and is based on the guidelines issued by the Information and Records Management Society (IRMS). Members of staff are expected to manage their current record keeping systems using the retention schedule.

The retention schedule refers to all information, regardless of the media in which it is stored.   
There are numerous benefits which arise from the use of a complete retention schedule:

* Managing records against the retention schedule is deemed to be ‘normal processing’ under the GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018, and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Members of staff should be aware that once a Freedom of Information request is received or a legal hold imposed, then records disposal must be stopped.
* Members of staff can be confident that information has been disposed of safely and at the appropriate time.
* Information which is subject to the GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018, and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 legislation will be available when required.
* The school is not maintaining and storing information unnecessarily.

Some of the retention periods are governed by statute; others are guidelines following best practice. Every effort has been made to ensure that these retention periods are compliant with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Managing records series using these retention guidelines will be deemed to be ‘normal processing’ under the legislation mentioned. If record series are to be kept for longer or shorter periods than those laid out in this document, the reasons for this need to be documented.

# Retention Schedule

## 1. Governance, Funding and Financial Management

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **1.1 Governance of the Trust** | | |  |  |  |
| 1.1.1 | Articles of Association | No |  | Life of the Trust |  |
| 1.1.2 | Memorandum of Understanding of Shared Governance among Schools | No | Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Life of Memorandum of Understanding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.3 | Special Resolutions to amend the Articles of Association | No |  | Life of the Trust |  |
| 1.1.4 | Written Scheme of Delegation | No | Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Life of Written Scheme of Delegation + 10 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.5 | Directors – appointment | No |  | Life of appointment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.6 | Directors – disqualification | No | Company Directors  Disqualification Act  1986 | Date of disqualification + 15 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.7 | Directors – termination of office | No |  | Date of termination + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.8 | Annual Report – Trustees Report | No | Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Date of report + 10 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.9 | Annual Report and Accounts | No | Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Date of report + 10 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.10 | Annual Return | No | Companies Act 2006 section 355 | Date of report + 10 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.11 | Appointment of Trustees and Directors | Yes |  | Life of appointment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.12 | Statement of Trustees’ Responsibilities | No |  | Life of appointment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.13 | Appointment and removal of Members | No |  | Life of appointment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.14 | Strategic Review | No |  | Date of the review + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |

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| 1.1.15 | Strategic Plan, also known as School Development Plans | No |  | Life of plan + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.1.16 | Accessibility Plan | There may be if the plan refers to specific pupils | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Life of plan + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **1.2 Trust Board, Members, and Local Advisory Board** | | | | | |
|  | **Trust Board** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.2.1 | Trust Board Meeting Minutes | Could be if the minutes  refer to living individuals | Companies Act 2006 section 248 | Minutes must be kept for at least 10 years from the date of the meeting | OFFER TO ARCHIVES |
| 1.2.2 | Trust Board Decisions | Could be if the decisions  refer to living individuals |  | Date of the meeting + a minimum of 10 years | OFFER TO ARCHIVES |
| 1.2.3 | Board Meeting – Annual Schedule of Business | No |  | Current year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.4 | Board Meeting – Procedures for conduct of meeting | No | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Date procedures superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Committees** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.2.5 | Minutes relating to any committee set up by the Trust Board | Could be if the minutes  refer to living individuals |  | Date of the meeting + a minimum of 10 years | OFFER TO ARCHIVES |
|  | **General Members’ Meeting** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.2.6 | Records relating to the management of General Members’ Meetings | Could be if the minutes  refer to living individuals | Companies Act 2006 section 248 | Minutes must be kept for at least 10 years from the date of the meeting[[1]](#footnote-2) | OFFER TO ARCHIVES |
| 1.2.7 | Records relating to the management of the Annual General Meetings | Could be if the minutes  refer to living individuals | Companies Act 2006 section 248 | Minutes must be kept for at least 10 years from the date of the meeting2 | OFFER TO ARCHIVES |

