



ASCENSION
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT)

Data Protection Policy

Approved by ACAT Board: March 2023

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1. Aims

The Ascension Catholic Academy Trust (ACAT) aims to ensure that all personal data collected, stored, processed and destroyed about any natural person, whether they be a member of staff, pupil, parent, governor, visitor, contractor, consultant, or any other individual is done so in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018).

This policy applies to all personal data processed by ACAT regardless of whether it is in paper or electronic format, or the type of filing system it is stored in, and whether the collection or processing of data was, or is, in any way automated.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy meets the current requirements of UK Data Protection legislation. It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the EU GDPR, UK GDPR and DPA 2018. It is also based on the information provided by the Article 29 Working Party.

Additionally, it meets the requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, ICO's Code of Practice in relation to video surveillance, and the DBS Code of Practice in relation to handling sensitive information. Furthermore, this policy complies with the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005, which gives parents the right of access to their child's educational record.

3. Definitions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Data controller	The natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.
Data processor	A natural or legal person, public authority, agency or other body which processes personal data on behalf of the controller, following the controller's instruction.
Data subject	The identified or identifiable individual whose personal data is held or processed.
Consent	Freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject's wishes via a statement or by a clear affirmative action, signifying agreement to a specific processing of personal data relating to them.
Personal data	Any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● name;

- an identification number;
- location data;
- an online identifier or;
- to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person.

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;
- history of offences, convictions or cautions. *

* Note: Whilst criminal offences are not listed as special category data, within this policy they are regarded as such in acknowledgment of the extra care which is needed with this data set.

Processing

Any operation or set of operations which is performed on personal data or on sets of personal data, such as collection, recording, organisation, structuring, storage, adaptation or alteration, retrieval, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available, alignment or combination, restriction, erasure or destruction.

Processing can be automated or manual.

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

ACAT collects and determines the processing for personal data relating to parents/carers, pupils, ACAT workforce, governors, visitors and others, in addition they process data on the behalf of others, therefore is a Data controller and a Data processor.

ACAT is registered as a Data controller with the ICO and will renew this registration as legally required. The registration number is **ZA078049**

5. Roles and responsibilities

This policy applies to **all individuals** employed by ACAT, and to external organisations or individuals working on our behalf. Employees who do not comply with this policy may face disciplinary action.

5.1 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for ensuring that ACAT complies with all relevant data protection obligations.

5.2 Data Protection Officer

ACAT has appointed Grow Education Partners Ltd as its Data Protection Officer (DPO), the responsible contact is David Coy (Grow Education) who can be contacted via ACAT admin@ascensioncat.org.

They are responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, along with any future development of this or related policies/guidelines and reviewing our compliance with data protection law.

Upon request the DPO can provide an annual report of ACAT's compliance status directly to the governing board and will report to the board their advice and recommendations on ACAT data protection issues.

The DPO is a named point of contact for all data subjects whose data ACAT processes, and for the ICO.

Full details of the DPO's responsibilities are set out in the SLA that ACAT holds with Grow Education.

5.3 Representative of the Data controller

The DPO acts as the representative of the Data controller on a day-to-day basis.

5.4 All Employees

Employees (regardless of role) are responsible for:

- Collecting, storing and processing any personal data in accordance with this policy;
- Informing ACAT of any changes to their personal data, e.g., a change of address, telephone number, or bank details;
- Reporting a Data Breach, Data Right Request, or Freedom of Information Request;
- Contacting the Data Protection Lead or DPO:
 - 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.

- o If they need to rely on or capture consent, draft a privacy notice/notification, or transfer personal data outside the United Kingdom.
- o Whenever they are engaging in a new activity that may affect the privacy rights of individuals.
- o If they need help with any contracts or sharing personal data with third parties.

6. The Data protection principles

Data Protection is based on seven principles that ACAT must comply with.

The 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.

The accountability principle ties these all together by requiring an organisation to take responsibility for complying with the other six principles. Including having appropriate measures and records in place to be able to demonstrate compliance.

