



**Learners'  
Trust**

# **Privacy Notice Governors & Trustees**

<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>September 2025</b>
<b>Reviewed By (Name)</b>	<b>Fran Cowell</b>
<b>Job Role</b>	<b>Chief Operations Officer</b>
<b>Next Review Date</b>	<b>September 2026</b>
<b>Version produced Spring 2025</b>	<p>Amended for Academies and Trusts use</p> <p>KCSiE 2024</p> <p>Amended where it states 'police' to state 'law enforcement agencies e.g. police'</p> <p>Academies Financial Handbook updated to Academy Trust Handbook</p> <p>Added new section: '10. Companies House'. This is also mentioned in section 6. Who we share governors' information with</p> <p>Scope section added</p>

This document will be reviewed annually and sooner when significant changes are made to the law.

Guidance from the Department for Education about trust policies can be found here:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts/statutory-policies-for-schools-and-academy-trusts>

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NB: This Privacy Notice has been designed to cover School Champions, Trustee and Members. We have used the term 'governors' throughout this privacy notice, this refers to all roles.

## 1. Privacy Notice (How we use information)

The Learners' Trust collect, hold, use and share information about our workforce. This is known as "personal data" and you have rights around that data, including knowing how and why we are processing the data. "Processing" data means from collecting, storing, using, sharing and disposing of it. We collect, hold and share personal information on School Champions, Trustees and Members.

For the purposes of Data Protection legislation LEARNERS' Trust is a data controller and is registered as such with the Information Commissioner's Office.

## 2. The categories of governors' information that we process include

- personal identifiers, contacts and characteristics (such as name, date of birth, contact details, address and photograph)
- characteristics such as ethnicity, language, religion and identity\*
- equalities monitoring information, including information about your ethnic origin, sexual orientation, health and religion or belief\*
- governance details (such as role, start and end dates and governor ID)
- information about medical or health conditions, that we need to know about, including whether you have a disability for which the trust needs to make reasonable adjustments\*
- checks made regarding online presence including social media searches
- use of trust devices and networks as part of our safeguarding procedures
- information about any criminal convictions, offences, cautions and prohibitions. This information may have come from other organisations including former employers, Teacher Regulation Agency, social services and the Disclosure & Barring Service.\*

## 3. Why we collect and use governors' information.

The personal data collected is essential, in order for the trust to fulfil their official functions and meet legal requirements.

We collect and use governance information, for the following purposes:

- a) to meet the statutory duties placed upon us
- b) facilitate safer recruitment (e.g. by carrying out criminal records checks)
- c) to help us to deliver our responsibilities to our trust community
- d) to communicate with our Governing body
- e) to inform the trust community of the identity of the individuals who comprise the Governing body
- f) photographic images for identification purposes (safeguarding and identifying Governors to our parents and pupils), and celebration purposes (to record trust events)

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the legal basis we rely on for processing personal information for general purposes are:

- Article 6(a) – Your consent (for any processing which does not fall into the other bases explained below)
- Article 6(c) - Compliance and with our legal obligations<sup>^</sup>
- Article 6(d) - Being necessary for us to protect your, or someone else's, Vital Interests (potentially lifesaving)
- Article 6(e) – Carrying out tasks in the Public Interest.

<sup>^</sup>All maintained school governing bodies, under section 538 of the Education Act 1996 and academy trusts, under Academy Trust Handbook have a legal duty to provide the information as detailed above.

<sup>^</sup>Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 (statutory guidance from the Department for Education issued under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 etc).

The ways we collect and use *sensitive* governor/trustee information are lawful based on Articles 9 and 10 of UK GDPR. Please see our Special Category Data Policy document for full details of these lawful bases for processing this data.

Where we are processing your personal data with your consent, you have the right to withdraw that consent.

### **3.1 Marketing Purposes**

Where you have given us consent to do so, we may send you marketing information by text message or email promoting trust and school events, campaigns and or charities. You can withdraw this consent at any time by contacting us (see the Contacts section).

### **3.2 Automated decision making & profiling**

We do not currently process any personal data through automated decision making or profiling. Should this change in the future, privacy notices will be updated to explain both the processing and your right to object to it.

## **4. How we collect governors' information**

We collect personal information in a variety of ways. For example, data is collected through application forms, obtained from your passport or other identity documents such as your driving licence, from forms completed by you at the start of or during your term as a champion from correspondence with you, or through interviews, meetings or other assessments, images provided by you or taken using trust photographic equipment, local authorities, the NHS, law enforcement agencies e.g. police, the Disclosure and Barring Service and the Department for Education.

Governors' data is essential for the trust's operational use. Whilst the majority of personal information you provide to us is mandatory, some of it may be requested on a voluntary basis. In order to comply with UK GDPR, we will inform you at the point of collection, whether you are required to provide certain information to us or if you have a choice in this.

## **5. How, where and for how long we store governors' information**

We store Governor information securely on the IT network [Closed based]. Secure storage is provided for paper based records.

We only keep the information for the length of time we need it for, as shown in our data retention schedule. For more information on our data retention, please contact the DPO.

We dispose of personal information securely when we no longer need it.

