

Introduction

The Write Time (referred to as “TWT”) is required to keep and process certain information about its staff members, pupils, and learners per its legal obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

TWT may process personal data under the new lawful basis of 'recognised legitimate interests' as defined by DUA 2025. This includes processing necessary for innovation and service improvement, provided it does not override the rights and freedoms of individuals.

TWT may, from time to time, be required to share personal information about its staff or pupils with other organisations, mainly the LA, other schools and educational bodies, and potentially social services.

This policy is in place to ensure all staff (including all SLT) are aware of their responsibilities and outlines how the school complies with the following core principles of the GDPR.

Organisational methods for keeping data secure are imperative, and TWT believes that it is good practice to keep clear practical policies.

This policy complies with the requirements set out in the GDPR, which came into effect on 25 May 2018. The government have confirmed that the UK’s decision to leave the EU will not affect the commencement of the GDPR.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to the following:

1. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
2. The Freedom of Information Act 2000
3. The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 (as amended in 2016)
4. The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004
5. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy will also have regard to the following guidance:

1. Information Commissioner’s Office (2017) ‘Overview of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)’
2. Information Commissioner’s Office (2017) ‘Preparing for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 12 steps to take now

Applicable data

For this policy, personal data refers to information that relates to an identifiable, living individual, including information such as an online identifier, such as an IP address. The GDPR applies to both automated personal data and to manual filing systems, where personal data is accessible according to specific criteria, as well as to chronologically ordered data and pseudonymised data, e.g., key coded.

Sensitive personal data is referred to in the GDPR as 'special categories of personal data, which are broadly the same as those in the Data Protection Act (DPA) 1998. These specifically include the processing of genetic data, biometric data and data concerning health matters.

Principles

Under the requirements outlined in the GDPR, personal data will be:

- a. Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner concerning individuals.
- b. Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be incompatible with the initial purposes.
- c. Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
- d. Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that inaccurate personal data, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay.
- e. Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods, insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes, subject to the implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by the GDPR to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- f. Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

The GDPR also requires that "the controller shall be responsible for, and able to demonstrate, compliance with the principles".

TWT is committed to the protection of all personal and sensitive data for which it holds responsibility as the Data Controller and the handling of such data in line with the data protection principles and the Data Protection Act (DPA) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information, please refer to the ICO's guide to data protection principles - <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/data-protection-principles/> and section 1(4) of the DPA.

Accountability

1. TWT will implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to demonstrate that data is processed in line with the principles set out in the GDPR.
2. TWT will provide comprehensive, clear and transparent policies.

3. Records of activities relating to higher risk processing will be maintained, such as the processing of special categories data or that concerning criminal convictions and offences.
4. Internal records of processing activities will include the following:
 - I. Name and details of the organization
 - II. Purpose(s) of the processing
 - III. Description of the categories of individuals and personal data
Retention schedules
 - IV. Categories of recipients of personal data
 - V. Description of technical and organisational security measures
 - VI. Details of transfers to third countries, including documentation of the transfer mechanism
safeguards in place

TWT will implement measures that meet the principles of data protection by design and data protection by default, such as:

1. Data minimisation.
2. Pseudonymisation.
3. Transparency.
4. Allowing individuals to monitor processing.
5. Continuously creating and improving security features.

Data protection impact assessments will be used, where appropriate.

Data Protection Officer (DPO)

A DPO will be appointed to:

1. Inform and advise TWT and its employees about their obligations to comply with the GDPR and other data protection laws.
2. Monitor TWT's compliance with the GDPR and other laws, including managing internal data protection activities, advising on data protection impact assessments, conducting internal audits, and providing the required training to staff members.

An existing employee will be appointed to the role of DPO provided that their duties are compatible with the duties of the DPO and do not lead to a conflict of interests.

The DPO will report to the highest level of management at TWT, which is the Managing Director. The DPO will operate independently and will not be dismissed or penalised for performing their task. Sufficient resources will be provided to the DPO to enable them to meet their GDPR obligations.

The named DPO for TWT is Maria Shah.

Lawful processing

The legal basis for processing data will be identified and documented before data is processed. Under the GDPR, data will be lawfully processed under the following conditions:

1. The consent of the data subject has been obtained.
2. Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation; the performance of a task carried out in the public interest, or the exercise of official authority vested in the controller. For the performance of a contract with the data subject or to take steps to enter a contract.
3. Protecting the vital interests of a data subject or another person.
4. For legitimate interests pursued by the controller or a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests, rights or freedoms of the data subject.

Sensitive data will only be processed under the following conditions:

1. Explicit consent of the data subject, unless reliance on consent is prohibited by EU or Member State law.
2. Processing is carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided the processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes) and provided there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.
3. The processing relates to personal data manifestly made public by the data subject.