This policy sets out how ACAT aims to comply with these key principles.

7. Processing personal data

7.1 Lawfulness, fairness and transparency

We will only process personal data where we have one of six 'lawful bases' (legal reasons) to do so under Data Protection Law:

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

For special categories of personal data, we will also meet one of the special category conditions for processing which are set out in data protection law.

These are where:

- The individual (or their parent/carer, where appropriate) has **given explicit consent**;

- It is necessary for the purposes of carrying out the **obligations and exercising specific rights** of the controller or of the data subject in the field of **employment** of a Data Controller or of a Data Subject;
- It is necessary to protect the **vital interests** of the Data Subject;
- Processing is carried out in the course of its **legitimate activities** with appropriate safeguards by a **foundation, association or any other non-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim**;
- The Personal Data has **manifestly been made public** by the Data Subject;
- There is the **establishment, exercise or defence of a legal claim**;
- There are reasons of **public interest** in the area of **public health**;
- Processing is necessary for the purposes of preventative or occupational medicine (e.g. for the **assessment of the working capacity of the employee**, the medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment);
- There are **archiving** purposes in the **public interest**.

Where we collect personal data directly from individuals, we will provide them with the relevant information required by data protection law, in the form of a privacy notice.

These privacy notices can be found on ACAT website:

- Pupils and Parents/Carers.
- ACAT Workforce (includes Trainees, Contractors and Consultants.)
- Governors & Volunteers.
- Job Applicants.
- Visitors.

Additional Copies of the Privacy Notices are available on request by contacting ACAT at admin@ascensioncat.org.

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 via our privacy notices.

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.

Employees must only access and process personal data where it is necessary to do their jobs.

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

When personal data is no longer required, employees must ensure it is destroyed in accordance with the ACAT Data Retention Policy.

8. Biometric recognition systems

Where we use pupils' biometric data as part of an automated biometric recognition system (for example, pupils use fingerprints to receive dinners instead of paying with cash), we will comply with the requirements of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Parents/carers will be notified before any biometric recognition system is put in place or before their child first takes part in it. ACAT will get written consent from at least one parent or carer before we take any biometric data from their child and first process it.

Parents/carers and pupils have the right to choose not to use ACAT's biometric system(s). We will provide alternative means of accessing the relevant services for those pupils

Parents/carers and pupils can object to participation in ACAT's biometric recognition system(s), or withdraw consent, at any time, and we will make sure that any relevant data already captured is deleted.

As required by law, if a pupil refuses to participate in, or continue to participate in, the processing of their biometric data, we will not process that data irrespective of any consent given by the pupil's parent(s)/carer(s).

9. Sharing personal data

In order to efficiently, effectively and legally function as a data controller we are required to share information with appropriate third parties, including but not limited to situations where:

- There is an issue with a pupil or parent/carers that puts the safety of our staff at risk.
- We need to liaise with other agencies or services – we may seek consent when appropriate before doing this where possible.
- Our suppliers or contractors need data to enable us to provide services to our employees and pupils – for example, IT companies. When doing this, we will:
 - Only appoint suppliers or contractors which can provide sufficient guarantees that they comply with data protection law and have satisfactory security measures in place.
 - Establish a data sharing agreement with the supplier or contractor, either in the contract or as a standalone agreement, 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, and information necessary, to keep them safe while working with us.

We will also share personal data with law enforcement and government bodies when required to do so, these include but are not limited to:

- The prevention or detection of crime and/or fraud.
- The apprehension or prosecution of offenders.
- The assessment or collection of tax owed to HMRC.
- In connection with legal proceedings.
- Where the disclosure is required to satisfy our safeguarding obligations.
- Research and statistical purposes, as long as personal data is sufficiently anonymised or consent has been provided.

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 employees.

10. Transferring data internationally

We may send your information to other countries where:

- we or a company we work with store information on computer servers based overseas; or
- we communicate with you when you are overseas.

We conduct due diligence on the companies we share data with and note whether they process data in the UK, EEA (which means the European Union, Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland) or outside of the EEA.

