

Maiden Erlegh Trust  
**MET DATA PROTECTION  
POLICY**



**MAIDEN ERLEGH**  
TRUST

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## Document Owner and Approval

Maiden Erlegh Trust is the owner of this document and is responsible for ensuring that this policy document is reviewed in line with the Trust's policy review schedule.

A current version of this document is available to all members of staff on the IntraMET.

## Version History Log

Version	Description of Change	Date of Policy Release by Judicium
1	Initial Issue	6 May 2018
2	Addition of SAR appendix. Updated with DPO details. Added details on School closure periods.	
3	Updated to reflect UK GDPR, including details for international transfers outside of UK.	
4	Merged SAR Policy entirely into SAR Appendix.	
5	Removal of duplicated third part	30 December 2021
6	Formatting changes	02.08.22
7	Adopted by Maiden Erlegh Trust	13 June 2023
8	Correction of Article 9 conditions for processing Minor grammar and spelling edits Update Judicium contact details	05.03.2024
9	Updated 'Requesting Clarification of the Request'. Added page numbers.	26.03.2024
10	Added Principle 7 on Accountability to Page 8	
11	Added Appendix 2 on Data Protection Complaints in accordance with DUAA Act 2025	

## Introduction

The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) ensures a balance between an individual's rights to privacy and the lawful processing of personal data undertaken by organisations in the course of their business. It 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 Trust will protect and maintain a balance between data protection rights in accordance with the UK GDPR. This policy sets out how we handle the personal data of our pupils, parents, suppliers, employees, workers and other third parties.

This policy does not form part of any individual's terms and conditions of employment with the Trust 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 in order to remain compliant with legal obligations.

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

## Section 1: Definitions

### **Personal data**

Personal data is any information relating to an individual where the individual can be identified (directly or indirectly) from that data alone or in combination with other identifiers we possess or can reasonably access. This includes special category data and pseudonymised personal data but excludes anonymous data or data that has had the identity of an individual permanently removed.

Personal data can be factual (for example, a name, email address, location or date of birth) or an opinion about that person's actions or behaviour.

Personal data will be stored either electronically or as part of a structured manual filing system in such a way that it can be retrieved automatically by reference to the individual or criteria relating to that individual.

### **Special Category Data**

Previously termed "Sensitive Personal Data", Special Category Data is similar by definition and refers to data concerning an individual Data Subject's racial or ethnic origin, political or religious beliefs, trade union membership, physical and mental health, sexuality, biometric or genetic data and personal data relating to criminal offences and convictions.

### **Data Subject**

An individual about whom such information is stored is known as the Data Subject. It includes but is not limited to employees.

### **Data Controller**

The organisation storing and controlling such information (i.e., the Trust/School) is referred to as the Data Controller.

### **Processing**

Processing data involves any activity that involves the use of personal data. This includes but is not limited to: obtaining, recording or holding data or carrying out any operation or set of operations on that data such as organisation, amending, retrieving, using, disclosing, erasing or destroying it. Processing also includes transmitting or transferring personal data to third parties.

### **Automated Processing**

Any form of automated processing of personal data consisting of the use of personal data to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to an individual, in particular to analyse or predict

aspects concerning that individual's performance at work, economic situation, health, personal preferences, interests, reliability, behaviour, location or movements.

An example of automated processing includes profiling and automated decision making. Automatic decision making is when a decision is made which is based solely on automated processing (without human intervention) which produces legal effects or significantly affects an individual. Automated decision making is prohibited except in exceptional circumstances. Profiling is also based on automated processing where it is used to evaluate certain personal aspects relating to a natural person, in particular to analyse or predict aspects concerning that natural person.

### **Third party**

A natural or legal person, public authority, agency or body other than the data subject, controller, processor and persons who, under the direct authority of the controller or processor, are authorised to process personal data.

### **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

DPIAs are a tool used to identify risks in data processing activities with a view to reducing them.

### **Criminal Records Information**

This refers to personal information relating to criminal convictions and offences, allegations, proceedings, and related security measures.

## **Section 2: When can the Trust/School Process Personal Data?**

### **Data Protection Principles**

The Trust/School are responsible for and adhere to the principles relating to the processing of personal data as set out in the UK GDPR. The principles the Trust/School must adhere to are set out below.

#### **Principle 1: Personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner**

The Trust/School only collect, process and share personal data fairly and lawfully and for specified purposes. The Trust/School must have a specified purpose for processing personal data and special category data as set out in the UK GDPR.

Before the processing starts for the first time, we will review the purposes of the particular processing activity and select the most appropriate lawful basis for that processing. We will then regularly review those purposes whilst processing continues in order to satisfy ourselves that the processing is necessary for the purpose of the relevant lawful basis (i.e., that there is no other reasonable way to achieve that purpose).

