

Slindon Church of England Primary School



Freedom of Information Policy

Approved by:	Headteacher (Laura Webb) and Governing Body
Date:	2 nd January 2024
Last reviewed on:	January 2026
Next review due by:	January 2028

Introduction

Slindon Church of England Primary School is led by four overarching principles.

These principles run through the ethos of our school and feed into our policy and pedagogy.

Within our freedom of information policy, we recognise that all children and families are **unique** and we recognise *that some children and families may at times need a more individualised approach.*

The **positive relationships** that we are able to develop in our small community enable them to be supported and encouraged.

We respect that everybody **learns and develops** in different ways.

As a school, we develop **positive relationships** with other agencies to support children and families. We maintain an **enabling environment**, ensuring that both pupils, families and staff feel happy, safe and supported.

As a Christian school, the Christian values that guide us every day are intrinsic to how we behave.

At Slindon CofE Primary school we serve our local community and enable our school family to flourish. We recognise that everyone is Unique and want to ensure they are able to Learn and Develop in a high quality learning environment. We enrich the spirit in an Enabling Environment, in which Positive relationships foster creativity and curiosity. In hope we encourage our community to shine brightly and be courageous advocates of our world, shaping their futures for the better.

The Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5; 22-23

Let Your Light Shine ~ Matthew 5:16

We use the fruits of the spirit, along with our Christian values and ‘British’ (although we prefer to call them ‘Human’) values, to guide our behaviour. The blessings guide us in our attitude to God, to other people and ourselves. They sit above and separately to behaviour management, though we are recognised and rewarded for being mindful of the fruits of the spirit and inherent values within each.





The School is a “public authority”.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) provides public access to information held by public authorities.

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) provides public access to environmental information as defined in the Regulations.

FOIA and EIR promote openness and transparency. Information is provided in two ways:

1. It is mandatory to publish certain information (publication scheme); and
2. Any person is entitled to request information which subject to the application of any exemptions must be provided free of charge.

The Act does not give people access to their own personal data. Subject Access Requests are dealt with in accordance with the Data Protection Policy.

Aim

This Policy will ensure:

- The School complies with its duties under the FOIA and EIR and handles requests under the correct regime.
- The School has a process in place which will result in proactive publication of what information is available.
- Any person knows they can make a request and who to contact.
- All appropriate staff will be able to recognise and respond appropriately to a valid request for information.
- That there is awareness amongst staff, contractors or others having contact with the School that the duties under FOIA and EIR may impact on the ability to guarantee confidentiality of information

Scope

This Policy applies to:

- All recorded information held by the School or by a third party on the Schools behalf.
- Recorded information includes printed documents, computer files, letters, emails, photographs, and sound or video recordings.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body of the School has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. The Headteacher has day to day responsibility for FOI /EIR compliance and the School Business Manager is the point of contact for enquiries.

All staff will be trained on recognising a request for information.

A designated member of staff is responsible for handling request for information. Requests should be made to Data Protection Officer – [office@slindonprimary.co.uk]

Publication Scheme

The School has adopted the Model Publication Scheme for Schools as approved by the Information Commissioner.

Requests handling

The School will ensure that:

- Advice and assistance is provided to the requestor if required.
- Responses will be provided promptly and within the statutory time limit of 20 School days. A ‘School’ day will be any day on which there is a session and the pupils are in attendance. In the alternative the School will respond within 60 working days if that is shorter.
- Information will only be withheld in accordance with the exemptions specified by legislation. The reasons for applying the exemption will be provided to the requester.
- Care will be taken to ensure that personal data is not unlawfully disclosed in response to a request for information made under FOIA or EIR.
- Information provided to the School from third parties may be the subject of a request for information. In considering whether exemptions apply, the School will seek to consult with the third party but the legal responsibility for deciding whether or not the information should be released rests with the School.
- Any requests for internal reviews will be dealt with in accordance with the Schools Complaint Policy and will be responded to within twenty School days as recommended by the Information Commissioner.
- If the School’s original decision is upheld, then the School has a duty to inform the complainant of their right to appeal to the Information Commissioner’s Office.

Appeals should be made in writing to the Information Commissioner and addressed to:

Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF