St Margaret Mary's Catholic Junior School

Information Security Policy 2026/27

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The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) aims to protect the rights of individuals about whom data is obtained, stored, processed or supplied and requires that organisations take appropriate security measures against unauthorised access, alteration, disclosure or destruction of personal data.

The School is dedicated to ensure the security of all information that it holds and implements the highest standards of information security in order to achieve this. This document sets out the measures taken by the School to achieve this, including to: -

- To protect against potential breaches of confidentiality.
- To ensure that all information assets and IT facilities are protected against damage, loss or misuse.
- To support our Data Protection Policy in ensuring all staff are aware of and comply with UK law and our own procedures applying to the processing of data; and
- To increase awareness and understanding at the School of the requirements of information security and the responsibility of staff to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the information that they handle.

Introduction

Information Security can be defined as the protection of information and information systems from unauthorised access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification or destruction.

Staff are referred to the School's Data Protection Policy, Data Breach Policy and Electronic Information and Communication Systems Policy for further information. These policies are also designed to protect personal data and can be found on the school website.

For the avoidance of doubt, the term 'mobile devices' used in this policy refers to any removable media or mobile device that can store data. This includes, but is not limited to laptops, tablets, digital cameras, memory sticks and smartphones.

Scope

The information covered by this policy includes all written, spoken and electronic information held, used or transmitted by or on behalf of the School, in whatever media. This includes information held on computer systems, paper records, hand-held devices, and information transmitted orally.

This policy applies to all members of staff including temporary workers, other contractors, volunteers, interns, governors and all third parties authorised to use the IT systems.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with its content and to comply with the provisions contained within it. Breach of this policy will be treated as a disciplinary offence which may result in disciplinary action under the School's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure up to and including summary dismissal depending on the seriousness of the breach.

This policy does not form part of any individual's terms and conditions of employment with the School and is not intended to have contractual effect. Changes to data protection legislation will be monitored and further amendments may be required to this policy to remain compliant with legal obligations.

General Principles

All data stored on our IT Systems are to be classified appropriately (including, but not limited to personal data, sensitive personal data and confidential information. Further details on the categories of data can be found in the School's Data Protection Policy and Record of Processing Activities). All data so classified must be handled appropriately in accordance with its classification.

Staff should discuss with the Deputy Head Teacher / IT Technician the appropriate security arrangements for the type of information they access in the course of their work.

All data stored within our IT Systems and our paper records shall be available only to members of staff with legitimate need for access and shall be protected against unauthorised access and/or processing and against loss and/or corruption.

All IT Systems are to be installed, maintained, serviced, repaired and upgraded by the IT Technician/LA IT Support and or by such third party/parties as the Head Teacher may authorise.

The responsibility for the security and integrity of all IT Systems and the data stored thereon (including but not limited to the security, integrity and confidentiality of that data) lies with the IT Technician unless expressly stated otherwise.

All staff have an obligation to report actual and potential data protection compliance failures to the School Business Manager who shall investigate the breach. Any breach which is either known or suspected to involve personal data or sensitive personal data shall be reported to the Data Protection Officer (full details of the officer can be found in our Data Protection Policy).

Physical Security and Procedures

Paper records and documents containing personal information, sensitive personal information and confidential information shall be positioned in a way to avoid them being viewed by people passing by as far as possible, e.g. through windows. At the end of the working day or when you leave your desk unoccupied, all paper documents shall be securely locked away to avoid unauthorised access.

Available storage rooms, locked cabinets, and other storage systems with locks shall be used to store paper records when not in use. If you do not feel you have appropriate and/or sufficient storage available to you, you must inform the School Business Manager as soon as possible.

Paper documents containing confidential personal information should not be left on office and classroom desks, on staffroom tables, or pinned to noticeboards where there is general access unless there is legal reason to do so and/or relevant consents have been obtained. You should take particular care if documents must be taken out of school.

The physical security of buildings and storage systems shall be reviewed on a regular basis. If you find the security to be insufficient, you must inform the School Business Manager as soon as possible. Increased risks of vandalism and or burglary shall be considered when assessing the level of security required.

The following measures are taken by the School to ensure physical security of the building/s and storage systems:

- The School carry out regular checks of the buildings and storage systems to ensure they are maintained to a high standard.
- The School has an intercom system to minimise the risk of unauthorised people from entering the school premises.
- The School close the school gates during certain hours to prevent unauthorised access to the building. An alarm system is set nightly.
- Visitors should be required to sign in at the reception, always accompanied by a member of staff and never be left alone in areas where they could have access to confidential information.

