DATA PROTECTION POLICY 2026-2027

Date Agreed:	**September 2026**
Review Date:	**September 2027**
Type of Policy:	**DCAT Statutory Policy**

Revision Number	Date Issued	Prepared by	Approved	Personalised by school	Comments
7	Jan 25	Handsam / JS	ARC	September 2025	Added WhatsApp information to section 28 / AI Added to section 34
6	Oct 2024	Handsam / JW	Audit & Risk Committee		Policy was sent to Handsam (DPO) to review & add to where applicable
5	Sept 2022	Handsam / JS	Trust Board		Handsam (DPO) model policy adapted for Trust
4	June 2021	DCAT	Trust Board		DPO
3	June 2020	CF			DPO
2	May 2018	SJP/DC			JUDICIUM
1	May 2017	SJP	DCAT Directors		

Contents

Introduction 1

UK GDPR Adequacy Decision 2

1. Policy Aims 3

2. What is Personal Data and Sensitive Personal Data 3

3. Lawful Processing 4

4. Data Subjects 4

5. Data Held 4

6. Responsible Persons 5

Data Controller 5

Data Protection Manager (SBM) 5

7. ICO Registration 6

8. Access to Information 6

9. Safe and Secure Storage of Files and Data 8

10. Documentation and Record Keeping 9

11. Right to Rectification 9

12. Right to Portability 9

13. Data Protection on the Move 9

14. Data Retention 10

15. Privacy Notices 10

16. Data Destruction 10

17. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) 11

18. Breaches 11

Internal Breach Register 11

Notification of Breaches to the ICO 11

19. Staff Recruitment 12

Checks 12

Shortlisting 13

Interviews 13

Retention of Information 13

20. Successful Candidates 13

References 13

Gaining Consent 14

21. Employment Records 14

22. Pension and Insurance Schemes 14

23. Equal Opportunities Monitoring 14
24. Marketing Material 14
25. Fraud Detection 15
26. Disclosure Requests 15
27. Performance Management Records 15
28. Monitoring the Use of Electronic Communications 15
WhatsApp 16
29. Information about Employees' Health 17
30. Sickness and Ill-Health Records 17
31. Occupational Health Schemes 18
32. Medical Examinations 18
Recruitment 18
Current Employees 18
33. Monitoring and Review 19
34. AI in Education 19
Appendix 1: Roles 21
Appendix 2: Privacy Notice 22
Appendix 3: Data Protection Impact Assessment Template 23
Appendix 4: Legitimate Interest Assessment Template 24

Introduction

Our **vision** for our Trust is we exist to:

Help every child achieve their God-given potential

Our **aims** are clear. We aim to be a Trust in which:

Developing the whole child means pupils achieve and maximise their potential

Continued development of staff is valued and improves education for young people

All schools are improving and perform above national expectations

The distinct Christian identity of each academy develops and is celebrated

Our work as a Trust is underpinned by shared **values**. They are taken from the Church of England's vision for Education and guide the work of Trust Centre team. They are:

Aspiration
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me
(Philippians 4 vs 13).

Wisdom
Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise
(Proverbs 19 vs 20)

Respect
So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you
(Matthew 7 vs 12)

Our vision of helping every child achieve their God-given potential is aligned with the Church of England's vision for education and is underpinned by the Bible verse from John: *I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full*.

UK GDPR Adequacy Decision

On 28th June 2021, the European Union (EU) formally recognised the UK's high data protection standards after more than a year of talks. This will allow the continued seamless flow of personal data from the EU to the UK. This means that if your educational facility receives personal data from the EU or EEA it can continue to flow as before and you do not need to take further action, unless the data falls within the scope of the DPA 2018 immigration exemption.

The EU GDPR is an EU Regulation and it no longer applies to the UK. If you operate inside the UK, you need to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018).

In practice, there will be very little change to the core data protection principles, rights, and obligations. Schools will not need to make any new arrangements if they currently transfer data from the UK to the EEA. Unless your facility holds or processes data transferred for the purposes of immigration control (or data that otherwise falls within the UK immigration exemption), data can still flow freely from the EEA.