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|  | **Local Advisory Board** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.2.8 | Agendas for Local Advisory Board meetings | May be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff |  | One copy should be retained with the master set of minutes. All other copies can be disposed of | SECURE DISPOSAL[[2]](#footnote-3) |
| 1.2.9 | Minutes of, and papers considered at, meetings of the Local Advisory Board | May be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff |  |  |  |
|  | Principal Set, signed |  |  | Life of Academy |  |
|  | Inspection copies[[3]](#footnote-4) |  |  | Date of meeting + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.10 | Reports presented to the Local Advisory Board | May be data protection issues if the meeting is dealing with confidential issues relating to staff |  | Reports should be kept for a minimum of 6 years. However, if the minutes refer directly to individual reports, then the reports should be kept for the life of the Academy | SECURE DISPOSAL or retain with the signed set of minutes |
| 1.2.11 | Meeting papers relating to the annual parents’ meeting held under Section 33 of the Education Act 2002 | No | Education Act 2002 section 33 | Date of the meeting + a minimum of 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.12 | Records relating to complaints dealt with by the Local Advisory Board | Yes |  | Date of the resolution of the complaint + a minimum of 6 years then review for further retention in case of contentious disputes | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.13 | Annual Reports created under the requirements of the Education  (Governors’ Annual Reports)  (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 | No | Education (Governors’  Annual Reports)  (England)  (Amendment)  Regulations 2002 SI  2002 No 1171 | Date of report + 10 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |

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|  | **Statutory Registers** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.2.14 | Register of Directors |  | Companies Act 2006 | Life of the Trust + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.15 | Register of Directors’ Interests (this is not a statutory register) |  |  | Life of the Trust + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.16 | Register of Directors’ residential addresses |  | Companies Act 2006 | Life of the Trust + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.17 | Register of gifts, hospitality and entertainments |  | Companies Act 2006 | Life of the Academy / Trust + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.18 | Register of Members |  | Companies Act 2006 | Life of the Trust + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.19 | Register of secretaries |  | Companies Act 2006 | Life of the Trust + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.20 | Register of Local Advisory Board members’ interests |  |  | Life of the Academy + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.2.21 | Declaration of Interests Statements, Local Advisory Board members (this is not a statutory register) |  |  | Life of the Academy + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **1.3 Funding and Finance** | |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Strategic Finance** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.1 | Statement of financial activities for the year | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.2 | Financial planning | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.3 | Value for money statement | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.4 | Records relating to the management of VAT | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.5 | Whole of government accounts returns | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.6 | Borrowing powers | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.7 | Budget plan | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.8 | Charging and Remissions Policy | No |  | Date policy superseded + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Audit Arrangements** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.9 | Audit Committee and appointment of responsible officers | No |  | Life of the Trust | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.10 | Independent Auditor’s report on regularity | No |  | Financial year report relates to + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |

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| 1.3.11 | Independent Auditor’s report on financial statements | No |  | Financial year report relates to + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Funding Agreements** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.12 | Funding Agreement with Secretary of State and supplemental funding agreements | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.13 | Funding Agreement – termination of the funding agreement | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.14 | Funding Records – Capital Grant | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.15 | Funding Records – Earmarked Annual Grant (EAG) | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.16 | Funding Records – General Annual Grant (GAG) | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.17 | Per pupil funding records | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.18 | Exclusions agreement | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.19 | Funding records | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.20 | Gift Aid and Tax Relief | No |  | Date of last payment of funding + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.21 | Records relating to loans | No |  | Date of last payment on loan + 12 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Payroll and Pensions** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.22 | Maternity pay records | Yes | Statutory Maternity  Pay (General)  Regulations 1986 (SI  1986/1960), revised  1999 (SI 1999/567) | Current year + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.23 | Records held under Retirement  Benefits Schemes (Information  Powers) Regulations 1995 | Yes | Regulation 15  Retirement Benefits  Schemes (Information  Powers) Regulations  1995 (SI 1995/3103) | From the end of the year in which the accounts were signed for a minimum of 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.24 | Management of the Teachers’ Pension Scheme | Yes |  | Date of last payment on the pension + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.25 | Records relating to pension registrations | Yes |  | Date of last payment on the pension + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.26 | Payroll records | Yes |  | Date payroll run + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Risk Management and Insurance** |  |  |  |  |

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| 1.3.27 | Insurance policies | No |  | Date the policy expires + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.28 | Records relating to the settlement of insurance claims | No |  | Date claim settled + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.29 | Employer’s Liability Insurance Certificate | No |  | Closure of the school / Trust + 40 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Endowment Funds and Investments** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.30 | Investment policies | No |  | Life of the investment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.31 | Management of Endowment Funds | No |  | Life of the fund + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Accounts and Statements** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.32 | Annual accounts | No |  | Current year + 6 years | STANDARD DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.33 | Loans and grants managed by the school / Trust | No |  | Date of last payment on the loan + 12 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.34 | Student Grant Applications | Yes |  | Current year + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.35 | All records relating to the creation and management of budgets, including the Annual Budget statement and background papers | No |  | Life of the budget + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.36 | Invoices, receipts, order books and requisitions, delivery notices | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.37 | Records relating to the collection and banking of monies | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.38 | Records relating to the identification and collection of debt | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Contract Management** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.39 | All records relating to the management of contracts under seal | No | Limitation Act 1980 | Last payment on the contract + 12 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.40 | All records relating to the management of contracts under signature | No | Limitation Act 1980 | Last payment on the contract + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.41 | Records relating to the monitoring of contracts | No |  | Current year + 2 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **Asset Management** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.42 | Inventories of furniture and equipment | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.43 | Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.44 | Records relating to the leasing of shared facilities, such as sports centres | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.45 | Land and building valuations | No |  | Date valuation superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.46 | Disposal of assets | No |  | Date asset disposed of + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.47 | Community School leases for land | No |  | Date lease expires + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.48 | Commercial transfer arrangements | No |  | Date of transfer + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.49 | Transfer of land to the Academy Trust | No |  | Life of land ownership then transfer to new owner | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.50 | Transfers of freehold land | No |  | Life of land ownership then transfer to new owner | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **School Fund** |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.51 | School Fund – cheque books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.52 | School Fund – paying in books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.53 | School Fund – ledger | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.54 | School Fund – invoices | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.55 | School Fund – receipts | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.56 | School Fund – bank statements | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.57 | School Fund – journey books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | **School Meals**[[4]](#footnote-5) |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3.58 | Free school meals registers | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.59 | School meals registers | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.3.60 | School meals summary sheets | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |

As a charity, an Academy Trust is not permitted to trade and make a profit. It is, however, possible to set up a subsidiary trading company, which can sell products or services and Gift Aid profits back to the Academy Trust. If the Academy Trust operates a subsidiary company, it is expected that these records will be managed in line with standard business practice.

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| **1.4 Policies, Frameworks and Overarching Requirements** | | |  | |  |
| 1.4.1 | Data Protection Policy, including data protection notification | No |  | Date policy superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.2 | Freedom of Information Policy | No |  | Date policy superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.3 | Information Security Breach Policy | No |  | Date policy superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.4 | Special Educational Needs Policy | No |  | Date policy superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.5 | Complaints Policy | No |  | Date policy superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.6 | Risk and Control Framework | No |  | Life of framework + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.7 | Rules and Bylaws | No |  | Date rules or bylaws superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.8 | Home School Agreements[[5]](#footnote-6) | No |  | Date agreement revised + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 1.4.9 | Equality Information and Objectives  (public sector equality duty)  Statement for publication | No |  | Date of statement + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |

## 2. Human Resources

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **2.1 Recruitment[[6]](#footnote-7)** | |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1.1 | All records leading up to the appointment of a new Head Teacher | Yes |  | Date of appointment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.1.2 | All records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff – unsuccessful candidates | Yes |  | Date of appointment of successful candidate + 6 months | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.1.3 | All records leading up to the appointment of a new member of staff – successful candidate | Yes |  | All relevant information should be added to the Staff Personal File (see below) and all other information retained for 6 months | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.1.4 | Pre-employment vetting information – DBS checks[[7]](#footnote-8) | No | DBS Update Service  Employer Guide June  2014 | DBS certificates are checked and details are added to the Single Central Register. The certificate is not kept.    If there is something showing on the DBS, a copy of the certificate is kept, together with an email of discussions and final approval by the CEO. | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.1.5 | 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 added to the Staff Personal File | SECURE DISPOSAL |

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| 2.1.6 | Pre-employment vetting information – evidence proving the right to work in the United Kingdom[[8]](#footnote-9) | Yes | An employer’s guide to right to work checks  (Home Office May  2015) | Where possible, these documents should be added to the Staff Personal File, but if they are kept separately, then the Home Office requires that the documents are kept for termination of employment + not less than 2 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.1.7 | Records relating to the employment of overseas teachers | Yes |  | Where possible, these documents should be added to the Staff Personal File, but if they are kept separately, then the Home Office requires that the documents are kept for termination of employment + not less than 2 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.1.8 | Records relating to the TUPE process | Yes |  | Date last member of staff transfers or leaves the organisation + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **2.2 Operational Staff Management** | | | |  |  |
| 2.2.1 | Staff Personal File, including employment contract and staff training records | Yes | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Termination of employment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.2.2 | Timesheets | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.2.3 | Annual appraisal / assessment records | Yes |  | Current year + 5 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.2.4 | Records relating to the agreement of pay and conditions | No |  | Date pay and conditions superseded + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.2.5 | Training needs analysis | No |  | Current year + 1 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **2.3 Management of Disciplinary and Grievance Processes** | | | |  |  |
| 2.3.1 | Allegation which is child protection in nature against a member of staff, including where the allegation is unfounded | Yes | Keeping children safe in education 2022 statutory guidance for schools and colleges 1 September 2022  Working Together to Safeguard Children  Statutory framework: legislation relevant to | Until the person’s normal retirement age or 10 years from the date of the allegation, whichever is longer, then review | SECURE DISPOSAL These records must be shredded |

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|  |  |  | safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children July 2018 |  |  |
| 2.3.2 | Disciplinary proceedings | Yes |  |  |  |
|  | Oral warning |  |  | Date of warning[[9]](#footnote-10) + 6 months | SECURE DISPOSAL[[10]](#footnote-11) |
|  | Written warning – level 1 |  |  | Date of warning + 6 months | SECURE DISPOSAL[[11]](#footnote-12) |
|  | Written warning – level 2 |  |  | Date of warning + 12 months | SECURE DISPOSAL[[12]](#footnote-13) |
|  | Final warning |  |  | Date of warning + 18 months | SECURE DISPOSAL[[13]](#footnote-14) |
|  | Case not found |  |  | If the incident is child protection related, then see above; otherwise, dispose of at the conclusion of the case | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **2.4 Health and Safety** | | | | |  |
| 2.4.1 | Health and Safety policy statements | No |  | Life of policy + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.4.2 | Health and Safety risk assessments | No |  | Life of risk assessment + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.4.3 | 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 |
| 2.4.4 | Accident reporting | Yes | Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979  Regulation 25  Social Security  Administration Act  1992 section 8  Limitation Act 1980 | The official Accident Book must be retained for 3 years after the last entry in the book  The book may be in paper or electronic format  The incident reporting form may be retained as below |  |
|  | Adults |  |  | Date of incident + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | Children |  |  | Date of birth of the child + 25 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.4.5 | Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) | No |  | Current year + 10 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |

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| 2.4.6 | Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have come into contact with asbestos | No |  | Last action + 40 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.4.7 | Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have come into contact with radiation | No |  | Last action + 50 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.4.8 | Fire precautions log books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.4.9 | Fire risk assessments | No | Fire Service Order 2005 | Life of the risk assessment + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 2.4.10 | Incident reports | Yes |  | Current year + 20 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |

## 3. Management of the Academy

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **3.1 Admissions** | |  |  |  |  |
| 3.1.1 | All records relating to the creation and implementation of the School  Admissions Policy | No | School Admissions Code statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools’ adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014 | Life of the policy + 3 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.1.2 | Admissions – if the admission is successful | Yes | School Admissions Code statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools’ adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014 | Date of admission + 1 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.1.3 | Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful | Yes | School Admissions Code statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools’ adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014 | Resolution of case + 1 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.1.4 | Register of admissions | Yes | School attendance: Departmental advice for maintained schools, Academies, independent schools and local authorities  October 2014 | Every entry in the admission register must be preserved for a period of 3 years after the date on which the entry was made[[14]](#footnote-15) | REVIEW  Consider keeping the admission register permanently, as often schools receive enquiries from past pupils to confirm the dates they attended the school |
| 3.1.5 | Admissions – Secondary Schools – Casual | Yes |  | Current year + 1 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.1.6 | Proofs of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process | Yes | School Admissions Code statutory guidance for admission authorities, governing bodies, local authorities, schools’ adjudicators and admission appeals panels December 2014 | Current year + 1 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.1.7 | Supplementary information form, including additional information such as religion and medical conditions | Yes |  |  |  |
|  | For successful admissions |  |  | This information should be added to the pupil file | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | For unsuccessful admissions |  |  | Until appeals process completed | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **3.2 Head Teacher and Senior Management Team** | | |  |  |  |
| 3.2.1 | Log books of activity in the school maintained by the Head Teacher | There may be data protection issues if the log books refer to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of last entry in the book + a minimum of 6 years then review | These could be of permanent historical value and should be offered to the County Archives |