The UK and countries in the EEA are obliged to adhere to the requirements of the GDPR and have equivalent legislation which confer the same level of protection to your personal data.

For organisations who process data outside the UK and EEA we will assess the circumstances of how this occurs and ensure there is no undue risk.

Additionally, we will assess if there are adequate legal provisions in place to transfer data outside of the UK.

11. Individuals Data Protection Rights

11.1 Access Rights

Individuals have a right to make a **‘subject access request’** to gain access to personal information that ACAT holds about them.

If you make a subject access request, and if we do hold information about you, we can:

- Give you a description of it.
- Tell you why we are holding and processing it, and how long we will keep it for.
- Explain where we got it from, if not from you.
- Tell you who it has been, or will be, shared with.
- Let you know whether any automated decision-making is being applied to the data, and any consequences of this.
- NOT provide information where it compromises the privacy of others.
- Give you a copy of the information in an intelligible form.

When responding to requests, we will not disclose information if it:

- Might cause serious harm to the physical or mental health of the pupil or another individual;
or
- Would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, where the disclosure of that information would not be in the child’s best interests; or
- Is contained in adoption or parental order records; or
- Is given to a court in proceedings concerning the child.

11.2 Other rights regarding your data:

You may also:

- Withdraw your consent to processing at any time, this only relates to tasks which ACAT relies on consent to process the data.
- Ask us to rectify, erase or restrict processing of your personal data, or object to the processing of it in certain circumstances and where sufficient supporting evidence is supplied.
- Prevent the use of your personal data for direct marketing.
- Challenge processing which has been justified on the basis of public interest, official authority or legitimate interests.
- Request a copy of agreements under which your personal data is transferred outside of the United Kingdom.
- Object to decisions based solely on automated decision making or profiling (decisions taken with no human involvement, that might negatively affect them).
- Request a cease to any processing that is likely to cause damage or distress.
- Be notified of a data breach in certain circumstances.
- Refer a complaint to the ICO.
- Ask for your personal data to be transferred to a third party in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format (in certain circumstances).

In most cases, we will respond to requests within 1 month, as required under Data Protection Legislation, however, we are able to extend this period by up to 2 months for complex requests or exceptional circumstances.

We reserve the right to verify the requester's identification by asking for Photo ID, if this proves insufficient then further ID may be required.

If the request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, we may refuse to act on it, or charge a reasonable fee which would only take into account administrative costs.

A request will be deemed to be manifestly unfounded or excessive if it is repetitive or asks for further copies of the same information.

In the event we refuse a request, we will tell the individual why, and tell them they have the right to refer a complaint to the ICO.

ACAT will comply with the Data Protection Legislation in regard to dealing with all data requests submitted in any format, individuals are asked to preferably submit their request in written format to assist with comprehension.

They should include:

- Name of individual.
- Correspondence address.
- Contact number and email address.
- Details of the request.

If you would like to exercise any of the rights or requests listed above, please contact ACAT via admin@ascensioncat.org who will forward your request to the Data Manager. We will provide a form for you to complete that specifies the information we will need to act on a request.

If staff receive a subject access request, they must immediately forward it to the ACAT CFO for further action.

11.3 Children and Data Rights/Requests

An individual's data belongs to them therefore a child's data belongs to that child, and not the child's parents or carers.

However, children below the age of 12 are generally not regarded to be mature enough to understand their rights and the implications of invoking a data request. Therefore, for children under the age of 12 most data requests from parents or carers of pupils at one of our ACAT schools may be granted without the express permission of the pupil. This is not a rule and a pupil's ability to understand their rights will always be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Where a child is judged to be of sufficient age and maturity to exercise their rights and a request is invoked on their behalf, we would require them to give consent to authorise the action to be undertaken.

13. Close Circuit Television (CCTV)

We use CCTV in various locations around ACAT sites and premises for the detection and prevention of crime. However, footage may be used for additional reasons specified more fully in individual school's CCTV Policies. We adhere to the ICO's Code of Practice for the use of video surveillance and provide training to staff in its use.