### **Personal Data**

The Trust/School may only process a data subject's personal data if one of the following fair processing conditions are met:

- The data subject has given their consent;
- The processing is necessary for the performance of a contract with the data subject or for taking steps at their request to enter into a contract;

- To protect the data subject's vital interests;
- To meet our legal compliance obligations (other than a contractual obligation);
- To perform a task in the public interest or in order to carry out official functions as authorised by law;
- For the purposes of the School's legitimate interests where authorised in accordance with data protection legislation. This is provided that it would not prejudice the rights and freedoms or legitimate interests of the data subject.

### **Special Category Data**

The Trust/School may only process special category data if they are entitled to process personal data (using one of the fair processing conditions above) AND one of the following conditions are met:

- The data subject has given their explicit consent;
- The processing is necessary for the purposes of exercising or performing any right or obligation which is conferred or imposed on the Trust/School in the field of employment law, social security law or social protection law. This may include, but is not limited to, dealing with sickness absence, dealing with disability and making adjustments for the same, arranging private health care insurance and providing contractual sick pay;
- To protect the data subject's vital interests;
- To meet our legal compliance obligations (other than a contractual obligation);
- Where the data has been made public by the data subject;
- To perform a task in the substantial public interest or in order to carry out official functions as authorised by law;
- Where it is necessary for the purposes of preventive or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems and services;
- Where it is necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health;
- The processing is necessary for archiving, statistical or research purposes.

The Trust/School identifies and documents the legal grounds being relied upon for each processing activity.

### **Consent**

Where the Trust/School relies on consent as a fair condition for processing (as set out above), it will adhere to the requirements set out in the UK GDPR.

Consent must be freely given, specific, informed and be an unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes by which they signify agreement to the processing of personal data relating to them. Explicit consent requires a very clear and specific statement to be relied upon (i.e. more than just mere action is required).

A data subject will have consented to processing of their personal data if they indicate agreement clearly either by a statement or positive action to the processing. Consent requires affirmative action so silence, pre-ticked boxes or inactivity will not amount to valid consent.

Data subjects must be easily able to withdraw consent to processing at any time and withdrawal must be promptly honoured.

If explicit consent is required, the Trust/School will normally seek another legal basis to process that data. However, if explicit consent is required, the data subject will be provided with full information in order to provide explicit consent.

The Trust/School will keep records of consents obtained in order to demonstrate compliance with consent requirements under the UK GDPR.

**Principle 2: Personal data must be collected only for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes**

Personal data will not be processed in any matter that is incompatible with the legitimate purposes.

The Trust/School will not use personal data for new, different or incompatible purposes from that disclosed when it was first obtained unless we have informed the data subject of the new purpose (and they have consented where necessary).

**Principle 3: Personal data must be adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed**

The Trust/School will only process personal data when our obligations and duties require us to. We will not collect excessive data and ensure any personal data collected is adequate and relevant for the intended purposes.

When personal data is no longer needed for specified purposes, the Trust/School shall delete or anonymise the data. Please refer to the Trust's Data Retention Procedure for further guidance.

**Principle 4: Personal data must be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date**

The Trust/School will endeavour to correct or delete any inaccurate data being processed by checking the accuracy of the personal data at the point of collection and at regular intervals afterwards. We will take all reasonable steps to destroy or amend inaccurate or out of date personal data.

Data subjects also have an obligation to ensure that their data is accurate, complete, up to date and relevant. Data subjects have the right to request rectification to incomplete or inaccurate data held by the Trust/School.

**Principle 5: Personal data must not be kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed**

Legitimate purposes for which the data is being processed may include satisfying legal, accounting or reporting requirements. The Trust/School will ensure that they adhere to legal timeframes for retaining data.

We will take reasonable steps to destroy or erase from our systems all personal data that we no longer require. We will also ensure that data subjects are informed of the period for which data is stored and how that period is determined in our privacy notices.

Please refer to the Trust's Retention Policy for further details about how the Trust/School retains and removes data.

**Principle 6: Personal data must be processed in a manner that ensures its security using appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage**

In order to assure the protection of all data being processed, the Trust/School will develop, implement and maintain reasonable safeguard and security measures. This includes using measures such as:

- Encryption;
- Password Protection
- Virus checking software and firewalls
- Role-based access rights including those assigned to temporary staff
- Pseudonymisation (this is where the Trust/School replaces information that directly or indirectly identifies an individual with one or more artificial identifiers or pseudonyms so that the person to whom the data relates cannot be identified without the use of additional information which is meant to be kept separately and secure);
- Ensuring authorised access on both hard copy and electronic files (i.e. that only people who have a need to know the personal data are authorised to access it);
- Adhering to confidentiality principles;
- Ensuring personal data is accurate and suitable for the process for which it is processed.

The Trust/School follow procedures and technologies to ensure security and will regularly evaluate and test the effectiveness of those safeguards to ensure security in processing personal data.