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|  |  |  |  |  | Service, if appropriate |
| 3.2.2 | Minutes of Senior Management Team meetings and meetings of other internal administrative bodies | There may be data protection issues if the minute refers to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of the meeting + 3 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.2.3 | Reports created by the Head  Teacher or the Management Team | There may be data protection issues if the report refers to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of the report + a minimum of 3 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.2.4 | Records created by Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers, heads of year, and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities | There may be data protection issues if the records refer to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Current academic year + 6 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.2.5 | Correspondence created by Head Teachers, Deputy Head Teachers, heads of year, and other members of  staff with administrative responsibilities | There may be data protection issues if the correspondence refers to individual pupils or members of staff |  | Date of correspondence + 3 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.2.6 | Professional Development Plans | Yes |  | Life of the plan + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **3.3 Operational Administration** | | | | | |
| 3.3.1 | Management of complaints | Yes |  | Date complaint resolved + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.2 | Records relating to the management of contracts with external providers | No |  | Date of last payment on contract + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.3 | Records relating to the management of software licences | No |  | Date licence expires + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.4 | General file series | No |  | Current year + 5 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.5 | Records relating to the creation and publication of the school brochure or prospectus | No |  | Current year + 3 years | STANDARD DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.6 | Records relating to the creation and distribution of circulars to staff, parents, or pupils | No |  | Current year + 1 year | STANDARD DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.7 | Newsletters and other items with a short operational use | No |  | Current year + 1 year | STANDARD DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.8 | Visitors’ books and signing in sheets | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 3.3.9 | Records relating to the creation and management of Parent Teacher  Associations and / or Old Pupils  Associations | No |  | Current year + 6 years then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |

## 4. Property Management

This section covers the management of buildings and property.

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **4.1 Property Management** | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1.1 | Title deeds of properties belonging to the school / Trust | No |  | These should follow the property, unless the property has been registered with the Land Registry |  |
| 4.1.2 | Plans of property belonging to the school / Trust | No |  | These should be retained whilst the building belongs to the school / Trust and should be passed on to any new owners if the building is leased or sold |  |
| 4.1.3 | Leases of property leased by or to the school / Trust | No |  | Expiry of lease + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 4.1.4 | Records relating to the letting of school premises | No |  | Current financial year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 4.1.5 | Business continuity and disaster recovery plans | No |  | Date the plan superseded + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **4.2 Maintenance** | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.2.1 | All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by contractors | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 4.2.2 | All records relating to the maintenance of the school carried out by school employees, including maintenance log books | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **4.3 Fleet management** | |  |  |  |  |
| 4.3.1 | The process of acquisition and disposal of vehicles through lease or | No | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Disposal of the vehicle + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | purchase, eg contracts / leases, quotes, approvals |  |  |  |  |
| 4.3.2 | The process of managing allocation and maintenance of vehicles eg lists of who was driving the vehicles and when, maintenance | No | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Disposal of the vehicle + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 4.3.3 | Service logs and vehicle logs | No | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Life of the vehicle, then either to be retained for 6 years by Trust or to be returned to lease company | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 4.3.4 | GPS tracking data relating to the vehicles | No | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Date of journey + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |

## 5. Pupil Management

This section includes all records which are created during the time a pupil spends at the school. For information about accident reporting, see under Health and Safety above.

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **5.1 Pupil’s Educational Record** | | | | | |
| 5.1.1 | Pupil’s Educational Record required by The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 | Yes | The Education (Pupil  Information) (England)  Regulations 2005 SI  2005 No 1437 |  |  |
|  | Primary |  |  | Retain whilst the child remains at the primary school | The file should follow the pupil when they leave the primary school. This will include:  To another primary school  To a secondary school  To a pupil referral unit  If the pupil dies whilst at primary school, the file should be returned to the local authority to be retained for the statutory retention period. If the pupil transfers to an independent school, transfers to home schooling or leaves the country, the file should |

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|  |  |  |  |  | be returned to the local authority to be retained for the statutory retention period. Primary schools do not ordinarily have sufficient storage space to store records for pupils who have not transferred in the normal way. It makes more sense to transfer the record to the local authority, as it is more likely that the pupil will request the record from the local authority |
|  | Secondary |  | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 5.1.2 | Records relating to the management of exclusions | Yes |  | Date of birth of the pupil involved + 25 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 5.1.3 | Management of examination registrations | Yes |  | The examination board will usually mandate how long these records need to be retained |  |
| 5.1.4 | Examination results – pupil copies | Yes |  |  |  |
|  | Public |  |  | This information should be added to the pupil file | All uncollected certificates should be returned to the examination board |
|  | Internal |  |  | This information should be added to the pupil file |  |
| 5.1.5 | Child protection information held in separate files | Yes | Keeping children safe in education 2022 statutory guidance for schools and colleges 1 September 2022  Working Together to | Date of birth of the child + 25 years then review    This retention period was agreed in  consultation with the Safeguarding Children  Group on the understanding that the | SECURE DISPOSAL These records must be shredded |

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|  |  |  | Safeguard Children  Statutory framework: legislation relevant to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children July 2018 | principal copy of this information will be found on the local authority Social Services record |  |
| Retention periods relating to allegations made against adults can be found in the Human Resources section of this retention schedule. | | | | |  |
| **5.2 Attendance** | | | | |  |
| 5.2.1 | Attendance registers | Yes | School attendance: Departmental advice for maintained schools, Academies, independent schools and local authorities  October 2014 | Every entry in the attendance register must be preserved for a period of 3 years after the date on which the entry was made | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 5.2.2 | Correspondence relating to authorised absence | Yes | Education Act 1996 section 7 | Current academic year + 2 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **5.3 Special Educational Needs** | | | | |  |
| 5.3.1 | Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans | Yes | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years | Review    This retention period is the minimum retention period that any pupil file should be kept. Some authorities choose to keep SEN files for a longer period of time in order 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 – this should be documented |
| 5.3.2 | Statement maintained under section 234 of the Education Act 1990 and any amendments made to the statement | Yes | Education Act 1996  Special Educational  Needs and Disability  Act 2001 section 1 | Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years (This would normally be retained on the pupil file) | SECURE DISPOSAL Unless the document is subject to a legal hold |
| 5.3.3 | Advice and information provided to parents regarding educational needs | Yes | Special Educational  Needs and Disability  Act 2001 section 1 | Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years (This would normally be retained on the pupil file) | SECURE DISPOSAL Unless the document is subject to a legal hold |
| 5.3.4 | Accessibility strategy | Yes | Special Educational  Needs and Disability  Act 2001 section 14 | Date of birth of the pupil + 25 years (This would normally be retained on the pupil file) | SECURE DISPOSAL Unless the document is subject to a legal hold |

## 6. Curriculum Management

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **6.1 Statistics and Management Information** | |  |  |  |  |
| 6.1.1 | Curriculum returns | No |  | Current year + 3 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 6.1.2 | Examination results (school’s copy) | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | SATs records | Yes |  |  |  |
|  | Results |  |  | The SATs results should be recorded on the pupil’s educational file and will therefore be retained until the pupil reaches the age of 25 years    The school may wish to keep a composite record of the whole year SATs results, these could be kept for current year + 6 years to allow suitable comparison | SECURE DISPOSAL |
|  | Examination papers |  |  | The examination papers should be kept until any appeals / validation process is complete | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 6.1.3 | Published Admission Number (PAN) reports | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 6.1.4 | Value added and contextual data | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 6.1.5 | Self evaluation forms | Yes |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **6.2 Implementation of Curriculum** | |  |  |  |  |
| 6.2.1 | 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 further retention |

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|  |  |  |  |  | period, or, SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 6.2.2 | Timetable | No |  | Current year + 1 year | It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period, or, SECURE  DISPOSAL |
| 6.2.3 | 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 further retention period, or, SECURE  DISPOSAL |
| 6.2.4 | Mark books | No |  | Current year + 1 year | It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a further retention period, or, SECURE  DISPOSAL |
| 6.2.5 | 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 further retention period, or, SECURE  DISPOSAL |
| 6.2.6 | Pupils’ work | No |  | Where possible, work should be returned to the pupil at the end of the academic year. If this is not the school’s policy, then current year + 1 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |

## 7. Extracurricular Activities

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **7.1 Educational Visits outside the Classroom** | |  |  |  |  |
| 7.1.1 | Records created by schools in order to obtain approval to run an educational visit outside the classroom – primary schools | No | Outdoor Educational  Advisers’ Panel (OEAP) National Guidance website [http://oeapng.info](http://oeapng.info/)  specifically section 3 Legal Framework and Employer Systems, and Section 4 Good  Practice | Date of visit + 14 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 7.1.2 | Records created by schools in order to obtain approval to run an educational visit outside the classroom – secondary schools | No | Outdoor Educational  Advisers’ Panel (OEAP) National Guidance website [http://oeapng.info](http://oeapng.info/) specifically section 3 Legal Framework and Employer Systems, and Section 4 Good  Practice | Date of visit + 10 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 7.1.3 | Parental consent forms for school trips where there has been no major incident[[15]](#footnote-16) | Yes |  | Conclusion of the trip | Although the consent forms could be retained for date of birth + 25 years, the requirement for them being needed is low |

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|  |  |  |  |  | and most schools do not have the storage capacity to retain every single consent form issued by the school for this period of time |
| 7.1.4 | Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been a major incident | Yes | Limitation Act 1980 section 2 | Date of birth of the pupil involved in the incident + 25 years  The permission slips for all the pupils on the trip need to be retained to show that the rules had been followed for all pupils |  |
| 7.1.5 | Records relating to residential trips | Yes |  | Date of birth of youngest pupil involved + 25 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **7.2 Walking bus** | | | | | |
| 7.2.1 | Walking bus registers | Yes |  | Date of register + 3 years  This takes into account the fact that, if there is an incident requiring an accident report, the register will be submitted with the accident report and kept for the period of time required for accident reporting | SECURE DISPOSAL  If these records are retained electronically any back up copies should be destroyed at the same time |

## 8. Central Government and Local Authority

This section covers records created in the course of interaction between the school and the local authority.

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|  | **Basic file description** | **Data Protection issues** | **Statutory provisions** | **Retention period (operational)** | **Action at end of administrative life of**  **the record** |
| **8.1 Local Authority** | |  |  |  |  |
| 8.1.1 | Secondary transfer sheets (primary) | Yes |  | Current year + 2 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 8.1.2 | Attendance returns | Yes |  | Current year + 1 year | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 8.1.3 | School census returns | No |  | Current year + 5 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| **8.2 Central Government** | |  |  |  |  |
| 8.2.1 | OFSTED reports and papers | No |  | Life of the report then review | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 8.2.2 | Returns made to central government | No |  | Current year + 6 years | SECURE DISPOSAL |
| 8.2.3 | Circulars and other information sent from central government | No |  | Operational use | SECURE DISPOSAL |

Source: IRMS Academies Toolkit

1. The signed minutes must be kept securely together with the notice and agenda for the meeting and supporting documentation provided for consideration at the meeting. Documentation is generally filed in a dedicated minute book, which is usually in the form of a loose-leaf binder to which additional pages can be easily added. 2 As 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. In this context SECURE DISPOSAL should be taken to mean disposal using confidential waste bins, or shredding using a cross cut shredder. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. These are copies which the clerk may wish to retain so that requestors can view all the relevant information without the clerk needing to print off and collate redacted copies of the minutes each time a request is made. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Unless it would be unreasonable to do so, school lunches should be provided when they are requested by, or on behalf of, any pupil. A school lunch must be provided free of charge to any pupil entitled to free school lunches. From September 2014, free school lunches must be provided to all KS1 pupils. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. This should be drawn up in consultation with parents and should apply to all pupils. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Academies do not necessarily have to employ people with qualified teacher status; only the SEN and designated LAC teacher must be qualified. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Academies are bound by the legislation that applies to independent schools not maintained schools. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Employers are required to take a ‘clear copy’ of the documents which they are shown as part of this process. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. If the disciplinary proceedings relate to a child protection matter, contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead for further advice. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. If warnings are placed on personal files, then they must be weeded from the file. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. If warnings are placed on personal files, then they must be weeded from the file. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. If warnings are placed on personal files, then they must be weeded from the file. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. If warnings are placed on personal files, then they must be weeded from the file. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. School attendance: Departmental advice for maintained schools, Academies, independent schools and local authorities October 2014 p6. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. One-off or blanket consent. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)