## **6. Who we share governors' information with**

We routinely share this information with:

- Our Local Authority
- The Department for Education inc. Teaching Regulation Agency
- Companies House
- Our Governing Body
- The Disclosure and Barring Service
- Our trust community (via the trust website)
- Governor Hub
- NGA
- The central team in our Trust

## **7. Why we share governors' information**

We do not share information about our Governors with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so.

## **8. Local Authority**

Where we are required to share information about trust governance with our Local Authority we do so under the terms of a Data Sharing Agreement viewable at

<https://schoolsnet.derbyshire.gov.uk/administration-services-and-support/information-governance/information-sharing.aspx>

## 9. Department for Education

The Department for Education (DfE) collects personal data from educational settings and local authorities. We are required to share information about individuals in governance roles with the Department for Education (DfE), under:

We are required to share information about individuals in governance roles with the (DfE) under the requirements set out in the Academy Trust Handbook

All data is entered manually on the GIAS system and held by DfE under a combination of software and hardware controls which meet the current government security policy framework.

To find out more about the data collection requirements placed on us by the Government and the Department for Education including the data that we share with them, go to [www.gov.uk/government/news/national-database-of-governors](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-database-of-governors).

The governance data that we lawfully share with the DfE via Get Information About Schools ( <https://get-information-schools.service.gov.uk/> ) :

- will increase the transparency of governance arrangements
- will enable maintained schools and academy trusts and the department to identify more quickly and accurately individuals who are involved in governance and who govern in more than one context
- allows the department to be able to uniquely identify an individual and in a small number of cases conduct checks to confirm their suitability for this important and influential role.

Note: Some of these personal data items are not publicly available and are encrypted within the GIAS system. Access is restricted to a small number of DfE staff who need to see it in order to fulfil their official duties. The information is for internal purposes only and not shared beyond the department, unless law allows it.

## 10. Companies House

Companies House is the registry for all UK limited companies, and academies are required to provide Companies House with information about the school's activities, annual accounts and who controls it. Academies must also give details of its directors (which are trustees who are responsible for running the company (which is the Trust). This collection of public information is commonly known as the Companies House register or 'public register'.

The Companies House register (<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/>) is available worldwide for the public to search online free of charge. Anybody who becomes a director or officer of a company must be prepared for some of their details to be made publicly available. It's important to understand what information academies have a duty to make available to the public.

What information is made public: name, nationality, occupation, date of birth (month and year), correspondence address (which will be the school address). Full date of birth and home address will also be provided; however, this information will not be available on the public register for everyone to see. It is kept on a private register and Companies House will only provide this information to credit reference agencies and specified public authorities, such as the police. In certain circumstances, you may be able to restrict the disclosure of your home address to credit reference agencies.

More information about this can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/your-personal-information-on-the-public-record-at-companies-house>

## 11. Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004

As a public body, our trust is subject to requests made under the above legislation. Therefore, we have a legal obligation to process any personal data we hold when considering requests under these laws.

For example, we may receive a request asking about numbers and/or roles of governors.

However, we will never disclose personal data in our responses to these requests where to do so would contravene the principles of data protection.

## 12. Requesting access to your personal data

Under data protection legislation, you have the right to request access to information about you that we hold. To make a request for your personal information, contact the Data Protection Officer.

You also have the right to:

- be informed about the collection and use of your personal data.
- rectification, ie to have inaccurate personal data rectified, or completed if it is incomplete.
- erasure, often known as the 'right to be forgotten'; however this does not apply where, amongst other things, processing is necessary to comply with a legal obligation.
- restrict processing, although, as above this is a limited right.
- object; though other than for marketing purposes, this is also limited as above.
  
- Where we rely on your consent to process your data, you have the right to revoke that consent. If you do change your mind, or you are unhappy with our use of your personal data, please let us know – our contacts are in section 14 of this document.
  
- You also have rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling, though these are not currently relevant
- Finally, the right to seek redress, either through the ICO, or through the courts

If you make a request, we will keep a record of the request and any personal data supplied for a suitable period after its fulfilment, in order to deal with any questions you, your representatives or regulators may have about it.

## 13. Last updated

We may need to update this privacy notice periodically, so we recommend that you revisit this information from time to time. This version was last updated on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

## 14. Contact

If you have a concern about the way we are collecting or using your personal data or you would like to discuss anything in this privacy notice, we ask that you raise your concern with us in the first instance.

Please contact the school Office or Headteacher:

**Data Protection Officer** Fran Cowell – Learners' Trust  
**DPO Email:** [GDPR@learnerstrust.org](mailto:GDPR@learnerstrust.org)  
**DPO Address:** Eckington Business Centre II, Gosber Street, Eckington, Sheffield, S21 4DA

For DfE:

Public Communications Unit,  
Department for Education,  
Sanctuary Buildings,  
Great Smith Street,  
London, SW1P 3BT

Website: [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)  
<https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

Email: <http://www.education.gov.uk>

Telephone: 0370 000 2288

If however you are dissatisfied with our response to your concerns you can of course contact the ICO quoting our ICO registration number ZA217497 and stating that the Data Controller is Learners' Trust.

Information Commissioners' Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 if you prefer to use a national rate number

Fax: 01625 524 510

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>