



DATA RETENTION SCHEDULE



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RETENTION SCHEDULE

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 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.



1 Child Protection						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
1.1	Child Protection files	Yes	Education Act 2002, s175, related guidance "Safeguarding Children in Education"	DOB + 25 years ¹	SHRED	Child Protection information must be sent in its entirety to the new school/college whilst the child is still under 18 (i.e. the information does not need to be sent to a university for example) Where a child is removed from roll to be educated at home, the file should be sent to the Local Education Authority.
1.2	Allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff, including where the allegation is unfounded	Yes	Employment Practices Code: Supplementary Guidance 2.13.1 (Records of Disciplinary and Grievance) Education Act 2002 guidance "Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against Teachers and Other Staff"	Until the person's normal retirement age, or 10 years from the date of the allegation whichever is the longer	SHRED	The following is an extract from "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education" p60 "Record Keeping 5.10 It is important that a clear and comprehensive summary of any allegations made, details of how the allegation was followed up and resolved, and a note of any action taken and decisions reached, is kept on a person's confidential personnel file, and a copy provided to the person concerned. The purpose of the record is to enable accurate information to be given in response to any future request for a reference if the person has moved on.

¹ This amendment has been made in consultation with the Safeguarding Children Group.



1 Child Protection

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
					<p>It will provide clarification in cases where a future CRB Disclosure reveals information from the police about an allegation that did not result in a criminal conviction. And it will help to prevent unnecessary reinvestigation if, as sometimes happens, an allegation resurfaces after a period of time. The record should be retained at least until the person has reached normal retirement age or for a period of 10 years from the date of the allegation if that is longer.”</p>



2 Governors						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
2.1	Minutes					
	Principal set (signed)	No		Permanent	Retain in school for 6 years from date of meeting	Transfer to Archives in LA
	Inspection copies	No		Date of meeting + 3 years	SHRED	[If these minutes contain any sensitive personal information they should be shredded]
2.2	Agendas	No		Date of meeting + 3 years	SHRED	
2.3	Reports	No		Date of report + 6 years	SHRED	All confidential information must be shredded
2.4	Annual Parents' meeting papers	No		Date of meeting + 6 years	SHRED	All confidential information must be shredded
2.5	Instruments of Government	No		Permanent	Retain in school whilst school is open	Transfer to Archives when the school has closed
2.6	Trusts and Endowments	No		Permanent	Retain in school whilst operationally required	Transfer to Archives when the school has closed
2.7	Action Plans	No		Date of action plan + 3 years	SHRED	It may be appropriate to offer to the Archives for a sample to be taken if the school has been through a difficult period.



2 Governors						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
2.8	Policy documents	No		Expiry of policy	SHRED	Retain in school whilst policy is operational (this includes if the expired policy is part of a past decision making process)
2.9	Complaints files	Yes		Date of resolution of complaint + 6 years	Retain in school for the first six years	Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes SHRED routine complaints
2.10	Annual Reports required by the Department for Education and Skills	No	Education (Governors' Annual Reports) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002.	Date of report + 10 years	SHRED	
2.11	Proposals for schools to become, or be established as Specialist Status schools	No			Current year + 3 years	Transfer to Archives



3 Management						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
3.1	Log Books	Yes ²		Date of last entry in the book + 6 years	Retain in the school for 6 years from the date of the last entry.	Transfer to the Archives
3.2	Minutes of the Senior Management Team and other internal administrative bodies	Yes		Date of meeting + 5 years	SHRED	Transfer to Archives if the school has been in any difficulties
3.3	Reports made by the head teacher or the management team	Yes		Date of report + 3 years	SHRED	
3.4	Records created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, business managers and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	Yes		Closure of file + 6 years	SHRED	
3.5	Correspondence created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, business managers and other members of staff with admin responsibilities	No		Date of correspondence + 3 years	SHRED	

² From January 1st 2005 subject access is permitted into unstructured filing systems and log books and other records created within the school containing details about the activities of individual pupils and members of staff will become subject to the Data Protection Act 1998.



3 Management

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
3.6	Professional development plans	Yes		Closure + 6 years	SHRED	
3.7	School development plans	No		Closure + 6 years	Review	Offer to the Archives
3.8	Admissions – if the admission is successful	Yes		Admission + 1 year	SHRED	
3.9	Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful	Yes		Resolution of case + 1 year	SHRED	
3.10	Proofs of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process	Yes		Current year + 1 year	SHRED	



4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.1	Admission Registers	Yes		Date of last entry in the book (or file) + 6 years	Retain in the school for 6 years from the date of the last entry.	Transfer to the Archives
4.2	Attendance registers	Yes		Date of register + 3 years	SHRED	[If these records are retained electronically any back-up copies should be destroyed at the same time]
4.3a	Pupil Record Files / Cards	Yes		Retain for the time which the pupil remains at the primary school	Transfer to the secondary school (or other primary school) when the child leaves the school.	In the case of exclusion it may be appropriate to transfer the record to the Behaviour Service.
4.4	Pupil Files			Retain for the time which the pupil remains at the primary school	Transfer to the secondary school (or other primary school) when the child leaves the school.	In the case of exclusion it may be appropriate to transfer the record to the Behaviour Service



