



DORSET HISTORY CENTRE

RETENTION GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

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 1998 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.

This schedule has been devised in association with the Records Management Society of Great Britain (Local Government Group).

This schedule will be reviewed on a regular basis.

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1 Child Protection

These retention periods should be used in conjunction with the document “Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education” which can be downloaded from www.everychildmatters.gov.uk.

	Basic file description	Data Prot 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”, September 2004	Primary - see notes Secondary - DOB + 25 years ¹	DESTROY	The original records must be passed on either by hand or sent by recorded delivery. If the records are to be posted, they should be copied and these copies should be retained until there has been confirmation in writing that the originals have arrived at the new school. They can then be shredded.
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” November 2005	Until the person’s normal retirement age, or 10 years from the date of the allegation whichever is the longer	DESTROY	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

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

1 Child Protection

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	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
					<p>response to any future request for a reference if the person has moved on. 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 re-surfaces 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 Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
2.1	Minutes					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal set (signed) 	No		Permanent	Retain in school for 6 years from date of meeting	Transfer to Archives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection copies 	No		Date of meeting + 3 years	DESTROY [If these minutes contain any sensitive personal information they should be shredded]	
2.2	Agendas	No		Date of meeting	DESTROY	
2.3	Reports	No		Date of report + 6 years	Retain in school for 6 years from date of meeting	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
2.4	Annual Parents' meeting papers	No		Date of meeting + 6 years	Retain in school for 6 years from date of meeting	N.B. there is no longer a requirement to hold these meetings, therefore these records will become obsolete
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
2.7	Action Plans	No		Date of action plan + 3 years	DESTROY	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 Prot 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	Retain in school whilst policy is operational (this includes if the expired policy is part of a past decision making process)	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction.
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 DESTROY routine complaints	
2.10	Annual Reports required by the Department for Education and Skills	No		Education (Governors' Annual Reports) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002.SI 2002 No 1171	Date of report + 10 years	Transfer to Archives
2.11	Proposals for schools to become, or be established as Specialist Status schools	No			Current year + 3 years	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction.

3 Management						
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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 ¹		Date of meeting + 5 years	Retain in the school for 5 years from meeting	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
3.3	Reports made by the head teacher or the management team	Yes ¹		Date of report + 3 years	Retain in the school for 3 years from meeting	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
3.4	Records created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	Yes ¹		Closure of file + 6 years	DESTROY	
3.5	Correspondence created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities	No		Date of correspondence + 3 years	DESTROY	

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 Prot 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	DESTROY	
3.7	School development plans	No		Closure + 6 years	Review	Offer to the Archives
3.8	Admissions – if the admission is successful	Yes		Admission + 3 years	DESTROY	
3.9	Admissions – if the appeal is unsuccessful	Yes		Resolution of case + 3 years	DESTROY	
3.10	Admissions – Secondary Schools – Casual	Yes		Current year + 3 years	DESTROY	
3.11	Proofs of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process	Yes		Current year + 3 years	DESTROY	

4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.2	Attendance registers	Yes		Date of register + 3 years	DESTROY [If these records are retained electronically any back up copies should be destroyed at the same time]	
4.3	Pupil record cards	Yes				
4.3a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary 			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	
4.3b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary 		Limitation Act 1980	DOB of the pupil + 25 years ³	DESTROY	
4.4	Pupil files	Yes				

³ In the case of exclusion it may be appropriate to transfer the record to the Behaviour Service

4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.4a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary 			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	
4.4b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary 		Limitation Act 1980	DOB of the pupil + 25 years ⁴	DESTROY	

⁴ As above

4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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 then review NOTE: This retention period is the minimum period that any pupil file should be kept. Some authorities choose to keep SEN files for a longer period of time 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.	DESTROY	
4.6	Letters authorising absence	No		Date of absence + 2 years	DESTROY	
4.7	Absence books			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
4.8	Examination results	Yes				

4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.8a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Public</i> 	No		Year of examinations + 6 years	DESTROY	Any certificates left unclaimed should be returned to the appropriate Examination Board
4.8b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Internal examination results</i> 	Yes		Current year + 5 years ⁵	DESTROY	
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 DESTROY	
4.10	Statement maintained under The Education Act 1996 - Section 324	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1	DOB + 30 years	DESTROY unless legal action is pending	
4.11	Proposed statement or amended statement	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 1	DOB + 30 years	DESTROY unless legal action is pending	

⁵ If these records are retained on the pupil file or in their National Record of Achievement they need only be kept for as long as operationally necessary.