The Trust/School will only transfer personal data to third party service providers who agree to comply with the required policies and procedures and agree to put adequate measures in place.

**Principle 7: The controller must be able to demonstrate compliance with the GDPR's other principles (accountability)**

The GDPR includes provisions that promote accountability and governance. These complement the GDPR's transparency requirements. The accountability principle in Article 5(2) requires you to demonstrate that you comply with the principles and states explicitly that this is your responsibility.

The Trust/school will demonstrate compliance with the data protection principles by implementing data protection policies, adhering to codes of conduct, conducting regular data audits, ensuring appropriate staff training, implementing technical and organisational measures, as well as adopting techniques such as data protection by design, DPIAs, breach notification procedures and incident response plans.

The Trust have appointed a Data Protection Consultant whose details are as follows:

Judicium Consulting Limited

Address: 98 Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8WB

Email: [dataservices@judicium.com](mailto:dataservices@judicium.com)

Web: [www.judiciumeducation.co.uk](http://www.judiciumeducation.co.uk)

Telephone: 0345 548 7000

The Trust DPO, who is the Head of Data will ensure that the Trust/school has developed and maintaining data related policies and procedure with guidance from Judicium Any data related queries can be directed to the DPO/Judicium in the first instance.

Please contact the DPO with any questions about the operation of this Data Protection Policy or the UK GDPR or if you have any concerns that this policy is not being or has not been followed. In particular, you must always contact the DPO in the following circumstances:

- (a) If you are unsure of the lawful basis being relied on by the Trust/School to process personal data;
- (b) If you need to rely on consent as a fair reason for processing (please see below the section on consent for further detail);
- (c) If you need to draft privacy notices or fair processing notices;
- (d) If you are unsure about the retention periods for the personal data being processed;
- (e) If you are unsure about what security measures need to be put in place to protect personal data;
- (f) If there has been a personal data breach;
- (g) If you are unsure on what basis to transfer personal data outside the EEA;
- (h) If you need any assistance dealing with any rights invoked by a data subject;
- (i) Whenever you are engaging in a significant new (or a change in) processing activity which is likely to require a data protection impact assessment or if you plan to use personal data for purposes other than what it was collected for;
- (j) If you plan to undertake any activities involving automated processing or automated decision making;
- (k) If you need help complying with applicable law when carrying out direct marketing activities;
- (l) If you need help with any contracts or other areas in relation to sharing personal data with third parties.

### **Sharing Personal Data**

The Trust/School will generally not share personal data with third parties unless certain safeguards and contractual arrangements have been put in place. The following points will be considered:

- Whether the third party has a need to know the information for the purposes of providing the contracted services;
- Whether sharing the personal data complies with the privacy notice that has been provided to the data subject and, if required, the data subject's consent has been obtained;
- Whether the third party has agreed to comply with the required data security standards, policies and procedures and implemented adequate security measures;
- Whether the transfer complies with any applicable cross border transfer restrictions; and
- Whether a fully executed written contract that contains UK GDPR approved third party clauses has been obtained.

There may be circumstances where the Trust/School is required either by law or in the best interests of our pupils, parents or staff to pass information onto external authorities for example, the Local Authority, Ofsted or the department of health. These authorities are up to date with data protection law and have their own policies relating to the protection of any data that they receive or collect.

The intention to share data relating to individuals to an organisation outside of the School shall be clearly defined within written notifications including details and the basis for sharing the data.

### **Transfer of Data Outside the European Economic Area (EEA)**

The UK GDPR restricts data transfers to countries outside the EEA in order to ensure that the level of data protection afforded to individuals by the UK GDPR is not undermined.

The Trust/School will not transfer data to another country outside of the EEA without appropriate safeguards being in place and in compliance with the UK GDPR. All staff must comply with the Trust/School's guidelines on transferring data outside of the EEA. For the avoidance of doubt, a transfer of data to another country can occur when you transmit, send, view or access that data in that particular country.

### **Transfer of Data Outside the UK**

The Trust/School may transfer personal information outside the UK and/or to international organisations on the basis that the country, territory or organisation is designated as having an adequate level of protection. Alternatively, the organisation receiving the information has provided adequate safeguards by way of binding corporate rules, Standard Contractual Clauses or compliance with an approved code of conduct.

## **Section 3: Data Subject's Rights and Requests**

Personal data must be made available to data subjects as set out within this policy and data subjects must be allowed to exercise certain rights in relation to their personal data.

