



Data Protection (Exams) 2025/26

This policy is reviewed annually to ensure compliance with current regulations

Public Sector Equality Duty

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for those with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Reviewed by FRP: November 2025
Ratified by Full Governing Body: December 2025
Due for review: December 2026

Key staff involved in the policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of centre	Ben Doyle
Exams officer	Sandie Haskell
Senior leader(s)	RGD, JWD, SAS, RO, NTR, EV, SP, BW, HPS
IT manager	BW/Oakford Technology Ltd
Data administrator	Linda Hole

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PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy details how St Peter's School, in relation to exams management and administration, ensures compliance with the regulations as set out by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The delivery of examinations and assessments involve centres and awarding bodies processing a significant amount of personal data (i.e. information from which a living individual might be identified). It is important that both centres and awarding bodies comply with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 or law relating to personal data in any jurisdiction in which the awarding body or centre are operating.

In JCQ's *General Regulations for Approved Centres* (section 6) reference is made to 'data protection legislation'. This is intended to refer to UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018 and any statutory codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner in relation to such legislation.

It is the responsibility of the centre to inform candidates of the processing that the centre undertakes. For example, that the centre will provide relevant personal data including name, date of birth and gender to the awarding bodies for the purpose of examining and awarding qualifications.

All exams office staff responsible for collecting and sharing candidates' data are required to follow strict rules called 'data protection principles' ensuring the information is:

- used fairly and lawfully
- used for limited, specifically stated purposes
- used in a way that is adequate, relevant and not excessive
- accurate
- kept for no longer than is absolutely necessary
- handled according to people's data protection rights
- kept safe and secure

To ensure that the centre meets the requirements of the DPA 2018 and UK GDPR, all candidates' exam information – even that which is not classified as personal or sensitive – is covered under this policy.

SECTION 1 – EXAMS-RELATED INFORMATION

There is a requirement for the exams office(r) to hold exams-related information on candidates taking external examinations. For further details on the type of information held please refer to Section 5 below

Candidates' exams-related data may be shared with the following organisations:

- Awarding bodies
- Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ)
- Department for Education
- Local Authority
- Press
- Social Media

This data may be shared via one or more of the following methods:

- hard copy
- email
- secure extranet site(s)
 - eAQA
 - AQA Centre Services
 - Cambridge OCR Interchange
 - Edexcel online
 - WJEC Portal
- ESS SIMS

This data may relate to exam entries, access arrangements, the conduct of exams and non-examination assessments including controlled assessments and coursework, special consideration requests and exam results/post-results/certificate information.

SECTION 2 – INFORMING CANDIDATES OF THE INFORMATION HELD

St Peter’s School ensures that candidates are fully aware of the information and data held.

All candidates are:

- informed via St Peter’s School’s Data Protection Policy
- given access to this policy via centre website, written request.

Candidates are made aware of the above at the start of their 2-year examination courses.

Materials which are submitted by candidates for assessment may include any form of written work, audio and visual materials, computer programs and data (“Student Materials”). Candidates will be directed to the relevant awarding body’s privacy notice if they require further information about how their Student Materials may be used by the awarding body.

Candidates eligible for access arrangements/reasonable adjustments which require awarding body will be informed that an application for access arrangements will be processed using *Access arrangements online*, complying with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Candidates involved in suspected or alleged malpractice will be informed that their personal data will be provided to the awarding body (or bodies) whose examinations/assessments are involved, and that personal data about them may also be shared with other awarding bodies, the qualifications regulator or professional bodies, in accordance with the JCQ document *Suspected Malpractice – Policies and Procedures*.

Candidates will be informed:

- that awarding bodies may be required to provide a candidate’s personal data to educational agencies, such as DfE, Welsh Government, Department of Education (Northern Ireland), ESFA, regulators, HESA, UCAS, Local Authorities and the Learning Records Service (LRS)
- that their personal data may be provided to a central record of qualifications approved by the awarding bodies for statistical and policy development purposes
- of the processing that the centre undertakes, for example, that the centre will provide relevant personal data, including name, date of birth and gender, to the awarding bodies for the purpose of examining and awarding qualifications

Candidates may obtain access to their personal data, such as examination results by applying to the appropriate awarding body’s data protection officer.

Candidates are also referred to the centre’s privacy notice which explains:

- why St Peter’s School needs to collect personal data
- what it plans to do with it
- how long it will keep it
- whether it will be sharing it with any other organisation

SECTION 3 – HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

The table below confirms how IT hardware, software and access to online systems is protected in line with DPA & GDPR requirements.

