TAME RIVER EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Great schools in which to learn, teach and belong.

Data Protection Policy

This is a Tame River Educational Trust. As an employer the Trust will ensure that at every level, in all our work and throughout all aspects of the Trust communities, all will be treated equally, with respect and dignity, free from discrimination and harassment. Each person will be given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential regardless of their age, disability, gender, gender-identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic background and special educational needs. Our Trust will tackle the barriers which could lead to unequal outcomes for these protected groups, ensuring there is equality of access and that we celebrate and value the diversity within our Trust communities. The Trust will work actively to promote equality and foster positive attitudes and commitment to an education for equality.

Review Cycle: 2 years
Next Review Date: September 2027
Person Responsible: COO
Approving Body: CEO

1. Policy Statement

Tame River Educational Trust (TRET) is required to keep and process certain information about its staff members and students in accordance with its legal obligations under the UK's General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

Our trust may, from time to time, be required to share personal information about its staff or students with other organisations, mainly the local authority, other academies and educational bodies, and potentially children's services.

This policy is in place to ensure that all staff and trustees are aware of their responsibilities and outlines how our trust complies with the core principles of the UK GDPR.

All employees and volunteers of our trust must be made aware of our policy and procedures and must provide written acknowledgement of their understanding of their individual responsibilities in relation to the UK GDPR.

All data held by TRET and its academies are the responsibility of our trust. Organisational methods for keeping data secure are imperative, and we believe that it is good practice to keep clear practical policies, backed up by written procedures

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy has due regard to legislation, including but not limited to the following:

- The UK General Data Protection Regulation.
- The Data Protection Act 1998.
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 (as amended in 2016).
- The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This policy also has regard to the following guidance:

- ICO (2018) 'Guide to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)'.

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the following other trust policies.

3. Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Personal data	Any information relating to an identified, or identifiable, living individual. This may include the individual's: • Name (including initials). • Identification number. • Location data. • Online identifier, such as a username. It may also include factors specific to the individual's physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity.
Special categories of personal data	Personal data which is more sensitive and so needs more protection, including information about an individual's: • Racial or ethnic origin. • Political opinions. • Religious or philosophical beliefs. • Trade union membership. • Genetics. • Biometrics (such as fingerprints, retina and iris patterns), where used for identification purposes. • Health – physical or mental. • Sex life or sexual orientation.
Processing	Anything done to personal data, such as collecting, recording, organising, structuring, storing, adapting, altering, retrieving, using, disseminating, erasing or destroying. Processing can be automated or manual.
Data subject	The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
Data controller	A person or organisation that determines the purposes and the means of processing personal data.
Data processor	A person or other body, other than an employee of the data controller, who processes personal data on behalf of the data controller.
Personal data breach	A breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data.

4. The Data Controller
Our trust processes personal data relating to parents and carers, students, staff, governors, visitors and others, and therefore is a data controller.

The trust is registered with the ICO as legally required. Registration No. ZA468261.

5. Roles and responsibilities
This policy applies to **all staff** employed by our trust, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf. Staff who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

5.1 Trust board
The trust board has overall responsibility for ensuring that our academy trust complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

5.2 Trust data protection officer (DPO)
The trust data protection officer (DPO) is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, monitoring our compliance with data protection law, and developing related policies and guidelines where applicable.

They will provide an annual report of their activities directly to the Trust Board and, where relevant, report to the board their advice and recommendations on school data protection issues.

The DPO is also the first point of contact for individuals whose data the school processes, and for the ICO. Full details of the DPO's responsibilities are set out in their job description.

Our TDPO is Mick Fallows and is contactable via mfallows@tret.org.uk. Each school has its own, school-based DPO.

5.3 Chief Operating Officer
The Chief Operating Officer acts as the representative of the data controller on a day-to-day basis.

5.4 All staff
Staff are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with their school-based DPO.
- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy.
- Informing the trust of any changes to their personal data, such as a change of address.
- Contacting the DPO in the following circumstances:
    - With any questions about the operation of this policy, data protection law, retaining personal data or keeping personal data secure.
    - If they have any concerns that this policy is not being followed.
    - If they are unsure whether or not they have a lawful basis to use personal data in a particular way.
    - If they need to rely on or capture consent, draft a privacy notice, deal with data protection. rights invoked by an individual, or transfer personal data outside the UK.
    - If there has been a data breach.