The rights data subjects have in relation to how the Trust/School handle their personal data are set out below:

- (a) (Where consent is relied upon as a condition of processing) To withdraw consent to processing at any time;
- (b) Request access to their personal data that we hold (see "Subject Access Requests" at Appendix 1);
- (c) Prevent our use of their personal data for marketing purposes;
- (d) Ask us to erase personal data if it is no longer necessary in relation to the purposes for which it was collected or processed or to rectify inaccurate data or to complete incomplete data;
- (e) Restrict processing in specific circumstances;
- (f) Challenge processing which can be justified on the basis of our legitimate interests or in the public interest;
- (g) Request a copy of an agreement under which personal data is transferred outside of the EEA;
- (h) Object to decisions based solely on automated processing;
- (i) Prevent processing that is likely to cause damage or distress to the data subject or anyone else;
- (j) Be notified of a personal data breach which is likely to result in high risk to their rights and freedoms;
- (k) Make a complaint to the supervisory authority; and
- (l) In limited circumstances, receive or ask for their personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format.

If any request is made to exercise the rights above, it is a requirement for the relevant staff member within the Trust/School to verify the identity of the individual making the request.

## **Direct Marketing**

The Trust/School are subject to certain rules and privacy laws when marketing. For example, a data subject's prior consent will be required for electronic direct marketing (for example, by email, text or automated calls).

The Trust/School will explicitly offer individuals the opportunity to object to direct marketing and will do so in an intelligible format which is clear for the individual to understand. The School will promptly respond to any individual objection to direct marketing.

## **Employee Obligations**

Employees may have access to the personal data of other members of staff, suppliers, parents or pupils of the Trust/School in the course of their employment or engagement. If so, the Trust/School expects those employees to help meet the School's data protection obligations to those individuals. Specifically, you must:

- Only access the personal data that you have authority to access, and only for authorised purposes;
- Only allow others to access personal data if they have appropriate authorisation;
- Keep personal data secure (for example, by complying with rules on access to school premises, computer access, password protection and secure file storage and destruction.
- Not remove personal data or devices containing personal data from the Trust/School premises unless appropriate security measures are in place (such as pseudonymisation, encryption, password protection) to secure the information;
- Not store personal information on local drives and on personal devices.
- If working remotely across MET sites and home, ensure that personal data remains secure when moving across locations. Paper files should be minimal and if no longer required, securely disposed of on a school site.

## **Data Breaches**

The UK GDPR requires the Trust/School to notify any applicable personal data breach to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

We have put in place a Data Breach Procedure which details how to deal with any suspected personal data breach. All staff must familiarise themselves with this procedure and notify breaches promptly in accordance with it. The Trust/School will notify data subjects or any applicable regulator where we are legally required to do so.

If you know or suspect that a personal data breach has occurred, do not attempt to investigate the matter yourself. Immediately contact the person designated as the key point of contact for personal data breaches.

School DPO: School Business Manager/Operations Manager

Trust DPO: Head of Data

Personal Data Breaches can also be directly reported to Trust appointed Data Protection consultant; Judicium Education.

## **Transparency and Privacy Notices**

The Trust/School will provide detailed, specific information to data subjects. This information will be provided through the Trust/School privacy notices which are concise, transparent, intelligible, easily accessible and in clear and plain language so that a data subject can easily understand them. The Trust/School privacy notices are tailored to suit the data subject and set out information about how the School use their data.

Whenever we collect personal data directly from data subjects, including for human resources or employment purposes, we will provide the data subject with all the information required by the UK GDPR. This includes the identity of the Data Protection Officer, the Trust/School's contact details, how and why we will use, process, disclose, protect and retain personal data. This information will be provided within our privacy notices.

When personal data is collected indirectly (for example, from a third party or a publicly available source), where appropriate, we will provide the data subject with the above information as soon as possible after receiving the data. The Trust/School will also confirm whether that third party has collected and processed data in accordance with the UK GDPR.

Notifications shall be in accordance with ICO guidance and where relevant, be written in a form understandable by those defined as "children" under the UK GDPR.

## **Privacy by Design**

The Trust/School adopt a privacy by design approach to data protection to ensure that we adhere to data compliance and to implement technical and organisational measures in an effective manner.

Privacy by design is an approach that promotes privacy and data protection compliance from the start. To help us achieve this, the Trust/School takes into account the nature and purposes of the processing, any cost of implementation and any risks to rights and freedoms of data subjects when implementing data processes.

## **Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs)**

In order to achieve a privacy by design approach, the Trust/School conduct DPIAs for any new systems or technologies or programmes (Including AI platforms) being used by the Trust/School which could affect the processing of personal data. In any event, the Trust/School carries out DPIAs when required by the UK GDPR in the following circumstances:

- For the use of new technologies (programs, systems or processes) or changing technologies;
- For the use of automated processing;
- For large scale processing of special category data; and
- For large scale, systematic monitoring of a publicly accessible area (through the use of CCTV).

Our DPIAs contain:

- A description of the processing, its purposes and any legitimate interests used;
- An assessment of the necessity and proportionality of the processing in relation to its purpose;
- An assessment of the risk to individuals; and
- The risk mitigation measures in place and demonstration of compliance.

