



Records Retention Policy

Retention Guidelines

The purpose of the retention guidelines under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, schools are required to maintain a retention schedule listing the record series which the school creates in the course of its business. The retention schedule lays down the length of time which the record needs to be retained and the action which should be taken when it is of no further administrative use. The retention schedule lays down the basis for normal processing under both the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Members of staff are expected to manage their current record keeping systems using the retention schedule and to take account of the different kinds of retention periods when they are creating new record keeping systems. The retention schedule refers to records regardless of the media in which they are stored.

Benefits of a retention schedule

There are a number of benefits which arise from the use of a complete retention schedule. Managing records against the retention schedule is deemed to be "normal processing" under the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Members of staff should be aware that once a Freedom of Information request is received or a legal hold imposed then records disposal relating to the request or legal hold must be stopped.

Members of staff can be confident about safe disposal information at the appropriate time. Information which is subject to Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation will be available when required. The school is not maintaining and storing information unnecessarily.

Maintaining and amending the retention schedule

Where appropriate the retention schedule should be reviewed and amended to include any new record series created and remove any obsolete record series. This retention schedule contains recommended retention periods for the different record series created and maintained by schools in the course of their business. The schedule refers to all information regardless of the media in which it is stored.

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

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

Using the Retention Schedule

The Retention schedule is divided into five sections:

1. Pupil Management
2. Human Resources
3. Financial Management of the School
4. Management of the School/School Administration
5. Health and Safety

TYPE OF RECORD	RETENTION PERIOD
1. Pupil Management	
Register of Admissions	Whilst pupil remains at school
Pupil Record	Until pupil leaves the school. Transfer records to next school.
Special Educational Needs files, reviews and individual education plans (this includes any EHCP and all advice and information shared regarding educational needs).	All records sent to next school where receipt is recorded - where they should be held for 25 years. In school we will keep our records for an additional 4 years from pupils end date.
Child Protection (see GDPR)	Records stored on CPOMS. All records sent to next school where receipt is recorded - where they should be held for 25 years. In school we will keep our records for an additional 4 year from pupils end date.
Child Protection - Allegations of child protection against a member of staff, including unfounded allegations	Until the staff member's normal retirement age, or 10 years from the date of the allegation, whichever is later.
Safeguarding Records	Records stored on CPOMS. All records sent to next school where receipt is recorded - where they should be held for 25 years. In school we will keep our records for an additional 4 year from pupils end date.
Attendance Registers	Whilst pupil remains in school + 4 years.
Free School Meals Register (Pupil Premium)	Whilst pupil remains in school + 4 years.
Records of educational visits	If there was an incident on the visit, retain the permission slips for all pupils and the incident report in the pupil record, or until the pupil reaches the age of 25. If no incident, safely dispose after trip.
2. Human Resources	
Job applications and interview records of unsuccessful candidates	Six months after notifying candidates.
Job applications and interview records of successful candidates	Six years after employment ceases.
Written particulars of employment, contracts of employment and changes to terms and conditions	Six years after employment ceases.
Right to work documentation including identification documents	Two years after employment ceases.
Immigration checks	Two years after employment ceases.
DBS checks and disclosures of criminal records forms	As soon as practicable after the check has been completed and the outcome recorded (ie whether it

	is satisfactory or not) unless in exceptional circumstances (for example to allow for consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints) in which case, for no longer than 1 year.
Change of person details notification	No longer than 6 months after receiving this notification.
Emergency contact details	Six years after employment ceases.
Personnel records	While employment continues and 6 years after employment ceases.
Training records	Until training expires
Annual leave records	Current year + 6 years.
Consents for the processing of personal and sensitive data	Current year + 6 years
Allegations of a child protection nature against a member of staff including where the allegation is founded	10 years from date of allegation or the person's normal retirement age (whichever is longer). This should be kept under review. Malicious allegations should be removed.
Disciplinary records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral warning - date of warning + 6 months • First written warning - date of warning + 12 months • Final warning - date of warning + 12 months • Case not found - dispose of at conclusion of process unless child protection related where need to follow the above entry re: child protection allegations
Records relating to overtime, and hours worked and payments made to staff	Permanently archived by payroll provider
3. Financial Management of School	
Financial records	Current year + 6 years
Contracts	6 years from the last payment on the contract
VAT records	6 years from the end of the financial year
Pension records	Managed by Cornwall Council
Retirement benefits schemes - notifiable events (for example, relating to incapacity)	Managed by Cornwall Council
Payroll records	Managed by Cornwall Council
Maternity/Adoption/Paternity Leave records	Managed by Cornwall Council
Statutory Sick Pay	Managed by Cornwall Council
4. Management of the School/School Administration	
School Development Plans	3 years from the life of the plan
Appraisal Cycle	6 years from the completed cycle
Letters to staff, parents/carers and pupils	Current + 3 years
School & staff emails	3 years and then auto-delete
Census returns	Current year + 6 years
5. Health and Safety Records	
Health and Safety Risk Assessments	Current year + 4 years
Records relating to any reportable accident, death or injury in connection with work	Date of incident + 12 years from the date the Report was made. In the case of serious accidents this time period will need to be extended further.
Accident reporting	Adults - 3 years from the date of the incident.

	Children - until the child turns 25. Completed via Assessnet - Cornwall Council
Fire precaution log books	Current + 6 years
Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH)	Current year + 10 years - majority held by Cleanforce
Secondary school work experience	The day they leave our school
Volunteers & student teachers	The day they leave + 1 year
Accessibility plans	Life of plan + 6 years
6. Governance records	
Admissions	6 years from the admission date
Attendance registers	6 years from the date of entry
Headteacher report to governors	10 years
Curricular record	At least 1 year
Governor minutes	One copy to be retained for life of the school
Risk assessment of educational visit	Current year + 4 years

Review

This policy will be reviewed as appropriate by staff and governors.

Reviewed March 2026

Next to be reviewed September 2027