4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
4.12	Advice and information to parents regarding educational needs	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 2	Closure + 12 years	DESTROY unless legal action is pending	
4.13	Accessibility Strategy	Yes	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 Section 14	Closure + 12 years	DESTROY 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	DESTROY 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	DESTROY	

4 Pupils						
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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	DESTROY	
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 ⁶	N	DESTROY or delete securely
4.18	Records created by schools to obtain approval to run an Educational Visit outside the Classroom - Secondary Schools	N	3 part supplement to the Health & Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits (HASPEV) (1998).	Date of visit + 10 years ⁷	N	DESTROY or delete securely

⁶ This retention period has been set in agreement with the Safeguarding Children's Officer

5 Curriculum					
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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	DESTROY
5.2	Curriculum returns	No		Current year + 3 years	DESTROY
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 DESTROY
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 DESTROY
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 DESTROY
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 DESTROY
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 DESTROY
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 DESTROY
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 DESTROY
5.10	Examination results	Yes		Current year + 6 years	DESTROY
5.11	SATS records	Yes		Current year + 6 years	DESTROY
5.12	PAN reports	Yes		Current year + 6 years	DESTROY

5 Curriculum					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
5.13	Value added records	Yes		Current year + 6 years	DESTROY

6 Personnel Records held in Schools					
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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	DESTROY
6.2	Staff Personal files	Yes		Termination + 3 years	DESTROY
6.3	Interview notes and recruitment records	Yes		Date of interview + 6 months	DESTROY
6.4	Pre-employment vetting information (including CRB checks)	No	CRB guidelines	Date of check + 6 months	DESTROY [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	• <i>oral warning</i>			Date of warning + 6 months	DESTROY ⁷
6.5b	• <i>written warning – level one</i>			Date of warning + 6 months	DESTROY
6.5c	• <i>written warning – level two</i>			Date of warning + 12 months	DESTROY
6.5d	• <i>final warning</i>			Date of warning + 18 months	DESTROY

⁷ 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 Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.5e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>case not found</i> 			If child protection related please see 1.2 otherwise shred immediately at the conclusion of the case	DESTROY
6.6	Records relating to accident/injury at work	Yes		Date of incident + 12 years In the case of serious accidents a further retention period will need to be applied	DESTROY
6.7	Annual appraisal/assessment records	No		Current year + 5 years	DESTROY
6.8	Salary cards	Yes		Last date of employment + 85 years	DESTROY
6.9	Maternity pay records	Yes	Statutory Maternity Pay (General) Regulations 1986 (SI 1986/1960), revised 1999 (SI 1999/567)	Current year, +3yrs	DESTROY
6.10	Records held under Retirement Benefits Schemes (Information Powers) Regulations 1995	Yes		Current year + 6 years	DESTROY

6 Personnel Records held in Schools					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
6.11	Proofs of identity collected as part of the process of checking “portable” enhanced CRB 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 Prot 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	DESTROY
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 	Yes		Date of incident + 7 years	DESTROY
7.2b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children 	Yes		DOB of child + 25 years ⁸	DESTROY

⁸ 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 Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
7.3	COSHH			Current year + 10 years [where appropriate an additional retention period may be allocated]	DESTROY	
7.4	Incident reports	Yes		Current year + 20 years	DESTROY	
7.5	Policy Statements			Date of expiry + 1 year	DESTROY	
7.6	Risk Assessments			Current year + 3 years	DESTROY	
7.7	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have become in contact with asbestos			Last action + 40 years	DESTROY	
7.8	Process of monitoring of areas where employees and persons are likely to have come in contact with radiation			Last action + 50 years	DESTROY	
7.9	Fire Precautions log books			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	

8 Administrative						
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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	DESTROY	

8 Administrative						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
8.2	Inventories of equipment and furniture			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
8.3	General file series			Current year + 5 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
8.4	School brochure or prospectus			Current year + 3 years		Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
8.5	Circulars (staff/parents/pupils)			Current year + 1 year	DESTROY	
8.6	Newsletters, ephemera			Current year + 1 year	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
8.7	Visitors book			Current year + 2 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
8.8	PTA/Old Pupils Associations			Current year + 6 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction

9 Finance						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
9.1	Annual Accounts		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years		Offer to the Archives
9.2	Loans and grants		Financial Regulations	Date of last payment on loan + 12 years	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
9.3	Contracts					
9.3a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under seal 			Contract completion date + 12 years	DESTROY	
9.3b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> under signature 			Contract completion date + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.3c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring records 			Current year + 2 years	DESTROY	
9.4	Copy orders			Current year + 2 years	DESTROY	
9.5	Budget reports, budget monitoring etc			Current year + 3 years	DESTROY	
9.6	Invoice, receipts and other records covered by the Financial Regulations		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.7	Annual Budget and background papers			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.8	Order books and requisitions			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.9	Delivery Documentation			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	