Hardware	Date of purchase and protection measures	Warranty expiry
Laptop	June 2021 Encryption Anti-malware Offline back-up Internet filter	
Server	Physically locked in server room Anti-malware Off-line back-up	N/A

Software/online system	Protection measure(s)
ESS SIMS	Protected username/password Rules for password setting Password change every 6 months
Office	Protected username/password Rules for password setting Password change every 6 months Email back-up HR has to approve creation of new accounts IT support determine access rights
A2C	Password protected
TEAMS	Protected username/password Rules for password setting Password change every 6 months
4Matrix	Protected username/password Rules for password setting Password change every 6 months

SECTION 4 – DEALING WITH DATA BREACHES

Although data is handled in line with DPA/GDPR regulations, a data breach may occur for any of the following reasons:

- loss or theft of data or equipment on which data is stored
- inappropriate access controls allowing unauthorised use
- equipment failure
- human error
- unforeseen circumstances such as a fire or flood
- hacking attack
- 'blagging' offences where information is obtained by deceiving the organisation who holds it

If a data protection breach is identified, the following steps will be taken:

1. CONTAINMENT AND RECOVERY

Data Protection Officer will lead on investigating the breach.

It will be established:

- who needs to be made aware of the breach and inform them of what they are expected to do to assist in the containment exercise. This may include isolating or closing a compromised section of the network, finding a lost piece of equipment and/or changing the access codes
- whether there is anything that can be done to recover any losses and limit the damage the breach can cause. As well as the physical recovery of equipment, this could involve the use of back-up hardware to restore lost or damaged data or ensuring that staff recognise when someone tries to use stolen data to access accounts
- which authorities, if relevant, need to be informed

2. ASSESSMENT OF ONGOING RISK

The following points will be considered in assessing the ongoing risk of the data breach:

- what type of data is involved?
- how sensitive is it?
- if data has been lost or stolen, are there any protections in place such as encryption?
- what has happened to the data? If data has been stolen, it could be used for purposes which are harmful to the individuals to whom the data relates; if it has been damaged, this poses a different type and level of risk
- regardless of what has happened to the data, what could the data tell a third party about the individual?
- how many individuals' personal data are affected by the breach?
- who are the individuals whose data has been breached?
- what harm can come to those individuals?

- are there wider consequences to consider such as a loss of public confidence in an important service we provide?

3. NOTIFICATION OF BREACH

Notification will take place to enable individuals who may have been affected to take steps to protect themselves or to allow the appropriate regulatory bodies to perform their functions, provide advice and deal with complaints.

4. EVALUATION AND RESPONSE

Once a data breach has been resolved, a full investigation of the incident will take place. This will include:

- reviewing what data is held and where and how it is stored
- identifying where risks and weak points in security measures lie (for example, use of portable storage devices or access to public networks)
- reviewing methods of data sharing and transmission
- increasing staff awareness of data security and filling gaps through training or tailored advice
- reviewing contingency plans

SECTION 5 – CANDIDATE INFORMATION, AUDIT AND PROTECTION MEASURES

For the purposes of this policy, all candidates’ exam-related information – even that not considered personal or sensitive under the DPA/GDPR – will be handled in line with DPA/GDPR guidelines.

An information audit is conducted every 2 years.

The table below details the type of candidate exams-related information held, and how it is managed, stored and protected

Protection measures may include:

- password protected area on the centre’s intranet
- secure drive accessible only to selected staff
- information held in secure area
- updates undertaken continually via online system

SECTION 6 – DATA RETENTION PERIODS

Details of retention periods, the actions taken at the end of the retention period and method of disposal are contained in the centre’s Exams archiving policy which is available/accessible from the Exam Manager

SECTION 7 – ACCESS TO INFORMATION

(With reference to ICO information <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/schools/exam-results/>)

The UK GDPR gives individuals the right to see information held about them. This means individuals can request information about them and their exam results, including:

- their mark
- comments written by the examiner
- minutes of any examination appeals panels

This does not however give individuals the right to copies of their answers to exam questions.

Requesting exam information

Requests for exam information can be made by email to data@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk, this must include a completed subject access request form which can be found on the school website under GDPR. Photographic ID will be required in the case of an ex-student. All subject assessed requests will be assessed individually.

The GDPR does not specify an age when a child can request their exam results or request that they aren’t published. When a child makes a request, those responsible for responding should take into account whether:

- the child wants their parent (or someone with parental responsibility for them) to be involved; and
- the child properly understands what is involved.

As a general guide, a child of 12 or older is expected to be mature enough to understand the request they are making. A child may, of course, be mature enough at an earlier age or may lack sufficient maturity until a later age, and so requests should be considered on a case by case basis.

A decision will be made by the Senior Information Risk Officer as to whether the student is mature enough to understand the request they are making, with requests considered on a case by case basis.

Responding to requests

If a request is made for exam information before results have been announced, a request will be responded to:

- within five months of the date of the request, or
- within 40 days from when the results are published (whichever is earlier).

If a request is made once exam results have been published, the individual will receive a response within one month of their request.

Third party access

Permission should be obtained before requesting personal information on another individual from a third-party organisation.

Candidates' personal data will not be shared with a third party unless it has been authorised relative to the school's 3rd party systems policy.

In the case of looked-after children or those in care, agreements may already be in place for information to be shared with the relevant authorities (for example, the Local Authority). The centre's Data Protection Officer will confirm the status of these agreements and approve/reject any requests.