Processing is necessary for:

1. Carrying out obligations under employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement.
2. Protecting the vital interests of a data subject or another individual where the data subject is physically or legally incapable of giving consent.
3. The establishment, exercise or defense of legal claims or where courts are acting in their judicial capacity.
4. Reasons of substantial public interest based on Union or Member State law which is proportionate to the aim pursued and which contains appropriate safeguards.
5. The purposes of preventative or occupational medicine, are for assessing the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or management of health or social care systems and services based on Union or Member State law or a contract with a health professional.
6. Reasons of public interest in the area of public health, such as protecting against serious cross-border threats to health or ensuring high standards of healthcare and medicinal products or medical devices.
7. Archiving purposes in the public interest, or scientific and historical research purposes or statistical purposes under Article 89(1).

Consent

Consent must be a positive indication. It cannot be inferred from silence, inactivity or pre-ticked boxes.

Consent will only be accepted where it is freely given, specific, informed and an unambiguous indication of the individual's wishes.

Where consent is given, a record will be kept documenting how and when consent was given.

TWT ensures that consent mechanisms meet the standards of the GDPR. Where the standard of consent cannot be met, an alternative legal basis for processing the data must be found, or the processing must cease.

Consent accepted under the DPA will be reviewed to ensure it meets the standards of the GDPR; however, acceptable consent obtained under the DPA will not be reobtained.

Consent can be withdrawn by the individual at any time.

The consent of parents will be sought before the processing of a child's data, except where the processing is related to preventative or counselling services offered directly to a child.

The right to be informed.

The privacy notice supplied to individuals in regard to the processing of their personal data will be written in clear, plain language which is concise, transparent, easily accessible and free of charge.

If services are offered directly to a child, TWT will ensure that the privacy notice is written in a clear, plain manner that the child will understand.

Concerning data obtained both directly from the data subject and not obtained directly from the data subject, the following information will be supplied within the privacy notice:

1. The identity and contact details of the controller, and where applicable, the controller's representative and the DPO.
2. The purpose of, and the legal basis for, processing the data.
3. The legitimate interests of the controller or third party.
4. Any recipient or categories of recipients of the personal data.
5. Details of transfers to third countries and the safeguards in place.
6. The retention period criteria are used to determine the retention period.
7. The existence of the data subject's rights, including the right to:
 - I. Withdraw consent at any time.
 - II. Lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.
 - III. The existence of automated decision making, including profiling, how decisions are made, the significance of the process and the consequences.

Concerning data that is not obtained directly from the data subject, this information will be supplied:

1. Within one month of having obtained the data.
2. If disclosure to another recipient is envisaged, at the latest, before the data are disclosed.
3. If the data are used to communicate with the individual, at the latest, when the first communication takes place.

The right of access

Individuals have the right to obtain confirmation that their data is being processed.

Individuals have the right to submit a subject access request (SAR) to gain access to their personal data to verify the lawfulness of the processing.

TWT will verify the identity of the person requesting before any information is supplied.

A copy of the information will be supplied to the individual free of charge; however, the trust may impose a 'reasonable fee' to comply with requests for further copies of the same information.

Where a SAR has been made electronically, the information will be provided in a commonly used electronic format.

Where a request is manifestly unfounded, excessive or repetitive, a reasonable fee will be charged. All fees will be based on the administrative cost of providing the information. All requests will be responded to without delay and at the latest, within one month of receipt.

In the event of numerous or complex requests, the period of compliance will be extended by a further two months. The individual will be informed of this extension and will receive an explanation of why the extension is necessary, within one month of the receipt of the request.

Where a request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, the trust holds the right to refuse to respond to the request. The individual will be informed of this decision and the reasoning behind it, as well as their right to complain to the supervisory authority and a judicial remedy, within one month of the refusal.

If a large quantity of information is being processed about an individual, TWT will ask the individual to specify the information the request is about.

The right to rectification

Individuals are entitled to have any inaccurate or incomplete personal data rectified.

Where the personal data in question has been disclosed to third parties, the trust will inform them of the rectification where possible.

Where appropriate, TWT will inform the individual about the third parties to that the data has been disclosed.

Requests for rectification will be responded to within one month; this will be extended by two months when the request for rectification is complex.

Where no action is being taken in response to a request for rectification, the trust will explain the reason for this to the individual and will inform them of their right to complain to the supervisory authority and a judicial remedy.

The right to erasure

Individuals hold the right to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.

Individuals have the right to erasure in the following circumstances:

1. Where the personal data is no longer necessary concerning the purpose for which it was originally collected/processed.
2. When the individual withdraws their consent.
3. When the individual objects to the processing and there is no overriding legitimate interest in continuing the processing.
4. The personal data was unlawfully processed.
5. Personal data is required to be erased to comply with a legal obligation.
6. The personal data is processed concerning the offer of information society services to a child.

TWT has the right to refuse a request for erasure where the personal data is being processed for the following reasons:

1. To exercise the right of freedom of expression and information
2. To comply with a legal obligation for the performance of a public interest task or exercise of official authority
3. For public health purposes in the public interest
4. For archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific research, historical research or statistical purposes
5. The exercise or defense of legal claims

As a child may not fully understand the risks involved in the processing of data when consent is obtained, special attention will be given to existing situations where a child has given consent to processing and they later request the erasure of the data, regardless of age at the time of the request.

Where personal data has been disclosed to third parties, they will be informed about the erasure of the personal data, unless it is impossible or involves disproportionate effort to do so.

Where personal data has been made public within an online environment, TWT will inform other organisations who process the personal data to erase links to and copies of the personal data in question.

The right to restrict processing

Individuals have the right to block or suppress TWT's processing of personal data.

If processing is restricted, TWT will store the personal data, but not further process it, guaranteeing that just enough information about the individual has been retained to ensure that the restriction is respected in future.

TWT will restrict the processing of personal data in the following circumstances:

1. Where an individual contests the accuracy of the personal data, processing will be restricted until TWT has verified the accuracy of the data.
2. Where an individual has objected to the processing and TWT is considering whether their legitimate grounds override those of the individual.
3. Where the processing is unlawful, and the individual opposes erasure and requests restriction instead.
4. Where TWT no longer needs the personal data, but the individual requires the data to establish, exercise or defend a legal claim.
5. If the personal data in question has been disclosed to third parties, TWT will inform them about the restriction on the processing of the personal data, unless it is impossible or involves disproportionate effort to do so.

TWT will inform individuals when a restriction on processing has been lifted.

The right to data portability

Individuals have the right to obtain and reuse their personal data for their purposes across different services.

Personal data can be easily moved, copied or transferred from one IT environment to another safely and securely, without hindrance to usability.

The right to data portability only applies in the following cases:

1. To personal data that an individual has provided to a controller
2. Where the processing is based on the individual's consent or for the performance of a contract
3. When processing is carried out by automated means

Personal data will be provided in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable form. TWT will provide the information free of charge.

Where feasible, data will be transmitted directly to another organisation at the request of the individual.

TWT is not required to adopt or maintain processing systems which are technically compatible with other organisations.

If the personal data concerns more than one individual, TWT will consider whether providing the information would prejudice the rights of any other individual.

TWT will respond to any requests for portability within one month.

Where the request is complex, or several requests have been received, the timeframe can be extended by two months, ensuring that the individual is informed of the extension and the reasoning behind it within one month of the receipt of the request.

Where no action is being taken in response to a request, TWT will, without delay and at the latest within one month, explain to the individual the reason for this and will inform them of their right to complain to the supervisory authority and a judicial remedy.

The right to object

TWT will inform individuals of their right to object at the first point of communication, and this information will be outlined in the privacy notice and explicitly brought to the attention of the data subject, ensuring that it is presented clearly and separately from any other information.

Individuals have the right to object to the following:

1. Processing based on legitimate interests or the performance of a task in the public interest.
2. Direct marketing
3. Processing for purposes of scientific or historical research and statistics.

4. Where personal data is processed for the performance of a legal task or legitimate interests.

Privacy by design and privacy impact assessments

TWT will act under the GDPR by adopting a privacy-by-design approach and implementing technical and organisational measures which demonstrate how the trust has considered and integrated data protection into processing activities.

Data protection impact assessments (DPIAs) will be used to identify the most effective method of complying with the trust's data protection obligations and meeting individuals' expectations of privacy.

DPIAs will allow the trust to identify and resolve problems at an early stage, thus reducing associated costs and preventing damage from being caused to TWT's reputation which might otherwise occur.

A DPIA will be used when using new technologies or when the processing is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

A DPIA will be used for more than one project, where necessary. High-risk processing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Systematic and extensive processing activities, such as profiling
2. Large-scale processing of special categories of data or personal data which is concerning criminal convictions or offences

TWT will ensure that all DPIAs include the following information:

1. A description of the processing operations and the purposes.
2. An assessment of the necessity and proportionality of the processing in relation to the purpose.
3. An outline of the risks to individuals.
4. The measures implemented to address risk.

Where a DPIA indicates high-risk data processing, the trust will consult the ICO to seek its opinion as to whether the processing operation complies with the GDPR.

Data breaches

The term 'personal data breach' refers to a breach of security which has led to the destruction, loss, alteration, or unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data.

The Managing Director will ensure that all staff members are made aware of, and understand, what constitutes a data breach as part of their continuous development training.

Where a breach is likely to result in a risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, the relevant supervisory authority will be informed.

All notifiable breaches will be reported to the relevant supervisory authority within 72 hours of the trust becoming aware of them.