The UK will retain this status for four years, but the European commission warned that it could be withdrawn at any time if UK law was no longer deemed to offer EU citizens protection over how their data was used.

Only 12 countries, including Canada, Switzerland and New Zealand, have received positive adequacy decisions from the EU. The US was judged "partially adequate", but this decision was overturned twice by the European court of justice.

1. Policy Aims

Personal data of employees and candidates will be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes. The data retained will be accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date, in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary and processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures.

2. What is Personal Data and Sensitive Personal Data

The ICO defines Personal Data as:

- Personal data is information that relates to an identified or identifiable individual.
- What identifies an individual could be as simple as a name or a number or could include other identifiers such as an IP address or a cookie identifier, or other factors.
- If it is possible to identify an individual directly from the information you are processing, then that information may be personal data.
- If you cannot directly identify an individual from that information, then you need to consider whether the individual is still identifiable. You should consider the information you are processing together with all the means reasonably likely to be used by either you or any other person to identify that individual.

The ICO defines Sensitive Personal Data (also known as 'Special Category Data') as:

- Special category data is personal data that needs more protection because it is sensitive.
- In order to lawfully process special category data, you must identify both a lawful basis under Article 6 of the UK GDPR and a separate condition for processing under Article 9. These do not have to be linked.
- There are 10 conditions for processing special category data in Article 9 of the UK GDPR (see 'Lawful Processing' below).
- You must determine your condition for processing special category data before you begin this processing under the UK GDPR, and you should document it.

3. Lawful Processing

Article 9 of the Data Protection Act 2018 prohibits the processing of Sensitive Personal Data (also known as 'Special Category Data). There are 10 exceptions to this general prohibition, usually referred to as 'conditions for processing special category data':

(a) Explicit consent
(b) Employment, social security and social protection (if authorised by law)
(c) Vital interests
(d) Not-for-profit bodies
(e) Made public by the data subject
(f) Legal claims or judicial acts
(g) Reasons of substantial public interest (with a basis in law)
(h) Health or social care (with a basis in law)
(i) Public health (with a basis in law)
(j) Archiving, research and statistics (with a basis in law)

Five of the conditions only apply if processing has an authorisation or basis in UK law as set out in the Data Protection Act 2018.

To meet its obligations, The Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT) will keep a record of all types of data, the purposes for which it is kept and the conditions under which it is being lawfully processed. This will be done using the template in Appendix 6: Legitimate Interest Template, which must be reviewed three times per year for veracity and any necessary changes made by the Data Protection Manager, Mandy Hardes (SBM).

4. Data Subjects

DCAT is responsible for all data held within its remit for any Data Subject, which may include, but not be limited to, those natural persons, such as:

- Staff
- Members, Trustees and Governors
- Trust Employees
- Pupils
- Parents
- Carers
- Emergency Contacts
- Contractors

5. Data Held

DCAT holds data in a wide range of forms and formats, which may include, but not be limited to:

- Hard copy
- Electronically in Trust and Sedlescombe CE Primary School systems
- Electronically in third party systems

6. Responsible Persons

Data Controller
The Data Controller of DCAT Sedlescombe CE Primary School is responsible for:

- The adherence to data protection law and the safety of processing activities on site.
- Ensuring safe and confidential systems are in place in Sedlescombe CE Primary School and consulting the Data Protection Officer, Handsam Ltd, in the implementation, development and monitoring of data processing activities.
- Advising school leaders and staff about their data obligations
- Monitoring compliance
- Conducting regular data audits
- Developing and updating data protection policies and procedures
- Monitoring who in the school has access to personal data
- Advising when data protection impact assessments are needed
- Answering data protection enquiries from staff, parents and pupils
- Making sure privacy notices are regularly reviewed and updated
- Supporting and advising staff who have data protection queries
- Communicating with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
- Reporting to the governing board or trustees about data protection
- Advising the governing board or trustees on data protection risks
- Advising on and co-ordinating responses to information rights requests
- Making sure all assets containing personal data are appropriately managed and secure

Data Protection Manager (SBM)

- Will ensure that high standards of data security and confidentially are always maintained on site.
- Will coordinate, monitor, and oversee appropriate training in data management and encourage a positive data culture.
- Will consult with employees and their representatives regarding putting data protection procedures in place and monitoring them.
- Will ensure all staff are aware of Sedlescombe's data on the move procedures; and
- Will advise on data issues and will assess the severity of data breaches and respond accordingly.

7. ICO Registration

DCAT as a Data Controller will register with the ICO and pay the relevant fee. The ICO certificate shall be shared with all schools to be displayed at reception. The ICO's processes for renewal shall be followed each year. See: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-fee/ and shall not be allowed to lapse.

8. Access to Information

All employees have a right to know the nature and source of information kept about them. Each member of staff at Sedlescombe CE Primary School will be provided with personal details to check regularly at times determined by the Data Protection Manager. The contract-based Privacy Notice will also serve as a referenceable document for this information.

Any person who is a Data Subject may make a Subject Access Request at any other time to see the information kept about them and to verify accuracy. Data Subjects can make representations to the Data Protection Manager about information being retained that is inaccurate or is of a sensitive personal nature.

Individuals can make a SAR in any format. They could make a verbal request, or a written request via a letter, text, or email. Once an individual has made a request, you cannot ask them to change the format they made the request in.

Employees have the right to apply for access to information required for a discipline, capability or grievance hearing (unless the provision of such information might prejudice criminal investigation). The records kept should only be sufficient to support conclusions drawn. Unsubstantiated allegations should be removed.

Spent discipline warnings will be retained on the member of staff's personnel file.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School will respond to any Subject Access Request without undue delay and provide information within one month free of charge. Requests must be made in writing.

Where requests from a data subject are manifestly unfounded or excessive, in particular because of their repetitive character, Sedlescombe CE Primary School reserves the right to either:

(a) charge a reasonable fee taking into account the administrative costs of providing the information or communication or taking the action requested; or

(b) refuse to act on the request.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School shall bear the burden of demonstrating the manifestly unfounded or excessive character of the request. Additional terms for exemptions of requests have been added by the *Data Protection Act 2018*, including child protection data, data which can cause serious harm to a subject or data active in court proceedings. A decision to deny a request or impose a fee will be reasoned and the subject notified within one month of receipt.

Where Sedlescombe CE Primary School has reasonable doubts concerning the identity of the natural person making the request, the controller may request the provision of additional information necessary to confirm the identity of the data subject.

A requester can ask for any personal data that relates to:

- Themselves;
- Someone they have parental responsibility for; and
- Someone they have permission to act on behalf of.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School is aware that a child can request access to information about themselves from any education setting that holds data about them and does not have to be a certain age to make a SAR.

If the young person is under 13 and is making their own request, Sedlescombe CE Primary School will need to consider whether they will be able to understand your response, but this shouldn't be a barrier to supplying them with their information.

If the young person is over 13, Sedlescombe CE Primary School will treat the request the same way as if an adult made it, provided there are no issues with the child's competency.

Parents or carers can also make a SAR on behalf of a young person. If the young person is 13 or over, check whether they are happy for their personal data to be shared with their parent or carer.

When a child of any age submits a SAR, you should assess if they can understand the information they will receive in response to their request.

All SARs will be dealt with in accordance to the DfE guidance Data protection in schools (updated April 2024)

Individuals, including children, have several information rights relating to personal data Sedlescombe CE Primary School may hold about them.

Information rights request that someone might make include asking to:

- Change inaccurate personal information you hold about them;
- Remove their personal information or record;
- Restrict the processing of their personal information; and
- Stop processing their personal information (right to object.)

Sedlescombe CE Primary School can receive an information rights request relating to personal data either verbally or in writing, including through social media.

Unless there's a valid reason, Sedlescombe CE Primary School will respond to any information rights request within one calendar month. If the case is complex Sedlescombe CE Primary School can extend the response deadline by an extra 2 calendar months.