## **Record Keeping**

The Trust/School are required to keep full and accurate records of our data processing activities. These records include:

- The name and contact details of the Trust/School;
- The name and contact details of the Data Protection Officer;
- Descriptions of the types of personal data used;
- Description of the data subjects;
- Details of the Trust/School's processing activities and purposes;
- Details of any third party recipients of the personal data;
- Where personal data is stored;
- Retention periods; and
- Security measures in place.

## **Training**

The Trust/School will ensure all relevant personnel have undergone adequate training to enable them to comply with data privacy laws.

## **Audit**

The Trust/School, through its Data Protection consultant regularly test our data systems and processes in order to assess compliance. These are done through data audits which take place biannually in order to review use of personal data.

## **Related Policies**

Staff should refer to the following policies that are related to this Data Protection Policy: -

- Data Retention
- Cyber Security
- Privacy Notices: Parents/Students, Staff, New Applicants
- Data Breach Procedure and Flowchart

These policies are also designed to protect personal data and can be found on the staff IntraMET and school websites.

## **Monitoring**

We will monitor the effectiveness of this and all of our policies and procedures and conduct a full review and update as appropriate.

Our monitoring and review will include looking at how our policies and procedures are working in practice to reduce the risks posed to the Trust/School.

# ANNEX 1: SUBJECT ACCESS REQUESTS

Under Data Protection Law, data subjects have a general right to find out whether the Trust/School hold or process personal data about them, to access that data, and to be given supplementary information. This is known as the right of access or the right to make a data subject access request (SAR). The purpose of the right is to enable the individual to be aware of and verify the lawfulness of the processing of personal data that the Trust/School are undertaking.

This appendix provides guidance for staff members on how data subject access requests should be handled and for all individuals on how to make a SAR.

Failure to comply with the right of access under UK GDPR puts both staff and the Trust/School at potentially significant risk and so the Trust/School takes compliance with this policy very seriously.

A data subject has the right to be informed by the Trust/School of the following:

- (a) Confirmation that their data is being processed;
- (b) Access to their personal data;
- (c) A description of the information that is being processed;
- (d) The purpose for which the information is being processed;
- (e) The recipients/class of recipients to whom that information is or may be disclosed;
- (f) Details of the Trust/School's sources of information obtained;
- (g) In relation to any personal data processed for the purposes of evaluating matters in relation to the data subject that has constituted or is likely to constitute the sole basis for any decision significantly affecting him or her, to be informed of the logic of the Data Controller's decision making. Such data may include, but is not limited to, performance at work, creditworthiness, reliability and conduct; and
- (h) Other supplementary information.

## How to Recognise a Subject Access Request

A data subject access request is a request from an individual (or from someone acting with the authority of an individual, e.g., a solicitor or a parent making a request in relation to information relating to their child):

- For confirmation as to whether the Trust/School process personal data about him or her and, if so
- For access to that personal data
- And/or certain other supplementary information

A valid SAR can be both in writing (by letter, email, WhatsApp text) or verbally (e.g., during a telephone conversation). The request may refer to the UK GDPR and/or to 'data protection' and/or to 'personal data' but does not need to do so in order to be a valid request. For example, a letter which states 'please provide me with a copy of information that the Trust/School hold about me' would constitute a data subject access request and should be treated as such.

A data subject is generally only entitled to access their own personal data and not information relating to other people.

## **How to Make a Data Subject Access Request**

Whilst there is no requirement to do so, we encourage any individuals who wish to make such a request to make the request using the online form available on the Trust and school website. This allows the Trust/School to easily recognise that you wish to make a data subject access request and the nature of your request. If the request is unclear/vague we may be required to clarify the scope of the request which may in turn delay the start of the time period for dealing with the request.

## **What to do When You Receive a Data Subject Access Request**

All data subject access requests should be immediately directed to the School Business Manager/Operations Manager who should contact Judicium in order to assist with the request and what is required. There are limited timescales within which the Trust/School must respond to a request and any delay could result in failing to meet those timescales, which could lead to data protection complaint or on further escalation, enforcement action by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and/or legal action by the affected individual. All SARs must be logged on to Online portal for record keeping and audit trail.

## **Acknowledging the Request**

When receiving a SAR the Trust/School shall acknowledge the request as soon as possible and inform the requester about the statutory deadline (of one calendar month) to respond to the request.

In addition to acknowledging the request, the School may ask for:

- proof of ID (if needed);
- further clarification about the requested information;
- if it is not clear where the information shall be sent, the School must clarify what address/email address to use when sending the requested information; and/or
- consent (if requesting third party data).

The Trust/School should work with their DPO in order to create the acknowledgment.

## **Verifying the Identity of a Requester or Requesting Clarification of the Request**

Before responding to a SAR, the Trust/School will take reasonable steps to verify the identity of the person making the request. In the case of current employees, this will usually be straightforward. The Trust/School is entitled to request additional information from a requester in order to verify whether the requester is in fact who they say they are. Where the Trust/School has reasonable doubts as to the identity of the individual making the request, evidence of identity may be established by production of a passport, driving license, a recent utility bill with current address, birth/marriage certificate, credit card or a mortgage statement.