We do not need to ask individuals' permission to use CCTV, but in most instances we make it clear where individuals are being recorded, with security cameras that are clearly visible and accompanied by prominent signs explaining that CCTV is in use. Where it is not clear, directions will be given on how further information can be sought.

14. Photographs and videos

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

The use of photographs includes but is not limited to:

- Notice boards and in brochures, newsletters and prospectuses.
- Outside of ACAT by external agencies and partners such as photographers, local and national newspapers and local and national campaigns we are involved with.
- Online on our website or social media pages.

We will obtain consent from the responsible individuals to use pupil images on joining each ACAT school via our initial data collection processes. When doing so, we will clearly explain how the photograph and/or video will be collected and used to both the parent/carer and pupil when obtaining consent.

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.

You can withdraw consent by contacting ACAT via admin@ascensionct.org.

15. 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 collection and processing activities. These include, but are not limited to the following organisational and technical measures:

- Appointing a suitably qualified DPO, 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 regulations.
- Completing data privacy impact assessments where ACAT's processing of personal data presents a high risk to rights and freedoms of individuals, and when introducing new technologies or processing tools. Advice and guidance will be sought from the DPO.
- Integrating data protection into internal documents including this policy, any related policies and privacy notices
- Regular training for ACAT workforce on data protection law, this policy and any related policies, and any other data protection matters. Records of attendance will be kept ensuring that all data handlers receive appropriate training.
- Periodic audits will be undertaken to monitor and review our privacy measures and make sure we are compliant.
- Maintaining records of our processing activities, including:
 - For the benefit of data subjects, making available the name and contact details of the ACAT 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, data subject, how and why we are using the data, any third-party recipients, how and why we are storing the data, retention periods and how we are keeping the data secure.

16. 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.

Our organisational and technical measures include, but are not limited to;

- Paper-based records and portable electronic devices, such as laptops, tablets and hard drives that contain personal data will be kept under lock and key when not in use. We endorse a clear desk policy.
- Papers containing confidential personal data will not be left out on display when not in use unless there is a compelling lawful basis to do so e.g. Public Task to display Allergy information in the Medical Room.
- Passwords that are at least eight characters long containing letters and numbers are used to access ACAT computers, laptops and other electronic devices. Staff and pupils are reminded to change their passwords at regular intervals.
- Encryption software is used to protect any devices such as laptops, tablets and USB devices, where saving to the hard drive is enabled.

- Staff, pupils or governors who store personal information on their personal devices are expected to follow the same security procedures as for ACAT-owned equipment and they sign an acceptable use agreement as a record of this.
- 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.

17. 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 be rectified or updated, unless it is no longer of use and therefore will be disposed of securely.

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

18. Personal data breaches

ACAT will make all reasonable endeavours to ensure that there are no personal data breaches.

All potential or confirmed data breach incidents should be reported to the Data Manager where they will be assigned a unique reference number and recorded in ACAT's Data Breach Log.

Once logged, incidents will then be investigated, the potential impact assessed, and appropriate remedial action undertaken. The DPO will be consulted as required.

Where appropriate, we will report the data breach to the ICO and affected Data Subjects within 72 hours.

Examples of a data protection breach include, but are not limited to:

- Personal data being left unattended in a meeting room/in the staff room.
- Sending information relating to a pupil or family to the wrong member of staff in ACAT, or to the wrong parent.
- A non-anonymised dataset being published on ACAT's website which shows the exam results of pupils eligible for the pupil premium.
- Safeguarding information being made available to an unauthorised person.
- The theft of an ACAT laptop containing non-encrypted personal data about pupils.

19. Monitoring arrangements

The DPO is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy as part of the general monitoring and compliance work they carry out.

They will work with the Data Manager and Governor responsible for Data Protection to ensure that this policy remains contemporaneous and appropriate.

This policy will be reviewed yearly, and changes recommended when appropriate. The Governors will be asked to review, make any necessary changes and sign off the policy.