Information rights requests only apply to the personal data you hold when Sedlescombe CE Primary School gets the request.

Individuals have the right to request changes or restrictions to personal information, but Sedlescombe CE Primary School is not obliged to make changes to data in certain circumstances.

All information rights requests will be dealt with in accordance to the DfE guidance Data protection in schools (updated April 2024)

9. Safe and Secure Storage of Files and Data

The Data Protection Manager will take necessary precautions to ensure that both electronic and manual files are secure. This shall include password protection and encryption as standard on all devices which hold or have access to personal or sensitive personal data as defined under the Data protection Act 2018.

No manual or electronic files will be taken off the premises except in an emergency, or when expressly authorised by the Data Protection Manager, who will ensure that employees who are affected are notified and given an opportunity to make representations to him/her. This includes information held on personal computers and portable computing devices, including mobile phones and memory sticks. This list is not exclusive.

Manual files will be stored in a safe and secure lockable cabinet at all times. Sedlescombe CE Primary School will adopt the National Cyber Security Centre's guidance *10 Steps to Cyber Security* in the safe and secure storage of electronic files and data. Sedlescombe CE Primary School will therefore:

- Protect networks from attack and monitor and test security controls in place to achieve this;
- Ensure users are educated, trained and aware;
- Produce and establish anti-malware defences across the school;
- Produce a policy to control all access to removable media;
- Apply security patches and ensure secure configuration of all systems is maintained;

- Establish effective management processes, limit user privileges and monitor user activity appropriately;
- Establish an incident response and disaster recovery capability;
- Establish an effective monitoring strategy of all systems and networks; and
- **Develop and implement a policy on the use of mobile phones and train staff to adhere to it.**

In June 2023, the government issued the guidance Cyber crime and cyber security: a guide for education providers. The guide aims to help raise education provider's awareness of cyber crime and cyber security. It covers:

- Common attacks;
- Cyber crime: what education providers can do;
- Cyber security: checklist for providers; and
- Ten cyber security tests for the wider business

10. Documentation and Record Keeping

Under the *General Data Protection Regulation* and the *Data Protection Act 2018,* records of processing must be retained. Sedlescombe CE Primary School will hold compliant and comprehensive processing records in relevant fields, covering the nature of the data, the purposes of processing, any recipients, security measures, retention times and controller information.

11. Right to Rectification

Sedlescombe CE Primary School shall ensure that any request by a Data Subject to have incorrect data held rectified shall be delivered in a timely manner, in a period not longer than 28 days. This process shall be managed by the Data Protection Manager.

12. Right to Portability

Sedlescombe CE Primary School shall ensure that any request by a Data Subject to have data held about them moved to a third party takes place in a timely manner between the parties involved and by a safe and secure transfer method, to be agreed between the parties involved.

13. Data Protection on the Move

The loss of data outside the immediate school environment can be the most serious and costly.

The Data Protection Manager of Sedlescombe CE Primary School will ensure that all staff are aware of the dangers of taking data off the school's immediate environment and are aware of the procedures in place to minimise the risk.

All devices storing data such as laptops and any work phones must be password protected and data encrypted. Staff will not remove any more data than is necessary from the Sedlescombe CE Primary School premises and will consult the Data Protection Manager regarding the specific data movement requirements of their role.

14. Data Retention

The Trust and its schools will adhere to all specified data retention periods. To achieve this the Trust will follow the timeframes specified in the document 'IRMS Retention Policy', the most recent version of which is to be found:
https://irms.org.uk/page/SchoolsToolkit
This process will also serve to cause the Data Minimisation required by the Data protection Act 2018 to take place.

15. Privacy Notices

As required by the Data Protection Act 2018, Sedlescombe CE Primary School will display a Privacy Notice, or reference to where it can be read, at all points that data can be collected or displayed, including, but restricted to:

- Website
- Online systems
- Staff contracts
- Student/Parents forms
- Recruitment forms

16. Data Destruction

Sedlescombe CE Primary School will ensure that once a specified data retention period has passed that all such data is safely destroyed. Processes shall include:

- For physical documents: Shredding
- For digital data: Wiping with confirmation statement/certificate to be held in perpetuity
- For disposal of IT equipment of any kind: Use of an accredited specialist provider with confirmation statement/certificate to be held in perpetuity

The Data Protection Manager shall take charge of ensuring that all aspects of data across all areas of the organisation are considered for this process once per term (i.e. three times per year).

17. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

Each time the Trust or Sedlescombe CE Primary School or any of its staff consider changing or introducing a practice for managing data in any form, a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) shall be conducted using the form at Appendix 2. Such assessment will also include an Equality assessment in line with the Trust and Sedlescombe CE Primary School Equality Policy.

18. Breaches

All staff and other covered by this policy must report data breaches of any kind, no matter how small or unsubstantial they appear, via the Handsam Breach Log. This will be flagged to the Data Protection Manager of Sedlescombe CE Primary School Advice, if required, will be sought from the Trust DPO, Handsam Ltd.

Data breaches which pose a risk to individuals must be notified to the supervisory authority within 72 hours and the affected individuals without undue delay. If there is a delay this must be justified.

The of Data Protection Manager Sedlescombe CE Primary School shall ensure that all the affected individuals are informed in writing or by telephone and then in writing, if that is deemed to be the best way of getting the information to them quickly.

Internal Breach Register

The Data Protection Manager of Sedlescombe CE Primary School shall be responsible for the internal Breach Register, held on Handsam.

This register shall be reviewed regularly to aid the improvement of data processing and practice.

Notification of Breaches to the ICO

Data breaches which pose a risk to individuals must be notified to the supervisory authority within 72 hours and the affected individuals without undue delay. If there is a delay this must be justified.

An assessment tool of what should be reported to the ICO can be found on their website: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/report-a-breach/personal-data-breach/

The Data Protection Manager of Sedlescombe CE Primary School shall ensure that the ICO are formally informed of any substantial breach by calling the ICO helpline – **0303 123 1113** or completing the online form Report a personal data breach - online form | ICO

The information which will need to be provided includes:

- What has happened;
- When and how you found out about the breach;
- The people that have been or may be affected by the breach;
- What you are doing because of the breach; and
- Who we should contact if we need more information and who else you have told.

The information provided shall be both accurate and fulsome.

The ICO will send a copy of the information submitted in writing, which should be filed alongside the Internal Breach Register to form a Substantive Breach Register.

19. Staff Recruitment

In advertising for posts, Sedlescombe CE Primary School will include a Privacy Notice detailing what personal data or sensitive personal data will be gathered, how it will be held, processed and disposed of. The notice will also inform individuals of their data rights.

Within Sedlescombe CE Primary School, the Data Protection Manager will determine who may have limited access to this information and will inform the person(s) concerned that this is being done.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School will not collect more personal information than is necessary for the recruitment process. Information collected will not be irrelevant or excessive.

Checks

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks will be carried out in line with statutory responsibilities under the *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006,* as amended by the *Protection of Freedoms Act 2012* and statutory guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education*.

Any other vetting which is required by law will be carried out as necessary and in line with current legislation and policy.

Checks to verify the qualifications and fitness to teach (or to support teaching) will also be carried out. Other checks may be carried out to verify information provided by candidates for posts.

Shortlisting
Candidates will be informed that the selection panel will have access to the information provided in the application and any references/testimonials received.

Interviews
Only the information relevant to the recruitment process (and information that may be required in defence against any discrimination claims) will be retained confidentially on the individual's personnel file. They will also be told that they can obtain copies from the Data Protection Manager of any panel interview notes concerning them personally that are retained by the school.

All other interview material will be destroyed immediately after the interview.

Retention of Information
The information of unsuccessful candidates obtained for recruitment purposes at Sedlescombe CE Primary School will be retained for 6 months before secure disposal.

All candidates will be asked whether they want their information kept on file for possible future vacancies. Consent to this will be in an auditable form.

20. Successful Candidates

On assumption of a role at Sedlescombe CE Primary School the forms of personal data which will need to be processed and gathered for the performance of the role will be outlined to the individual in a Privacy Notice within their contract. This data will include verified references and an up-to-date DBS check. This data will be securely held and subject to the following employee data retention periods – personnel files will be retained for 6 years from the date of resignation.

A secure central record that will list all checks carried out will be kept for the purposes of inspection and to assure governors that records have been checked.

References
Candidates do not have the right to obtain access to a confidential reference from the school/organisation giving it, but no such exemption exists for the prospective employer.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School will not provide confidential references to other institutions/organisations about an employee at Sedlescombe CE Primary School, unless the employee requests one in writing for good reason.

Gaining Consent

Where required, requests for consent to personal data processing will be intelligible, easily accessible, in plain language and with the purpose for the data processing stated and evident. Consent will cover all processing activities carried out for the same purpose or purposes. When the processing has multiple purposes, consent will be gathered for all of them.

Consent gathered will be held securely in a clear and auditable form. Subjects will be able to be withdraw consent through the same medium it was given. If consent is withdrawn, this does not necessarily make the processing unlawful, this must be noted if applicable in the consent request.

21. Employment Records

Sedlescombe CE Primary School aims to balance its need to keep records and the employee's right to a private life.

22. Pension and Insurance Schemes

Information may be supplied to a third party for pensions and insurance schemes, where such information is necessary. Consent will be secured from employees concerned and processing agreements established with third parties detailing how data will be secured and processed.

23. Equal Opportunities Monitoring

Information on staff is periodically required by the government This is sensitive personal data, and the information will be kept to a minimum, and as far as possible, in an anonymous form. The Data Protection Manager will ensure that high standards of data security and confidentiality are always maintained. Staff will have full awareness of this form of personal data processing on assumption of job role through contract and Privacy Notice.

24. Marketing Material

No information about employees at Sedlescombe CE Primary School will be provided to marketing companies, unless the person(s) concerned have given explicit and auditable consent.

25. Fraud Detection

Data matching for fraud detection (e.g. to detect whether the employee is receiving state benefits or not) are possible. Before the employer consents to the school participating in such a scheme, the staff will be consulted. New employees must then be told of this scheme, and all employees should be reminded of it periodically under arrangements made by the Data Protection Manager and approved by the employer.

26. Disclosure Requests

Members of staff who receive requests for references or other information about members of the current or previous employees at Sedlescombe CE Primary School should inform the Data Protection Manager before providing the information to ensure that they are acting within the law and official guidance.

27. Performance Management Records

Performance reviews will be carried out on all staff in accordance with the DCAT Performance Management Review (Appraisal) Policy.

The reports on teaching staff performance obtained through the annual formal performance management system will be retained by the Headteacher (with a copy to the member of staff concerned). Only details about professional development needs/requests may be shared with other staff.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School has the same arrangements in place for performance records of all staff.

28. Monitoring the Use of Electronic Communications

The Trust will keep all monitoring at work within the provisions of the *General Data Protection Regulation 2016* and the *Data Protection Act 2018.*

Sedlescombe CE Primary School will not intrude into the private lives of staff but reserves the right to monitor the use of all electronic devices issued or made available by the Sedlescombe CE Primary School, such as school computers, laptops, video and audio machines, phones and fax machines. This will only be done where there is a good reason to do so and appropriate records will be kept, which can be accessed by staff (and pupils) on request to the Data Protection Manager.

All monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the powers of an employer under the *Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000,* which permits an employer to vet communications without the consent of the caller, writer or recipient where the intention is:

- To establish the existence of facts applicable to the business;
- To ascertain compliance with regulatory or self-regulatory practices or procedures which are applicable to the system controller in the carrying on of his business, or applicable to another person in the carrying on of his business where that person is supervised by the system controller in respect of those practices or procedures;
- To ascertain or demonstrate the standards which are achieved or ought to be achieved by persons using the system during their duties;
- In the interest of national security;
- For the purpose of preventing or detecting crime;
- For the purpose of investigating or detecting the unauthorised use of that or any other telecommunication system;
- In order to secure or as an inherent part of the effective operation of the system;
- Monitoring communications for the purpose of determining whether they are communications relevant to the system controller's business; and
- Monitoring communications made to a confidential voice-telephony counselling or support service which is free of charge (other than the cost, if any, of making a telephone call) and operated in such a way that users may remain anonymous if they so choose.