If an individual is requesting a large amount of data the Trust/School may ask the requester for more information for the purpose of clarifying the request, but the requester shall never be asked why the request has been made. The Trust/School shall let the requestor know as soon as possible where more information is needed before responding to the request.

When it is necessary to verify the identity of the person making the request, the one calendar month period for responding begins when sufficient confirmation of identity is provided.

When it is necessary to request more information for the purpose of clarifying the request, the one calendar month period for responding pauses when further information is requested and does not restart until sufficient clarification is provided.

In both cases, the period of responding begins when the additional information has been received. If the Trust/School do not receive this information, they will be unable to comply with the request.

### **Requests Made by Third Parties or on Behalf of Children**

The Trust/School need to be satisfied that the third party making the request is entitled to act on behalf of the individual, but it is the third party's responsibility to provide evidence of this entitlement. This might be a written authority to make the request or it might be a more general power of attorney. The Trust/School may also require proof of identity in certain circumstances.

If the Trust/School is in any doubt or has any concerns as to providing the personal data of the data subject to the third party, then it should provide the information requested directly to the data subject. It is then a matter for the data subject to decide whether to share this information with any third party.

When requests are made on behalf of children, it is important to note that even if a child is too young to understand the implications of subject access rights, it is still the right of the child, rather than of anyone else such as a parent or guardian, to have access to the child's personal data. Before responding to a SAR for information held about a child, the Trust/School should consider whether the child is mature enough to understand their rights. If the school is confident that the child can understand their rights, then the Trust/School should usually respond directly to the child or seek their consent before releasing their information.

It shall be assessed if the child is able to understand (in broad terms) what it means to make a subject access request and how to interpret the information they receive as a result of doing so. When considering borderline cases, it should be taken into account, among other things:

- The child's level of maturity and their ability to make decisions like this;
- The nature of the personal data;
- Any court orders relating to parental access or responsibility that may apply;
- Any duty of confidence owed to the child or young person;
- Any consequences of allowing those with parental responsibility access to the child's or young person's information. This is particularly important if there have been allegations of abuse or ill treatment;
- Any detriment to the child or young person if individuals with parental responsibility cannot access this information; and
- Any views the child or young person has on whether their parents should have access to information about them.

Generally, a person aged 12 years or over is presumed to be of sufficient age and maturity to be able to exercise their right of access, unless the contrary is shown. In relation to a child 12 years of age or older, then provided that the Trust/School is confident that they understand their rights and there is no reason to believe that the child does not have the capacity to make

a request on their own behalf, the Trust/School will require the written authorisation of the child before responding to the requester or provide the personal data directly to the child.

The Trust/School may also refuse to provide information to parents if there are consequences of allowing access to the child's information – for example, if it is likely to cause detriment to the child.

### **Fee For Responding to a SAR**

The Trust/School will usually deal with a SAR free of charge. Where a request is considered to be manifestly unfounded or excessive a fee to cover administrative costs may be requested. If a request is considered to be manifestly unfounded or unreasonable the Trust/School will inform the requester why this is considered to be the case and that the School will charge a fee for complying with the request.

A fee may also be requested in relation to repeat requests for copies of the same information. In these circumstances a reasonable fee will be charged taking into account the administrative costs of providing the information.

If a fee is requested, the period of responding begins when the fee has been received.

### **Time Period for Responding to a SAR**

The Trust/School has one calendar month to respond to a SAR. This will run from the day that the request was received or from the day when any additional identification or other information requested is received, or payment of any required fee has been received.

The circumstances where the Trust/School is in any reasonable doubt as to the identity of the requester, this period will not commence unless and until sufficient information has been provided by the requester as to their identity and in the case of a third party requester, the written authorisation of the data subject has been received.

The period for response may be extended by a further two calendar months in relation to complex requests. What constitutes a complex request will depend on the particular nature of the request. The DPO must always be consulted in determining whether a request is sufficiently complex as to extend the response period.

Where a request is considered to be sufficiently complex as to require an extension of the period for response, the Trust/School will need to notify the requester within one calendar month of receiving the request, together with reasons as to why this extension is considered necessary.

### **Trust/School Closure Periods**

The Trust/School may not be able to respond to requests received during or just before school closure periods within the one calendar month response period. This is because the Trust/School will be closed/no one will be on site to comply with the request/our mail gets forwarded/ we do not review emails during this period. As a result, it is unlikely that your request will be able to be dealt with during this time. We may not be able to acknowledge your request during this time (i.e., until a time when we receive the request). However, if we can acknowledge the request, we may still not be able to deal with it until the Trust/School re-opens. The Trust/School will endeavour to comply with requests as soon as possible and will keep in

communication with you as far as possible. If your request is urgent, please provide your request during term times and not during/close to closure periods.

### **Information to be Provided in Response to a Request**

The individual is entitled to receive access to the personal data we process about him or her and the following information:

- The purpose for which we process the data;
- The recipients or categories of recipient to whom the personal data has been or will be disclosed, in particular where those recipients are in third countries or international organisations;
- Where possible, the period for which it is envisaged the personal data will be stored, or, if not possible, the criteria used to determine that period;
- The fact that the individual has the right:
  - to request that the Company rectifies, erases or restricts the processing of his personal data; or
  - to object to its processing;
  - to lodge a complaint with the ICO;
  - where the personal data has not been collected from the individual, any information available regarding the source of the data;
  - any automated decision we have taken about him or her together with meaningful information about the logic involved, as well as the significance and the envisaged consequences of such processing for him or her.

The information should be provided in a way that is concise, transparent, easy to understand and easy to access using clear and plain language, with any technical terms, abbreviations or codes explained. The response shall be given in writing if the SAR was made in writing in a commonly used electronic format.

The information that the Trust/School are required to supply in response to a SAR must be supplied by reference to the data in question at the time the request was received. However, as the Trust/School have one month in which to respond the Trust/School is allowed to take into account any amendment or deletion made to the personal data between the time the request is received and the time the personal data is supplied if such amendment or deletion would have been made regardless of the receipt of the SAR.

Therefore, the Trust/School is allowed to carry out regular housekeeping activities even if this means deleting or amending personal data after the receipt of a SAR. The Trust/School is not allowed to amend or delete data to avoid supplying the data.

### **How to Locate Information**

The personal data the Trust/School need to provide in response to a data subject access request may be located in several of the electronic and manual filing systems. This is why it is important to identify at the outset the type of information requested so that the search can be focused.

Depending on the type of information requested, the Trust/School may need to search all or some of the following:

- Electronic systems, e.g., databases, networked and non-networked computers, servers, customer records, human resources system, email data, back up data, CCTV;

- Manual filing systems in which personal data is accessible according to specific criteria, e.g., chronologically ordered sets of manual records containing personal data;
- Data systems held externally by our data processors;
- Occupational health records;
- Pensions data;
- Share scheme information;
- Insurance benefit information.

The Trust/School should search these systems using the individual's name, employee number or other personal identifier as a search determinant.

### **Protection of Third Parties - Exemptions to the Right of Subject Access**

There are circumstances where information can be withheld pursuant to a SAR. These specific exemptions and requests should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Trust/School will consider whether it is possible to redact information so that this does not identify those third parties. If their data cannot be redacted (for example, after redaction it is still obvious who the data relates to) then the Trust/School do not have to disclose personal data to the extent that doing so would involve disclosing information relating to another individual (including information identifying the other individual as the source of information) who can be identified from the information unless:

- The other individual has consented to the disclosure; or
- It is reasonable to comply with the request without that individual's consent.

In determining whether it is reasonable to disclose the information without the individual's consent, all of the relevant circumstances will be taken into account, including:

- The type of information that they would disclose;
- Any duty of confidentiality they owe to the other individual;
- Any steps taken to seek consent from the other individual;
- Whether the other individual is capable of giving consent; and
- Any express refusal of consent by the other individual.

It needs to be decided whether it is appropriate to disclose the information in each case. This decision will involve balancing the data subject's right of access against the other individual's rights. If the other person consents to the school disclosing the information about them, then it would be unreasonable not to do so. However, if there is no such consent, the school must decide whether to disclose the information anyway. If there are any concerns in this regard then the DPO should be consulted.

### **Other Exemptions to the Right of Subject Access**

In certain circumstances the Trust/School may be exempt from providing some or all of the personal data requested. These exemptions are described below and should only be applied on a case-by-case basis after a careful consideration of all the facts.

*Crime detection and prevention:* The Trust/School do not have to disclose any personal data being processed for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime; apprehending or prosecuting offenders; or assessing or collecting any tax or duty.

*Confidential references:* The Trust/School do not have to disclose any confidential references given to third parties for the purpose of actual or prospective:

- Education, training or employment of the individual;
- Appointment of the individual to any office; or
- Provision by the individual of any service

This exemption does not apply to confidential references that the Trust/School receive from third parties. However, in this situation, granting access to the reference may disclose the personal data of another individual (i.e., the person giving the reference), which means that the Trust/School must consider the rules regarding disclosure of third-party data set out above before disclosing the reference.

*Legal professional privilege:* The Trust/School do not have to disclose any personal data which is subject to legal professional privilege.

*Management forecasting:* The Trust/School do not have to disclose any personal data processed for the purposes of management forecasting or management planning to assist us in the conduct of any business or any other activity.

*Negotiations:* The Trust/School do not have to disclose any personal data consisting of records of intentions in relation to any negotiations with the individual where doing so would be likely to prejudice those negotiations.