Computers and IT

The IT Technician shall be responsible for the following:

a) ensuring that all IT Systems are assessed and deemed suitable for compliance with the School's security requirements;
b) ensuring that IT Security standards within the School are effectively implemented and regularly reviewed, working in consultation with the School's management and reporting the outcome of such reviews to the School's management;
c) ensuring that all members of staff are kept aware of this policy and of all related legislation, regulations and other relevant rules whether now or in the future in force, including but not limited to the UK GDPR and the Computer Misuse Act 1990.

Furthermore, the IT Manager/ Head Teacher shall be responsible for the following:

a) assisting all members of staff in understanding and complying with this policy.
b) providing all members of staff with appropriate support and training in IT Security matters and use of IT Systems.
c) ensuring that all members of staff are granted levels of access to IT Systems that are appropriate for each member, considering their job role, responsibilities and any special security requirements.
d) receiving and handling all reports relating to IT Security matters and taking appropriate action in response [including, in the event that any reports relate to personal data, informing the Data Protection Officer].
e) taking proactive action, where possible, to establish and implement IT security procedures and to raise awareness among members of staff.

f) monitoring all IT security within the School and taking all necessary action to implement this policy and any changes made to this policy in the future; and
g) ensuring that regular backups are taken of all data stored within the IT Systems at regular intervals and that such backups are stored at a suitable location offsite.

Responsibilities – Members of Staff

All members of staff must always comply with all relevant parts of this policy when using the IT Systems.

Computers and other electronic devices should be locked when not in use to minimise the accidental loss or disclosure.

You must immediately inform the Head Teacher of any and all security concerns relating to the IT Systems which could or has led to a data breach as set out in the Data Breach Policy.

Any other technical problems (including but not limited to, hardware failures and software errors) which may occur on the IT Systems shall be reported to the School Business Manager immediately.

You are not permitted to install any software of your own without the approval of the Head Teacher. Any software belonging to you must be approved by the Head Teacher and may only be installed where that installation poses no security risk to the IT Systems and where the installation would not breach any licence agreements to which that software may be subject.

Prior to installation of any software onto the IT Systems, you must obtain written permission by the Head Teacher. This permission must clearly state which software you may install and onto which computer(s) or device(s) it may be installed.

Prior to using removable media or external storage devices to transfer files, staff must ensure the device has been approved by the School and scanned for malware.

School information must only be stored or transferred using cloud storage services approved by the School. Staff must not use personal cloud storage accounts to store or share School information unless expressly authorised.

Staff must remain vigilant to phishing and other cyber security threats. Suspicious emails, links, attachments, requests for credentials or unexpected communications must be reported immediately to the appropriate IT contact. Staff must never disclose passwords, authentication codes or account credentials in response to an email, message or telephone request unless the request has been independently verified.

Access Security

All members of staff are responsible for the security of the equipment allocated to or used by them and must not allow it to be used by anyone other than in accordance with this policy.

The School has a secure firewall and anti-virus software in place. These prevent individuals from unauthorised access and to protect the School's network. The School also teach individuals about e-safety to ensure everyone is aware of how to protect the School's network and themselves.

All IT Systems (mobile devices) shall be protected with a secure password or passcode, or such other form of secure log-in system (e.g., Multi-Factor Authentication) as approved by the IT Department. Biometric log-in methods can only be used if approved by the IT Department.

All passwords must, where the software, computer, or device allows be at least 8 characters long and include numbers and one capital letter.

Passwords must be kept confidential and must not be made available to anyone else unless authorised by a member of the Senior Leadership Group who will liaise with the IT Technician as appropriate and necessary. Any member of staff who discloses his or her password to another employee in the absence of express authorisation will be liable to disciplinary action under the School's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure. Any member of staff who logs on to a computer using another member of staff's password will be liable to disciplinary action up to and including summary dismissal for gross misconduct.

If you forget your password, you should notify the IT Technician to have your access to the IT Systems restored. You must set up a new password immediately upon the restoration of access to the IT Systems.

You should not write down passwords if it is possible to remember them. If necessary, you may write down passwords if you store them securely (e.g., in a locked drawer or in a secure password database). Passwords should never be left on display for others to see.

Computers and other electronical devices with displays and user input devices (e.g., mouse, keyboard, touchscreen etc.) shall be protected with a screen lock that will activate after a period of inactivity. You may not change this time or disable the lock.

All mobile devices provided by the School shall be set to lock, sleep or similar after a period of inactivity, requiring a password, passcode, or other form of log-in to unlock, wake or similar. You may not alter this time.

Staff should be aware that if they fail to log off and leave their terminals unattended, they may be held responsible for another user's activities on their terminal in breach of this policy, the School's Data Protection Policy and/or the requirement for confidentiality in respect of certain information.