9 Finance						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
9.10	Debtors' Records		Limitation Act 1980	Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.11	School Fund – Cheque books			Current year + 2 years	DESTROY	
9.12	School Fund – Paying in books			Current year + 2 years	DESTROY	
9.13	School Fund – Ledger			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.14	School Fund – Invoices			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.15	School Fund – Receipts			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.16	School Fund – Bank statements			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.17	LMS returns			Current year + 2 years	DESTROY	
9.18	Applications for free school meals, travel, uniforms etc			Whilst child at school	DESTROY	
9.19	Student grant applications			Current year + 3 years	DESTROY	
9.20	Free school meals registers	Yes	Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.21	Petty cash books		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	

9 Finance						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
9.22	Unofficial funds (uniforms, trips etc.)			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
9.23	Income from school premises bookings			Current year + 3 years	DESTROY	

10 Property						
	Basic file description	Data Prot 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 ⁹
10.3	Maintenance and contractors		Financial Regulations	Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
10.4	Leases			Expiry of lease + 6 years	DESTROY	
10.5	Lettings			Current year + 3 years	DESTROY	

⁹ 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.

10 Property						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
10.6	Burglary, theft and vandalism report forms			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
10.7	Maintenance log books			Last entry + 10 years	DESTROY	
10.8	Contractors' Reports			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	

11 Local Education Authority						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
11.1	Secondary transfer sheets (Primary)	Yes		Current year + 2 years	DESTROY	
11.2	Attendance returns	Yes		Current year + 1 year	DESTROY	
11.3	Circulars from LEA			Whilst required operationally	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction

12 Department for Children, Schools and Families						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	
12.1	HMI reports			These do not need to be kept any longer		Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction
12.2	OFSTED reports and papers			Replace former report with any new inspection report	DESTROY	
12.3	Returns			Current year + 6 years	DESTROY	
12.4	Circulars from Department for Children, Schools and Families			Whilst operationally required	Review to see whether a further retention period is required	Transfer to Archives for assessment for preservation or destruction

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

14 Schools Meals						
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record	

14 Schools Meals					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Action at the end of the administrative life of the record
14.1	Dinner Register			Current + 3 years	DESTROY
14.2	School Meals Summary Sheets			Current + 3 years	DESTROY

15 Family Liaison Officers and Parent Support Assistants					
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]	Method of Disposal
15.1	Day Books	Y		Current year + 2 years then review	DESTROY
15.2	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	DESTROY
15.3	Referral forms	Y		While the referral is current then	DESTROY
15.4	Contact data sheets	Y		Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy	DESTROY
15.5	Contact database entries	Y		Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy	DELETE
15.6	Group Registers	Y		Current year + 2 years	DESTROY

16 Early Years Provision				
16.1 Records to be kept by Registered Persons - All Cases				
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
16.1.1	The name, home address and date of birth of each child who is looked after on the premises	Y		Closure of setting + 50 years [These could be required to show whether or not an individual child attended the setting in a child protection investigation]
16.1.2	The name, home address and telephone number of a parent of each child who is looked after on the premises	Y		If this information is kept in the same book or on the same form as in 16.1.1 then the same retention period should be used as in 16.1.1 If the information is stored separately, then destroy once the child has left the setting (unless the information is collected for anything other than emergency contact)
16.1.3	The name, address and telephone number of any person who will be looking after children on the premises	Y		See 16.4.5 below

16 Early Years Provision				
16.1 Records to be kept by Registered Persons - All Cases				
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
16.1.4	A daily record of the names of children looked after on the premises, their hours of attendance and the names of the persons who looked after them	Y	The Day Care and Child Minding (National Standards) (England) Regulations 2003	The regulations say that these records should be kept for 2 years (SI20031996 7(1b)). If these records are likely to be needed in a child protection setting (see 16.1.1 above) then the records should be retained for closure of setting + 50 years
16.1.5	A record of accidents occurring on the premises and incident books relating to other incidents	Y	The Day Care and Child Minding (National Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 ¹⁰	DOB of the child involved in the accident or the incident + 25 years If an adult is injured then the accident book must be kept for 7 years from the date of the incident
16.1.6	A record of any medicinal product administered to any child on the premises, including the date and circumstances of its administration, by whom it was administered, including medicinal products which the child is permitted to administer to himself, together with a record of parent's consent	Y	The Day Care and Child Minding (National Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 ¹¹	DOB of the child being given/taking the medicine + 25 years

¹⁰ The regulations say that these records should be kept for 2 years (SI20031996 7(1b)). The Statute of Limitations states that a minor may make a claim for 7 years from their eighteenth birthday, therefore the retention should be for the longer period.

¹¹ The regulations say that these records should be kept for 2 years (SI20031996 7(1b)). The NHS records retention schedule states that any records relating to a child under the age of 18 should be retained until that child reaches the age of 25 years. Therefore, the retention should be DOB of the child being given/taking the medicine + 25 years

16 Early Years Provision

16.1 Records to be kept by Registered Persons - All Cases

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
16.1.7	Records of transfer	Y		One copy is to be given to the parents, one copy transferred to the Primary School where the child is going
16.1.8	Portfolio of work, observations and so on	Y		To be sent home with the child
16.1.9	Birth certificates	Y		Once the setting has had sight of the birth certificate and recorded the necessary information the original can be returned to the parents. There is no requirement to keep a copy of the birth certificate.