### **Refusing to Respond to a Request**

The Trust/School can refuse to comply with a request if the request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, taking into account whether the request is repetitive in nature.

If a request is found to be manifestly unfounded or excessive the school can:

- Request a "reasonable fee" to deal with the request; or
- Refuse to deal with the request.

In either case the Trust/School need to justify the decision and inform the requestor about the decision.

The reasonable fee should be based on the administrative costs of complying with the request. If deciding to charge a fee the school should contact the individual promptly and inform them. The Trust/School do not need to comply with the request until the fee has been received.

### **Record Keeping**

A record of all subject access requests shall be kept by the School Business Manager/Operations Manager. The record shall include the date the SAR was received, the name of the requester, what data the Trust/School sent to the requester and the date of the response.

## **ANNEX 2: DATA PROTECTION COMPLAINTS**

In accordance with the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUAA) all organisations are required to have a complaints process in place, for individuals to raise concerns about the handling of their personal data.

Trust/Schools must provide a clear route for complaints and make it clear how concerns will be investigated and responded to before escalating matters to the ICO.

This appendix provides guidance for all individuals on how to make a data complaint and how the Trust/School will handle data.

### **What are Data protection Complaints?**

The Trust recognises the right of individuals to raise concerns regarding the handling of their personal data. A data protection complaint may be made where an individual believes that the Trust has not complied with its obligations under data protection legislation in relation to their personal information, or the personal information of an individual they are authorised to represent.

Individuals are not required to reference specific legislation or use legal terminology when making a complaint. Any expression of concern regarding the Trust's processing of personal data should be considered and assessed appropriately.

Examples of data protection complaints may include concerns relating to:

The Trust's response to a Subject Access Request (SAR) or any other data subject rights request;

The security measures used to protect personal information, including concerns arising from an actual or suspected personal data breach;

The collection, use, storage, retention, sharing, or accuracy of personal information;

The lawfulness, fairness, or transparency of the Trust's processing activities.

In some circumstances, an individual may raise a complaint about a service, employment matter, or other issue while also exercising their data protection rights. Such matters should not automatically be treated as data protection complaints unless the concern specifically relates to the Trust's handling of personal data.

Examples include:

An employee submitting a grievance while also requesting access to their personal information;  
or

A parent, pupil, employee, or other individual raising a service-related complaint while also requesting the deletion or correction of their personal data.

Where a complaint includes both data protection concerns and non-data protection issues, the Trust will ensure that each element is considered and managed through the appropriate procedures.

### **How to make a data protection Complaint**

All data protection complaints are to be made using the link below. This will also be made available on the website for the Trust and individual schools.

**Maiden Erlegh Trust :** [MET Data Complaints Form](#)

## **Trust Schools**

Maiden Erlegh School : [MES Data Complaints Form](#)

Maiden Erlegh School in Reading : [MER Data Complaints Form](#)

Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge : [MECE Data Complaints Form](#)

River Academy : [RIV Data Complaints Form](#)

Great Hollands Primary School : [GHPS Data Complaints Form](#)

Birch Hill Primary School : [BHPS Data Complaints Form](#)

Cranbury College : [CBC Data Complaints Form](#)

Hamilton School : [HAM Data Complaints Form](#)

Oak Tree School : [OTS Data Complaints Form](#)

Any issues with the form please contact the relevant school or Trust.

## **Handling Data Protection Complaints**

The Trust/School will acknowledge receipt of a data protection complaint within 30 calendar days of receipt and will investigate the matter without undue delay.

The Trust/School will:

- Assess the nature and scope of the complaint and seek further information where necessary;
- Conduct a fair and proportionate investigation, including reviewing relevant records and consulting appropriate staff;
- Keep the complainant informed of progress, particularly where the investigation is likely to take an extended period;
- Take appropriate remedial action where a concern is upheld; and
- Respond to the complainant with the outcome of the investigation.

A record will be maintained of all data protection complaints, including the complaint received, actions taken, correspondence, findings, and any resulting improvements. Complaint records will be retained in accordance with the Trust's retention schedule and data protection requirements.

The Trust will monitor complaints to identify recurring issues, compliance risks, and opportunities to improve data protection practices.

## **Outcome of Data Protection Complaints**

Following completion of an investigation, the Trust/School will communicate the outcome to the complainant without undue delay. The response will explain the findings of the investigation, any actions taken, and the reasons for the Trust's decision.

Where a complaint is upheld, the Trust/School will take appropriate corrective action and, where necessary, review its processes to prevent similar issues occurring in the future.

If a complainant remains dissatisfied with the outcome, they may request a review of the decision in accordance with the Trust's complaints procedures. Individuals also have the right

to raise concerns with the UK's supervisory authority, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), at any stage of the process.

Where a complaint includes matters outside the scope of data protection legislation, the Trust will direct the complainant to the appropriate policy, procedure, or regulatory body for those aspects of their complaint.