Data Security

Personal data sent over the School network will be encrypted or otherwise secured.

All members of staff are prohibited from downloading, installing or running software from external sources without obtaining prior authorisation from the Head Teacher who will consider bona fide

requests for work purposes. Please note that this includes instant messaging programs, screen savers, photos, video clips, games, music files and opening any documents or communications from unknown origins. Where consent is given, all files and data should always be virus checked before they are downloaded onto the School's systems.

You may connect your own devices (including, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, and smartphones) to the School's Wi-Fi if you follow the Head Teachers requirements and instructions governing this use. All usage of your own device(s) whilst connected to the School's network or any other part of the IT Systems is subject to all relevant School Policies (including, but not limited to, this policy). The Head Teacher may at any time request the immediate disconnection of any such devices without notice.

Any personal devices used to access School systems or information must be protected by appropriate security measures, including up-to-date operating systems, anti-malware protection where appropriate, device encryption where available and a secure password or passphrase.

Electronic Storage of Data

School do not support the storage of personal data on mobile devices.

You should not store any personal data on any mobile device, whether such device belongs to the School or otherwise without prior written approval of the Head Teacher. You should delete data copied onto any of these devices as soon as possible and make sure it is stored on the School's computer network in order for it to be backed up.

All electronic data is securely backed up by the end of the each working day automatically.

Homeworking

You should not take confidential or other information home without prior permission of the Head Teacher and only do so where satisfied appropriate technical and practical measures are in place within your home to maintain the continued security and confidentiality of that information.

When you have been given permission to take confidential or other information home, you must ensure that:

a) the information is kept in a secure and locked environment where it cannot be accessed by family members or visitors; and
b) all confidential material that requires disposal is shredded or in the case of electronical material, securely destroyed as soon as any need for its retention has passed.

Communications, Transfers, Internet and Email Use

When using the School's IT Systems, you are subject to and must comply with the School's Electronic Information and Communication Systems Policy.

There are restrictions on international transfers of personal data and transfers to international organisations. Staff may only transfer personal data outside the UK or to any international organisation, with the prior written authorisation of the DPO. You should refer to the Schools Data Protection policy for further information on international transfers.

The School work to ensure the systems do protect pupils and staff and are reviewed and improved regularly.

If staff or pupils discover unsuitable sites or any material which would be unsuitable, this should be reported to the Head Teacher.

Regular checks are made to ensure that filtering methods are appropriate, effective and reasonable and that users access only appropriate material as far as possible. This is not always possible to guarantee and the School cannot accept liability for the material accessed or its consequence.

All personal information and in particular sensitive personal information and confidential information should be encrypted before being sent by email or sent by tracked DX (document exchange) or recorded delivery. You may not send such information by fax unless you can be sure that it will not be inappropriately intercepted at the recipient fax machine.

Postal, DX, fax and email addresses and numbers should be checked and verified before you send information to them. You should take extra care with email addresses where auto-complete features may have inserted incorrect addresses.

You should be careful about maintaining confidentiality when speaking in public places.

You should make sure to mark confidential information 'confidential' and circulate this information only to those who need to know the information in the course of their work for the School.

Personal or confidential information should not be removed from the School without prior permission from the Head Teacher except where the removal is temporary and necessary. When such permission is given, you must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the integrity of the information and the confidentiality are maintained. You must ensure that the information is:

a) not transported in see-through or other un-secured bags or cases.
b) not read in public places (e.g., waiting rooms, cafes, trains, etc.); and
c) not left unattended or in any place where it is at risk (e.g., in car boots, cafes, etc.)

Reporting Security Breaches

All concerns, questions, suspected breaches, or known breaches shall be referred immediately to the School Business Manager. All members of staff have an obligation to report actual or potential data protection compliance failures.

When receiving a question or notification of a breach, the School Business Manager shall immediately assess the issue, including but not limited to, the level of risk associated with the issue and shall take all steps necessary to respond to the issue.

Members of staff shall under no circumstances attempt to resolve an IT security breach on their own without first consulting the Head Teacher. Any attempt to resolve an IT security breach by a member of staff must be under the instruction of and with the express permission of the Head Teacher.

Missing or stolen paper records or mobile devices, computers or physical media containing personal or confidential information should be reported immediately to the School Business Manager.

All IT security breaches shall be fully documented.

Full details on how to notify of data breaches are set out in the Data Breach Policy.

Related Policies

Staff should refer to the following policies that are related to this Information Security Policy.

- Electronic Information and Communication Systems Policy
- Data Breach Policy
- Data Protection Policy