16.2 Records to be kept by Registered Persons - Day Care

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
16.2.1	The name and address and telephone number of the registered person and every other person living or employed on the premises	Y		See 16.4 below
16.2.2	A statement of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire or accident	N		Procedure superseded + 7 years
16.2.3	A statement of the procedure to be followed in the event of a child being lost or not collected	N		Procedure superseded + 7 years

16.2 Records to be kept by Registered Persons - Day Care				
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
16.2.4	A statement of the procedure to be followed where a parent has a complaint about the service being provided by the registered person	N		Until superseded
16.2.4	A statement of the arrangements in place for the protection of children, including arrangements to safeguard the children from abuse or neglect and procedures to be followed in the event of allegations of abuse or neglect	N		Closure of setting + 50 years [These could be required to show whether or not an individual child attended the setting in a child protection investigation]

16.3 Records to be kept by Registered Persons - Overnight provision - under 2's				
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
16.3.1	Emergency contact details for appropriate adult to collect the child if necessary	Y		Destroy once the child has left the setting (unless the information is collected for anything other than emergency contact)
16.3.2	Contract, signed by the parent, stating all the relevant details regarding the child and their care, including the name of the emergency contact and confirmation of their agreement to collect the child during the night	Y		Date of birth of the child who is the subject of the contract + 25 years

16.4 Other Records - Administration

	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
	Financial Records			
16.4.1	Financial records – accounts, statements, invoices, petty cash etc	N		Current year + 6 years
	Insurance			
16.4.2	Insurance policies – Employers Liability	N	Employers Liability Financial Regulations	The policies are kept for a minimum of 6 years and a maximum of 40 years depending on the type of policy
16.4.3	Claims made against insurance policies – damage to property	Y		Case concluded + 3 years
16.4.4	Claims made against insurance policies – personal injury	Y		Case concluded + 6 years
	Human Resources			
16.4.5	Personal Files - records relating to an individual's employment history	Y ¹²		Termination + 6 years then review

¹² For Data Protection purposes the following information should be kept on the file for the following periods :

• all documentation on the personal file	Duration of employment
• pre-employment and vetting information	Start date + 6 months
• records relating to accident or injury at work	Minimum of 12 years
• annual appraisal/assessment records	Minimum of 5 years
• records relating to disciplinary matters (kept on personal files)	
o oral warning	6 months
o first level warning	6 months
o second level warning	12 months

16.4 Other Records - Administration				
	Basic file description	Data Prot Issues	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [operational]
16.4.6	Pre-employment vetting information (including CRB checks)	N	CRB guidelines	Date of check + 6 months
16.4.7	Staff training records – general	Y		Current year + 2 years
16.4.8	Training (proof of completion such as certificates, awards, exam results)	Y		Last action + 7 years
	Premises and Health and Safety			
16.4.9	Premises files (relating to maintenance)	N		Cessation of use of building + 7 years then review
16.4.10	Risk Assessments	N		Current year + 3 years
	Other			
16.4.11	All pre-1920 records	N		Transfer to Archives

1. The purpose of the retention schedule

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.

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.

If there is an administrative need to keep a certain record for longer than that shown in the retention schedule then the school may do so (documenting the reason for such further retention).

The retention schedule refers to all information, 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:

- a. 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. Provided members of staff are managing record series using the retention schedule they can not be found guilty of unauthorised tampering with files once a freedom of information request or a data subject access request has been made.
- b. Members of staff can be confident about destroying information at the appropriate time.
- c. Information which is subject to Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation will be available when required.
- d. 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.

4. What to do with records once they have reached the end of their administrative life

4a Destruction of records

Where records have been identified for destruction they should be disposed of in an appropriate way. All records containing personal information, or sensitive policy information, should be shredded or placed in the confidential waste system.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the school to maintain a list of records which have been destroyed and who authorised their destruction. Members of staff should record at least:

- File reference (or other unique identifier);
- File title (or brief description);
- Number of files
- The name of the authorising officer

This could be kept in an Excel spreadsheet or other database format.

4b Transfer of records to the Archives

Where records have been identified as being worthy of permanent preservation, the Dorset History Centre should be contacted to discuss transfer of the records.

Dorset History Centre – telephone 01305 250550

5. Useful Contacts

Richard Kirby – Records, DPA & FOI Manager (Dorset County Council) – telephone 01305 225191 or e-mail: r.a.j.kirby@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Local Education Authority – please contact that part of the LEA with responsibility for the area in question.