- Whenever they are engaging in a new activity that may affect the privacy rights of individuals.
- If they need help with any contracts or sharing personal data with third parties.

6. Data protection principles

The UK GDPR is based on data protection principles that our school must comply with.

The principles say that personal data must be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes.
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary to fulfil the purposes for which it is processed.
- Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date.
- Kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which it is processed.
- Processed in a way that ensures it is appropriately secure.

This policy sets out how the school aims to comply with these principles.

7. Collecting personal data

7.1 Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

We will only process personal data where we have 1 of 6 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under data protection law:

- The data needs to be processed so that the trust can **fulfil a contract** with the individual, or the individual has asked the trust to take specific steps before entering into a contract.
- The data needs to be processed so that the trust can **comply with a legal obligation.**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person i.e. to protect someone's life.
- The data needs to be processed so that the trust, as a public authority, can **perform a task in the public interest or exercise its official authority.**
- The data needs to be processed for the **legitimate interests** of the trust (where the processing is not for any tasks the trust performs as a public authority) or a third party, provided the individual's rights and freedoms are not overridden.
- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has freely given clear **consent.**

For special categories of personal data, we will also meet 1 of the special category conditions for processing under data protection law:

- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has given **explicit consent.**
- The data needs to be processed to perform or exercise obligations or rights in relation to **employment, social security or social protection law.**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent.
- The data has already been made **manifestly public** by the individual.

- The data needs to be processed for the establishment, exercise or defence of **legal claims.**
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of **substantial public interest** as defined in legislation.
- The data needs to be processed for **health or social care purposes**, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health or social work professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law.
- The data needs to be processed for **public health reasons**, and the processing is done by, or under the direction of, a health professional or by any other person obliged to confidentiality under law.
- The data needs to be processed for **archiving purposes**, scientific or historical research purposes, or statistical purposes, and the processing is in the public interest.

For criminal offence data, we will meet both a lawful basis and a condition set out under data protection law. Conditions include:

- The individual (or their parent/carer when appropriate in the case of a pupil) has given **consent.**
- The data needs to be processed to ensure the **vital interests** of the individual or another person, where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent.
- The data has already been made **manifestly public** by the individual.
- The data needs to be processed for or in connection with legal proceedings, to obtain legal advice, or for the establishment, exercise or defence of **legal rights.**
- The data needs to be processed for reasons of **substantial public interest** as defined in legislation.

Whenever we first collect personal data directly from individuals, we will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law.

We will always consider the fairness of our data processing. We will ensure we do not handle personal data in ways that individuals would not reasonably expect, or use personal data in ways which have unjustified adverse effects on them.

7.2 Limitation, minimisation and accuracy

We will only collect personal data for specified, explicit and legitimate reasons. We will explain these reasons to the individuals when we first collect their data.

If we want to use personal data for reasons other than those given when we first obtained it, we will inform the individuals concerned before we do so, and seek consent where necessary.

Staff must only process personal data where it is necessary in order to do their jobs.

We will keep data accurate and, where necessary, up to date. Inaccurate data will be rectified or erased when appropriate.

In addition, when staff no longer need the personal data they hold, they must ensure it is deleted or anonymised. This will be done in accordance with the school's record retention schedule.

8. Sharing personal data

We will not normally share personal data with anyone else without consent, but there are certain circumstances where we may be required to do so. These include, but are not limited to, situations where:

- There is an issue with a pupil or parent/carer that puts the safety of our staff at risk.
- We need to liaise with other agencies – we will seek consent as necessary before doing this.
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to our staff and pupils – for example, IT companies.

When doing this, we will:

- Only appoint suppliers or contractors that can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with UK data protection law.
- Establish a contract with the supplier or contractor to ensure the fair and lawful processing of any personal data we share.
- Only share data that the supplier or contractor needs to carry out their service.

We will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies where we are legally required to do so.

We may also share personal data with emergency services and local authorities to help them to respond to an emergency situation that affects any of our pupils or staff.

Where we transfer personal data internationally, we will do so in accordance with UK data protection law.

9. Subject access requests and other rights of individuals

9.1 Subject access requests

Individuals have a right to make a 'subject access request' to gain access to personal information that the trust holds about them. This includes:

- Confirmation that their personal data is being processed.
- Access to a copy of the data.
- The purposes of the data processing.
- The categories of personal data concerned.
- Who the data has been, or will be, shared with.
- How long the data will be stored for, or if this isn't possible, the criteria used to determine this period.
- Where relevant, the existence of the right to request rectification, erasure or restriction, or to object to such processing.
- The right to lodge a complaint with the ICO or another supervisory authority.
- The source of the data, if not the individual.
- Whether any automated decision-making is being applied to their data, and what the significance and consequences of this might be for the individual.
- The safeguards provided if the data is being transferred internationally.

Subject access requests can be submitted in any form, but we may be able to respond to requests more quickly if they are made in writing and include:

- Name of individual.
- Correspondence address.

- Contact number and email address.
- Details of the information requested.

If staff receive a subject access request in any form they must immediately forward it to their school-based DPO, central staff will forward any request for the Trust to the Trust Director of Data and Data Protection.

9.2 Children and subject access requests
Personal data about a child belongs to that child, and not the child's parents or carers. For a parent or carer to make a subject access request with respect to their child, the child must either be unable to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request, or have given their consent.

Children aged 12 and above are generally regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of a subject access request. Most subject access requests from parents or carers of students at our trust may not be granted without the express permission of the student.

A student's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

9.3 Responding to subject access requests
When responding to requests, we:

- May ask the individual to provide 2 forms of identification.
- May contact the individual via phone to confirm the request was made.
- Will respond without delay and within 1 month of receipt of the request (or receipt of the additional information needed to confirm identity, where relevant).
- Will provide the information free of charge.
- May tell the individual we will comply within 3 months of receipt of the request, where a request is complex or numerous. We will inform the individual of this within 1 month, and explain why the extension is necessary.

We may not disclose information for a variety of reasons, such as if it:

- Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual.
- Would reveal that the child is being or has been abused, or is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child's best interests.
- Would include another person's personal data that we can't reasonably anonymise, and we don't have the other person's consent and it would be unreasonable to proceed without it.
- Is part of certain sensitive documents, such as those related to crime, immigration, legal proceedings or legal professional privilege, management forecasts, negotiations, confidential references, or exam scripts.

If the request is unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee to cover administrative costs. We will consider whether the request is repetitive in nature when making this decision.

When we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to complain to the ICO or they can seek to enforce their subject access right through the courts.

In addition to the right to make a subject access request (see above), and to receive information when we are collecting their data about how we use and process it (see section 7), individuals also have the right to:

- Withdraw their consent to processing at any time.
- Ask us to rectify, erase or restrict processing of their personal data (in certain circumstances).
- Prevent use of their personal data for direct marketing.
- Object to processing that has been justified on the basis of public interest, official authority or legitimate interests.
- Challenge decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (i.e. making decisions or evaluating certain things about an individual based on their personal data with no human involvement).
- Be notified of a data breach (in certain circumstances).
- Make a complaint to the ICO.
- Ask for their personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format (in certain circumstances).

Individuals should submit any request to exercise these rights to their school-based DPO, central staff will forward any request for the Trust to the Trust Director of Data and Data Protection.

If staff receive such a request, they must immediately forward it to their school-based DPO, central staff will forward any request for the Trust to the Trust Director of Data and Data Protection.

10. CCTV

We use CCTV in various locations around our trust site and member schools to ensure they remain safe environments. We will follow the ICO's guidance for the use of CCTV, and comply with data protection principles.

We do not need to ask individuals' permission to use CCTV, but we make it clear where individuals are being recorded. Security cameras are clearly visible and accompanied by prominent signs explaining that CCTV is in use.

11. Photographs and videos

As part of our school activities, we may take photographs and record images of individuals within our trust.

We will obtain written consent from parents/carers, or students aged 18 and over for photographs and videos to be taken of students for communication, marketing and promotional materials.

Where we need parental consent, we will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be used to both the parent/carer and the student. Where we don't need parental consent, we will clearly explain to the student how the photograph and/or video will be used.

Where photographs and videos are taken uses may include:

- Within our schools on notice boards and in school magazines, brochures, newsletters, etc.

- Outside of our schools by external agencies such as the school photographer, newspapers, campaigns.
- Online on our schools or trust website or social media pages.

Consent can be refused or withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, we will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

When using photographs and videos in this way we will not accompany them with any other personal information about the child, to ensure they cannot be identified.

12. Artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, students and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard. The trust recognises that AI has many uses to help students learn, but also poses risks to sensitive and personal data.

To ensure that personal and sensitive data remains secure, no one will be permitted to enter such data into unauthorised generative AI tools or chatbots.

If personal and/or sensitive data is entered into an unauthorised generative AI tool, the trust will treat this as a data breach, and will follow the personal data breach procedure.

13. Data protection by design and default

We will put measures in place to show that we have integrated data protection into all of our data processing activities, including:

- Appointing a suitably qualified DPO(s), and ensuring they have the necessary resources to fulfil their duties and maintain their expert knowledge.
- Only processing personal data that is necessary for each specific purpose of processing, and always in line with the data protection principles set out in relevant data protection law (see section 6).
- Completing data protection impact assessments where the trust or member schools processing of personal data presents a high risk to rights and freedoms of individuals, and when introducing new technologies (the Trust Director of Data and Data Protection will advise on this process).
- Integrating data protection into internal documents including this policy, any related policies and privacy notices.
- Regularly training members of staff on data protection law, this policy, any related policies and any other data protection matters; we will also keep a record of attendance.
- Regularly conducting reviews and audits to test our privacy measures and make sure we are compliant.
- Appropriate safeguards being put in place if we transfer any personal data outside of the UK, where different data protection laws may apply.
- Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:
    - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of our trust and DPO, and all information we are required to share about how we use and process their personal data (via our privacy notices).

- For all personal data that we hold, maintaining an internal record of the type of data, type of data subject, how and why we are using the data, any third-party recipients, any transfers outside of the UK and the safeguards for those, retention periods and how we are keeping the data secure.

14. Data security and storage of records

We will protect personal data and keep it safe from unauthorised or unlawful access, alteration, processing or disclosure, and against accidental or unlawful loss, destruction or damage.
In particular:

- Paper-based records and portable electronic devices, such as laptops and hard drives that contain personal data, are kept under lock and key when not in use.
- Papers containing confidential personal data must not be left on office and classroom desks, on staffroom tables, or left anywhere else where there is general access.
- Passwords that are secure in accordance with our acceptable ICT use policy. Staff and students are reminded that they should not reuse passwords from other sites.
- Encryption software is used to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices.
- Staff, governors and trustees who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for school-owned equipment.
- Where we need to share personal data with a third party, we carry out due diligence and take reasonable steps to ensure it is stored securely and adequately protected.

15. Disposal of records

Personal data that is no longer needed will be disposed of securely. Personal data that has become inaccurate or out of date will also be disposed of securely, where we cannot or do not need to rectify or update it.

For example, we will shred or incinerate paper-based records, and overwrite or delete electronic files. We may also use a third party to safely dispose of records on the trust's/school's behalf. If we do so, we will require the third party to provide sufficient guarantees that it complies with data protection law.

16. Personal data breaches

The trust and its schools will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches.

When appropriate, we will report the data breach to the ICO within 72 hours after becoming aware of it. Such breaches in a school context may include, but are not limited to:

- A non-anonymised dataset being published on the school website, which shows the exam results of students eligible for the pupil premium.
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person.
- The theft of a school laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about students.

17. Training

All staff, governors and trustees are provided with data protection training as part of their induction process.

Data protection will also form part of continuing professional development, where changes to legislation, guidance or the school's processes make it necessary.

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