All staff are advised that such monitoring might take place at Sedlescombe CE Primary School for these purposes including for the misuse of Sedlescombe CE Primary School equipment or its use for inappropriate purposes.

The employer will establish with the Data Protection Manager, after consultation with the staff, a policy on how telephones/fax and computers may be used for any private communications. Breach of this code once established will be a discipline offence.

WhatsApp

To ensure compliance with data protection regulations and to protect the privacy of our students, staff, and stakeholders, Sedlescombe CE Primary School prohibits the use of WhatsApp for any professional internal and external work-related communications. This decision is based on the following considerations:

1. **GDPR Compliance**: WhatsApp is not designed for business use and does not meet the stringent requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

2. **Data Security**: WhatsApp lacks the necessary controls to ensure the secure handling of sensitive information.
3. **Audit and Accountability**: WhatsApp does not provide an adequate audit trail for communications.
4. **Consent and Control**: Adding individuals to WhatsApp groups without their explicit consent can lead to privacy violations

To facilitate secure and compliant communication, Sedlescombe CE Primary School will use professional communication tools, such as Microsoft Teams.

Further information on the use of WhatsApp is detailed in the Employee Handbook.

29. Information about Employees' Health

Sedlescombe CE Primary School that data relating to an individual's health is classified as sensitive. Data of this nature will be managed with a constant awareness of data protection in a confidential and secure manner. Concerns regarding how data is managed should be reported to the Data Protection Manager.

Any data on an employee's state of physical or mental health is sensitive personal data and will only be kept when the employee has been told what information is involved and the use that will be made of it, in addition to security arrangements. The information will only be retained for a set period and in accordance with employee consent and data rights. Only necessary and limited individuals will be able to access this information where they genuinely need it to carry out their job.

30. Sickness and Ill-Health Records

As far as possible, Sedlescombe CE Primary School will only retain information that is necessary to establish an employee's fitness for work, securely and for a set period. The employer has delegated to the Data Protection Manager the responsibility for determining what is necessary.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School recognises the difference between a 'sickness or injury record' and an 'absence record'.

Sickness or injury records contain sensitive personal information. They will only be kept for specific purposes with the written auditable consent of the employee, e.g. in the case of capability or absence through ill-health proceedings. However, this does not prevent Sedlescombe CE Primary School from recording that sickness notes have been received and the dates of the absence.

Absence records may only give the reason for ill-health absence as 'sick' or 'accident' or 'injury', without referring to the specific condition. No information about any of the above records will be made available to other employees unless cleared by the Data Protection Manager as necessary.

31. Occupational Health Schemes

Sedlescombe CE Primary School will operate within the rules of any scheme to which it belongs. All staff will be informed about how health information will be used under the scheme and who will have access to it. A processing agreement with the scheme will be secured to this end.

Details are contained in the Employee Handbook.

32. Medical Examinations

Recruitment
Job applicants must only be medically examined to:

- Ensure they are medically fit for the specific role;
- Meet legal requirements; and
- Determine the terms on which they are eligible to join a pension or insurance scheme.

Sedlescombe CE Primary School will make it clear during the recruitment process if tests are required for the role.

Current Employees
Medical information will only be obtained through examination or testing if:

- The tests are part of a voluntary occupational health and safety programme;
- Necessary to prevent a significant health risk;
- Needed to determine an employee's continuing fitness for the role;
- Needed to determine whether an employee is fit to return to work after a period of absence;
- Needed to determine an employee's entitlement to health-related benefits; or
- Needed to prevent discrimination on the grounds of disability, or to assess the need to make reasonable adjustments, or to comply with other legal obligations.

33. Monitoring and Review

The Trust will monitor the implementation of the policy and register annually with the Information Commissioner's Office.