Sharing information with parents

The centre will consider any other legislation and guidance regarding sharing information with parents (including non-resident parents and a local authority (the 'corporate parent'), as example guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) regarding parental responsibility and school reports on pupil performance:

- Understanding and dealing with issues relating to parental responsibility
www.gov.uk/government/publications/dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility/understanding-and-dealing-with-issues-relating-to-parental-responsibility
 (Updated 24 August 2023 to include guidance on the role of the 'corporate parent', releasing GCSE results to a parent and notifying separated parents about a child moving school)
- School reports on pupil performance
www.gov.uk/guidance/school-reports-on-pupil-performance-guide-for-headteachers

Publishing exam results

St Peter's School will publish exam results to the media or within the centre (e.g. on an honours board) in line with the following principles:

- Refer to guidelines as published by the Joint Council for Qualifications
- Act fairly when publishing results, and where people have concerns about their or their child's information being published, taking those concerns seriously
- Ensure that all candidates and their parents/carers are aware as early as possible whether examinations results will be made public and how this will be done
- Explain how the information will be published. For example, if results will be listed alphabetically, or in grade order

As St Peter's School will have a legitimate reason for publishing examination results, consent is not required from students or their parents or guardians for publication. However, if a student or their parents or guardians have a specific concern about publication of their results, they have the right to object. This objection must be made in writing to the Head of Centre or Deputy Head with responsibility for examinations, who will consider the objection before making a decision to publish and reply with a good reason to reject the objection to publish the exam results.

SECTION 8 – TABLE RECORDING CANDIDATE EXAMS-RELATED INFORMATION HELD

For details of how to request access to information held, refer to section 7 of this policy (**Access to information**)

For further details of how long information is held, refer to section 6 of this policy (**Data retention periods**)

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Access arrangements information		Candidate name Candidate DOB Gender Diagnostic testing outcome(s) Specialist report(s) (may also include candidate address) Evidence of normal way of working	Access Arrangements Online MIS Lockable metal filing cabinet TEAMS	MFA Secure user name and password In secure office (SENCo)	DOB of the pupil + 25 years
Alternative site arrangements	Exams to be taken at a venue other than school	Candidate Name Candidate #	Exam board secure site Exam laptop Hard copy	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Attendance registers copies		Candidate Name Candidate #	Hard copy	In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Centre consortium arrangements for centre assessed work	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Certificates	Official Document	Candidate name Candidate DOB Exam Results	Hard copy of uncollected certificates	In secure office	2 years

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Certificate destruction information	Information relating to destroyed uncollected certificates	Candidate name	Spreadsheet on exam laptop	Secure user name and password In secure office	4 years
Certificate issue information	A record of certificates that have been issued.	Candidate name	Printed lists	In secure office	4 years
Conflicts of Interest records	Staff declarations of conflict of interest with regards to exams	Staff names Candidate names	Exam laptop	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Entry information		Candidate name Candidate DOB Gender	Exam board secure site Exam laptop Hard copy	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Exam room incident logs	Record of any incidents arising during an examination	Candidate Name Log of incident details	Hard copy	In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Invigilator and facilitator training records		Invigilator Names	Hard Copy Online training on The Exam Office	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Overnight supervision information		Candidate Name Candidate #	Hard Copy Online training on The Exam Office	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Post-results services: confirmation of candidate consent information		Candidate Name Candidate # Email address Home address	Hard copy Exam Boards websites	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Post-results services: requests/outcome information		Candidate Name Candidate # Email address	Hard copy Exam Boards websites email	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Post-results services: scripts provided by ATS service		Candidate Name Candidate # Exam answers	Exam board secure website Exam laptop	Secure user name and password In secure office If used in class – name redacted	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Post-results services: tracking logs		Candidate Name Candidate # Results	Spreadsheet	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Private candidate information		Candidate Name Candidate # Email address Home address	Email Exam Laptop	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Resilience arrangements: Evidence of candidate performance	Mock exam papers to be used if required	Candidate name Candidate #	Hard copy held in departments	Departments to keep securely	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Resolving timetable clashes information	Where candidates have 2 or more exams scheduled for the same session	Candidate Name Candidate #	Email Exam Laptop Hard copy MIS	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Results information		Candidate Name Candidate # Results	Exam Laptop Hard copy MIS	Secure user name and password In secure office at the start of their 2 year examination courses	Current year + 6 years
Seating plans		Candidate Name Candidate #	Hard copy MIS	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Special consideration information		Candidate Name Candidate # Reason for consideration	Hard copy Exam Board website	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Suspected malpractice reports/outcomes		Candidate Name Candidate # Details of Malpractice	Exam board secure website Exam laptop Hard copy	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later
Transferred candidate arrangements	Candidates who move centre after the deadline for exam entries	Candidate Name Candidate # Candidate exam entries	Exam board secure website Exam laptop	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Very late arrival reports/outcomes	Details of candidates who arrive after the exam secure periods	Candidate Name Candidate # Reasons for late arrival	Hard copy Exam board secure website	Secure user name and password In secure office	until the deadline for reviews of marking has passed or until any appeal, malpractice or other results enquiry has been completed, whichever is later