The risk of the breach having a detrimental effect on the individual, and the need to notify the relevant supervisory authority, will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

If a breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of an individual, TWT will notify those concerned directly.

A 'high risk' breach means that the threshold for notifying the individual is higher than that for notifying the relevant supervisory authority.

If a breach is sufficiently serious, the public will be notified without undue delay.

Effective and robust breach detection, investigation and internal reporting procedures are in place at TWT, which facilitate decision-making about whether the relevant supervisory authority or the public need to be notified.

Within a breach notification, the following information will be outlined:

1. The nature of the personal data breach, including the categories and approximate number of individuals and records concerned.
2. The name and contact details of the DPO
3. An explanation of the likely consequences of the personal data breach
4. A description of the proposed measures to be taken to deal with the personal data breach.

Data security

Confidential paper records will be kept in a locked filing cabinet, drawer or safe, with restricted access.

Confidential paper records will not be left unattended or in clear view anywhere with general access.

Digital data is coded, encrypted or password-protected, both on a local hard drive and on a network drive that is regularly backed up off-site.

Where data is saved on removable storage or a portable device, the device will be kept in a locked filing cabinet, drawer or safe when not in use.

Memory sticks will not be used to hold personal information unless they are password-protected and fully encrypted.

All electronic devices are password-protected to protect the information on the device in case of theft.

Staff will not use their laptops or computers for TWT purposes, and only staff members are to use their staff computers. Staff computers must never be used by learners or external third parties.

All necessary members of staff are provided with their secure login and password, and every computer regularly prompts users to change their password.

Emails containing sensitive or confidential information are password-protected if there are unsecure servers between the sender and the recipient.

Circular emails to parents are sent blind carbon copy (bcc), so email addresses are not disclosed to other recipients. Where personal information that could be considered private or confidential is taken off the premises, either in electronic or paper format, staff will take extra care to follow the same procedures for security, e.g. keeping devices under lock and key. The person taking the information from the trust premises accepts full responsibility for the security of the data.

Before sharing data, all staff members will ensure:

1. They are allowed to share it.
2. That adequate security is in place to protect it.
3. Who will receive the data has been outlined in a privacy notice.

Under no circumstances are visitors allowed access to confidential or personal information. Visitors to areas of TWT containing sensitive information are always supervised.

The physical security of TWT's buildings and storage systems, and access to them, is reviewed on a termly basis. If an increased risk of vandalism/burglary/theft is identified, extra measures to secure data storage will be put in place.

TWT takes its duties under the GDPR seriously and any unauthorised disclosure may result in disciplinary action.

The Data Protection Officer is responsible for continuity and recovery measures in place to ensure the security of protected data.

Publication of information

TWT will not publish any personal information, including photos, on its website without the express written permission of the affected individual.

When uploading information to the TWT website, staff are considerate of any metadata or deletions which could be accessed in documents and images on the site.

CCTV and photography

TWT understands that recording images of identifiable individuals constitutes the processing of personal information, so it is done in line with data protection principles.

TWT notifies all pupils, staff and visitors of the purpose of collecting CCTV images via notices on display around the whole school site.

Cameras are only placed where they do not intrude on anyone's privacy and are necessary to fulfil their purpose.

TWT will always indicate its intentions for taking photographs of pupils and will retrieve permission before publishing them.

If TWT wishes to use images/video footage of pupils in a publication, such as the TWT website, prospectus, or recordings of school events, written permission will be sought for the particular usage from the parent of the pupil.

Images captured by individuals for recreational/personal purposes, and videos made by parents for family use, are exempt from the GDPR.

Data retention

Data will not be kept for longer than necessary. Unrequired data will be deleted as soon as practicable.

Some educational records relating to former pupils or employees of TWT may be kept for an extended period for legal reasons, but also to enable the provision of references or academic transcripts.

Paper documents will be shredded or pulped, and electronic memories scrubbed clean or destroyed, once the data should no longer retained.

Please refer to the 'Data retention and archiving' policy.

DBS data

All data provided by the DBS will be handled in line with data protection legislation; this includes electronic communication.

Data provided by the DBS will never be duplicated.

Any third parties who access DBS information will be made aware of the data protection legislation, as well as their responsibilities as data handlers.

Automated decision making (ADM)

Restrictions on automated decision-making have been lifted under DUAA 2025. TWT may use automated systems for decision-making where appropriate, ensuring transparency and fairness, and providing individuals with the right to request human intervention.

Cookie Usage

DUAA 2025 permits the use of certain cookies without explicit consent. TWT will ensure that only essential and analytics cookies are used without consent, and users will be informed via the website's cookie policy.

Data Protection Complaints Procedure

TWT has a formal complaints procedure. Individuals may submit complaints via email to the Data Protection Officer (DPO) and action will follow the 'Complaints' policy and procedure.