The Headteacher and Data Protection Manager will review the effectiveness of the policy and will report to the Local Governing Body and Trust at least annually.

The Trust will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Trust schools.

34. AI in Education

DCAT will prepare staff and pupils for changing workplaces, including teaching them how to use emerging technologies like generative AI (Artificial intelligence) safely and appropriately. This involves understanding the limitations, reliability, and potential biases of generative AI. Both staff and pupils may be learning about these aspects simultaneously during this period of rapid development.

DCAT must also ensure that pupils are adequately safeguarded, protecting them from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Since schools have little control over the development of generative AI, they may not be fully aware of its potential to generate harmful content. Hence, careful supervision and control are essential.

DCAT adopts the approach published by the Department for Education; which can be found here: Generative artificial intelligence (AI) in education - GOV.UK

The DfE Guidance Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Education was created in March 2023. The guidance underscores that when used appropriately, technology such as generative AI holds potential to alleviate workload within the education sector, thereby enabling educators to focus more on delivering high-quality teaching.

It emphasises that safeguarding data, resources, staff, and pupils remains paramount, with specific guidelines:

- Personal and sensitive data must be safeguarded and should not be inputted into generative AI tools.
- Educational institutions are advised to enhance their cybersecurity measures, particularly due to the potential for generative AI to increase the sophistication of cyber attacks.
- Schools and colleges must continue efforts to protect students from harmful online content, including content potentially generated by generative AI.

Furthermore, the DfE suggests that regardless of the tools or resources used in the creation of administrative documents, the responsibility for the quality and content of the final output lies with the individual and their respective organisation.

All processing of personal data must have a lawful basis, which may not always rely on consent. For processing involving children's data, especially in potentially impactful and privacy-sensitive AI applications, informed pupil consent may be required. Regardless of age, individuals have the right to be informed about and object to fully automated processing or profiling that could significantly affect them without human involvement.

Considering advancements in AI, schools and colleges are encouraged to review their homework policies to adapt to the implications of generative AI and other technologies for unsupervised study and academic assignments.

Appendix 1: Roles

Role	Person	Email	Telephone
Data Protection Officer (DPO)	**Handsam Ltd** Office 27 East Moons Moat Business Centre. Oxleaslow Road, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 0RE	info@handsam.co.uk	03332 070737
Data Manager(s)	Mandy Hardes (SBM) Caroline Harvey (Executive Headteacher) Elise Brogan (Head of School)	finance@sedlescombe.school head@sedlescombe.school ebrogan@sedlescombe.school	01424 870585

Appendix 2: Privacy Notice

The school's privacy Notices can be accessed from the school's website. Links to the notices are given below:

DCAT-Privacy-Notice-Pupils-Parents-and-Carers-2025-2026

DCAT-Privacy-Notice-Staff-Governors-and-Volunteers-2025-2026

Appendix 3: Data Protection Impact Assessment Template

DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT					
PROCESSING DETAILS					
SCALE, SCOPE AND CONTEXT	**PURPOSE AND PROCESSING OPERATION**	**NATURE OF PERSONAL DATA**	**PERIOD OF RETENTION**	**DATA ASSETS** e.g. networks or hardware	**COMPLAINCE WITH APPROVED CODES OF PRACTICE**

NECESSITY AND PROPORTIONALITY				
LAWFULNESS OF PROCESSING	**PRIOR CONSULTATION**	**DPO ADVICE**	**RISK TO RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF DATA SUBJECTS**	**LIKELIHOOD OF BREACH AND IMPACT (1-5)**

MANAGEMENT OF RISK			
MEASURES TAKEN TO REDUCE RISK	**COMPLIANCE DEMONSTRATION**	**DOCUMENTATION**	**MONITORING AND REVIEW**

Appendix 4: Legitimate Interest Assessment Template

LEGIMATE INTEREST ASSESSMENT				
Nature of processing	**Controller interests**	**Impact on the rights and freedoms of subjects**	**'Reasonably' expect data to be processed on this basis?**	**Implications for child data** (If applicable)