4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.5	Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans	Yes		DOB of the pupil + 25 years the review NOTE: This retention period is the minimum period that any pupil file should be kept. At times files will need to be retained for longer in order for schools and Authorities to defend themselves in a “failure to provide a sufficient education” case. There is an element of business risk analysis involved in any decision to keep the records longer than the minimum retention period.	SHRED	
4.6	Letters authorising absence	No		Date of absence + 2 years	SHRED	
4.7	Absence books			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	



4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.8	Examination Results	Yes				
4.8a	Public	No		Year of examinations + 6 years	SHRED	Any certificates left unclaimed should be returned to the appropriate Examination Board
4.8b	Internal examination results	Yes		Current year + 5 years ³	SHRED	
4.9	Any other records created in the course of contact with pupils	Yes/No		Current year + 3 years	Review at the end of 3 years and either allocate a further retention period or SHRED	
4.10	Statement maintained under The Education Act 1996 - Section 324	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1	DOB + 30 years	SHRED unless legal action is pending	

³ If these records are retained on the pupil file they need only be kept for as long as operationally necessary.



4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.11	Proposed statement or amended statement	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1	DOB + 30 years	SHRED unless legal action is pending	
4.12	Advice and information to parents regarding educational needs	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 2	Closure + 12 years	SHRED unless legal action is pending	
4.13	Accessibility Strategy	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 14	Closure + 12 years	SHRED unless legal action is pending	
4.14	Children's SEN Files	Yes		DOB of pupil + 25 years then review – it may be appropriate to add an additional retention period in certain cases	SHRED unless legal action is pending	
4.15	Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been no major incident	Yes		Conclusion of the trip	SHRED	



4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.16	Parental permission slips for school trips – where there has been a major incident	Yes	Limitation Act 1980	DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 25 years The permission slips for all pupils on the trip need to be retained to show that the rules had been followed for all pupils	SHRED	
4.17	Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom - Primary Schools	N	3 part supplement to the Health & Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits (HASPEV) (1998).	Date of visit + 14 years ⁴		SHRED or delete securely

⁴ This retention period has been set in agreement with the Safeguarding Children's Officer for Wales



5 Curriculum					
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
5.1	Curriculum development	No		Current year + 6 years	SHRED
5.2	Curriculum returns	No		Current year + 3 years	SHRED
5.3	School syllabus	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SHRED
5.4	Schemes of work	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SHRED
5.5	Timetable	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SHRED
5.6	Class record books	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SHRED
5.7	Mark Books	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SHRED
5.8	Record of homework set	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SHRED
5.9	Pupils' work	No		Current year + 1 year	It may be appropriate to review these records at the end of each year and allocate a new retention period or SHRED
5.10	Examination results	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SHRED
5.11	Test records	Yes		Current year + 6 years	SHRED



6 Personnel Records held in Schools					
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.1	Timesheets, sick pay	Yes	Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SHRED
6.2	Staff Personal files	Yes		Termination + 7 years	SHRED
6.3	Interview notes and recruitment records	Yes		Date of interview + 6 months	SHRED
6.4	Pre-employment vetting information (including DBS checks)	No	DBS guidelines	Date of check + 6 months	SHRED [by the designated member of staff]
6.5	Disciplinary Proceedings	Yes	Where the warning relates to child protection issues see 1.2. If the disciplinary proceedings relate to a child protection matter please contact your safeguarding children officer for further advice.		
6.5a	Oral warning			Date of warning + 6 months	SHRED ⁵
6.5b	Written warning – level one			Date of warning + 6 months	SHRED
6.5c	Written warning – level two			Date of warning + 12 months	SHRED
6.5d	Final warning			Date of warning + 18 months	SHRED
6.5e	Case not found			If child protection related please see 1.2 otherwise shred immediately at the conclusion of the case	SHRED

⁵ If this is placed on a personal file it must be weeded from the file.



6 Personnel Records held in Schools

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.7	Annual appraisal/assessment records	No		Current year + 5 years	SHRED
6.8	Salary documentation	Yes		Last date of employment + 85 years	SHRED
6.9	Maternity pay records	Yes	Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1960), revised 1999 (SI 1999/567)	Current year, +3yrs	SHRED
6.10	Records held under Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995	Yes	Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995	Current year + 6 years	SHRED
6.11	Proofs of identity collected as part of the process of checking "portable" enhanced DBS disclosure	Yes		Where possible these should be checked and a note kept of what was seen and what has been checked. If it is felt necessary to keep copy documentation then this should be placed on the member of staff's personal file.	



7 Health and Safety					
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
7.1	Accessibility Plans		Disability Discrimination Act	Current year + 6 years	SHRED
7.2	Accident Reporting		Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979 Regulation 25. Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 8. Limitation Act 1980		
7.2a	Adults	Yes	Always send to CCBC for retention.	Date of incident + 7 years	SHRED
7.2b	Children	Yes		DOB of child + 25 years ⁶	SHRED
7.3	COSHH			Current year + 10 years [where appropriate an additional retention period may be allocated]	SHRED
7.4	Incident reports	Yes		Current year + 20 years	SHRED
7.5	Policy Statements			Date of expiry + 1 year	SHRED
7.6	Risk Assessments			Current year + 3 years	SHRED
7.7	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with asbestos			Last action + 40 years	SHRED

⁶ A child may make a claim for negligence for 7 years from their 18th birthday. To ensure that all records are kept until the pupil reaches the age of 25 this retention period has been applied.



7 Health and Safety					
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
7.8	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have come in contact with radiation			Last action + 50 years	SHRED
7.9	Fire Precautions log books			Current year + 6 years	SHRED



8 Administrative						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
8.1	Employer's Liability certificate			Closure of the school + 40 years	SHRED	
8.2	Inventories of equipment and furniture			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
8.3	General file series			Current year + 7 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives
8.4	School brochure or prospectus			Current year + 3 years	SHRED	
8.5	Circulars (staff/parents/pupils)			Current year + 1 year	SHRED	
8.6	Newsletters, Letters			Current year + 1 year	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	SHRED
8.7	Visitors book			Current year + 2 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	SHRED



9 Finance						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
9.1	Annual Accounts		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	CCBC	Offer to the Archives
9.2	Loans and grants		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	CCBC
9.3	Contracts					
9.3a	Under signature			Contract completion date + 6 years	SHRED	
9.3b	Monitoring records			Current year + 2 years	SHRED	
9.4	Orders			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.5	Budget reports, budget monitoring etc			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.6	Invoice, receipts and other records covered by the Financial Regulations		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.7	Annual Budget and background papers			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.8	Order books and requisitions			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	



9 Finance

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
9.9	Delivery Documentation			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.10	Debtors' Records		Limitation Act 1980	Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.11	School Fund – Cheque books			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.12	School Fund – Paying in books			Current year + 6 years then review	SHRED	
9.13	School Fund – Ledger			Current year + 6 years then review	SHRED	
9.14	School Fund – Invoices			Current year + 6 years then review	SHRED	
9.15	School Fund – Receipts			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
9.16	School Fund – Bank statements			Current year + 6 years then review	SHRED	
9.17	School Fund – School Daily income books			Current year + 6 years then review	SHRED	
9.18	Applications for free school meals, travel, uniforms etc			Whilst child at school	SHRED	
9.19	Student grant applications			Current year + 3 years	SHRED	



9 Finance

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
9.20	Free school meals registers	Yes	Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SHRED	



10 Property						
	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
10.1	Title Deeds			Permanent	Permanent these should follow the property unless the property has been registered at the Land Registry	Offer to Archives if the deeds are no longer needed
10.2	Plans			Permanent	Retain in school whilst operational	Offer to Archives ⁷
10.3	Maintenance and contractors		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
10.4	Leases			Expiry of lease + 6 years	SHRED	
10.5	Lettings			Current year + 3 years	SHRED	
10.6	Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
10.7	Maintenance log books			Last entry + 10 years	SHRED	
10.8	Contractors' Reports			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	

⁷ If the property has been sold for private housing then the archives service will embargo these records for an appropriate period of time to prevent them being used to plan or carry out a crime.



11 Local Education Authority

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
11.1	Junior transfer sheets (Infants)	Yes		Current year + 2 years	SHRED	
11.2	Attendance returns	Yes		Current year + 1 year	SHRED	
11.3	Circulars from LEA			Whilst required operationally	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	SHRED



12 Department for Children, Schools and Families

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
12.1	HMI reports			As long as the school requires.	SHRED	
12.2	ESTYN reports and papers			Replace former report with any new inspection report	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	SHRED
12.3	Returns			Current year + 6 years	SHRED	
12.4	Circulars from Department for Children, Schools and Families			Whilst operationally required	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	SHRED



13 Connexions

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
13.1	Service level agreements			Until superseded	SHRED
13.2	Work Experience agreement			DOB of child + 18 years	SHRED

**14 School Meals**

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
14.1	Dinner Register			Current Year + 6 years	SHRED
14.2	School Meals Summary Sheets			Current Year + 6 years	SHRED



15 Family Liaison and/or Parent Support

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Method of Disposal
15.1	Reports for outside agencies – where the report has been included on the case file created by the outside agency	Y		Whilst the child is attending the school then destroy	SHRED
15.2	Referral forms	Y		While the referral is current then destroy copies. Original to be maintained in pupil file. (1.1)	SHRED
15.3	Contact data sheets	Y		Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy	SHRED
15.4	Contact database entries	Y		Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy	DELETE
15.5	Group Registers	Y		Current year + 2 years	SHRED



16 Walking Bus

	Basic file description	Data Protection Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Method of Disposal
16.1	Walking Bus Registers	Y		Date of register + 3 years. This takes into account the fact that if there is an incident requiring an accident report the register will be submitted with the accident report and kept for the period of time required for accident reporting.	SECURE DISPOSAL [If these records are retained electronically any back-up copies should be destroyed at the same time]