

Victoria Park Junior School Records Retention Schedule



Updated February 2021

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 record 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	
Admissions – if the admission is successful	Date of admission + 1 year.
Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful	Resolution of case + 1 year.
Register of Admissions	Permanently archived in SIMs - as it is common for enquiries to be received from past pupils/other agencies to confirm the dates they attended the school.
Pupil Record	Current year + 6 years.
Special Educational Needs files, reviews and individual education plans (this includes any statement and all advice and information shared regarding educational needs)	Until the child turns 25 then reviewed. All records photocopied and copies sent to next school where receipt is recorded.
Online Speech & Language Link Assessments	Anonymised and archived after child left school.
Child Protection	Until the child turns 25 then reviewed. All records photocopied and copies sent to next school where receipt is recorded.
Safeguarding Records	Until the child turns 25 then reviewed.
Attendance Registers	Permanently archived in SIMs - as it is common for enquiries to be received from past pupils/other agencies to confirm the dates they attended the school.
Attendance Registers - official printed	Current year + 6 years.
School Meals Registers	Permanently archived in ParentPay.
Free School Meals Registers	Permanently archived in Trafford Council Online Free School Meal system (OFSM). Pre online system (2018/2019) archived for 6 years.
School Trips	Current year + 6 years unless incident then review.

2. Human Resources	
Job applications and interview records of unsuccessful candidates	Six months after notifying unsuccessful candidates, unless the school has applicants' consent to keep their CVs for future reference. In this case, application forms will give applicants the opportunity to object to their details being retained.
Job applications and interview records of successful candidates	6 years after employment ceases.
Written particulars of employment, contracts of employment and changes to terms and conditions	6 years after employment ceases (paper copies at school) but permanently archived on GMSS website.
Right to work documentation including identification documents	2 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 (i.e. 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 6 months.
Change of personal details notifications	No longer than 6 months after receiving this notification.
Emergency contact details	Destroyed when employment ceases.
Personnel records	While employment continues and 6 years after employment ceases.
Training records	Until the training expires.
Annual leave records	Six years after the end of tax year they relate to or possibly longer if leave can be carried over from year to year.
Consents for the processing of personal and sensitive data	For as long as the data is being processed and up to 6 years afterwards.

Allegations of a child protection nature against a member of staff including where the allegation is founded	10 years from the date of the 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. • written warning level 1 – date of warning + 6 months. • written warning level 2 – date of warning + 12 months. • Final warning – date of warning + 18 months. • Case not found – dispose of at conclusion of process unless child protection related where need to follow above the above entry re. child protection allegations.
Records relating to overtime, and hours worked and payments made to temporary/casual workers	Permanently archived on iTrent and GMSS websites.
3. Financial Management of the School	
Financial Records	Current tax year + 6 tax years.
Pension records	Managed by Trafford Council.
Retirement benefits schemes – notifiable events (for example, relating to incapacity)	Managed by Trafford Council.
Payroll and wage records	Managed by Trafford Council.
Maternity/Adoption/Paternity Leave records	Managed by Trafford Council.
Statutory Sick Pay	Managed by Trafford 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
Entry Sign System	Photo are retained for 1 year from being taken. Names are permanently archived in Entry Sign system.

Letters to staff, parents/carers and pupils	Current year + 2 years on shared drive.
School & Staff Emails	Current year + 2 years.
Census Returns	Current year + 6 years.
Governors papers/records	Permanently archived online in Trust Governor Services website.
5. Health and Safety Records	
Health and Safety Consultations	Permanently.
Health and Safety Risk Assessments	Current year + 6 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 – 6 years from the date of the incident. Children – Until the child turns 25.
Fire precaution log books	Current year + 6 years.
Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH)	Current year + 40 years.
Process of monitoring areas where employees and persons are likely to have come into contact with asbestos	Last action + 40 years.