



The Golden Thread Alliance

Data Retention Policy

Date Reviewed	Autumn 2025
Next Review Date	Autumn 2026

This policy has been adopted by all schools within The Golden Thread Alliance.



As united as we are different.

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1. Introduction

The Golden Thread Alliance recognises that by efficiently managing its records, it will be able to comply with its legal and regulatory obligations and to contribute to the effective overall management of the institution. Records provide evidence for protecting the legal rights and interests of the academy and provide evidence for demonstrating performance and accountability. This document provides the policy framework through which this effective management can be achieved and audited. It covers:

- Scope
- Responsibilities
- Relationships with existing policies

2. Scope

This policy applies to all records created, received or maintained by employees of the academy in the course of carrying out its functions.

Records are defined as all those documents which facilitate the business carried out by the academy and which are thereafter retained (for a set period) to provide evidence of its transactions or activities. These records may be created, received or maintained in hard copy or electronically.

3. Responsibilities

The Golden Thread Alliance has a corporate responsibility to maintain its records and record keeping systems in accordance with the regulatory environment. The person with overall responsibility for this policy is the Chief Operating and Financial Officer.

The Chief Operating and Financial Officer is responsible for records management within the Trust, will give guidance for good records management practice and will promote compliance with this policy so that information will be retrieved easily, appropriately and in a timely way. The Chief Operating and Financial Officer will also monitor compliance with this policy by surveying, at least annually, to check if records are stored securely and can be accessed appropriately.

Individual colleagues must ensure that records for which they are responsible are accurate and are maintained and disposed of in accordance with the Trust's records management guidelines. The Golden Thread Alliance follows the Information and Records Management Society (IRMS) record retention schedule found in the [Records Management Toolkit for Academies](#).

4. Relationship with Existing Policies

This policy has been drawn up within the context of the Trusts Freedom of Information Policy, Data Protection Policy and with other legislation or regulations (including audit, equal opportunities and ethics) affecting The Golden Thread Alliance.

Signed: _____
[Chief Operating and Financial Officer]

Appendix A:

FILE DESCRIPTION	RETENTION PERIOD
Employment Records	
Job applications and interview records of unsuccessful candidates	Six months after notifying unsuccessful candidates, unless The Golden Thread Alliance has applicants' consent to keep their CVs for future reference. In this case, application forms will give applicants the opportunity to object to their details being retained
Job applications and interview records of successful candidates	6 years after employment ceases
Written particulars of employment, contracts of employment and changes to terms and conditions	6 years after employment ceases
Right to work documentation including identification documents	6 years after employment ceases
Immigration checks	Two years after the termination of employment
DBS checks and disclosures of criminal records forms	As soon as practicable after the check has been completed and the outcome recorded (i.e. whether it is satisfactory or not) unless in exceptional circumstances (for example to allow for consideration and resolution of any disputes or complaints) in which case, for no longer than 6 months.
Change of personal details notifications	No longer than 6 months after receiving this notification
Emergency contact details	Destroyed on termination
Personnel records, including photo	While employment continues and up to six years after employment ceases (Limitation Act 1980)
Annual leave records	Six years after the end of tax year they relate to or possibly longer if leave can be carried over from year to year
Consents for the processing of personal and sensitive data	For as long as the data is being processed and up to 6 years afterwards
Working Time Regulations: • Opt out forms • Records of compliance with WTR	• Two years from the date on which they were entered into • Two years after the relevant period
Disciplinary records	6 years after employment ceases
Training	6 years after employment ceases or length of time required by the professional body

Staff training where it relates to safeguarding or other child related training	Date of the training plus 40 years (This retention period reflects that the IICSA may wish to see training records as part of an investigation)
Annual appraisal/assessment records	Current year plus 6 years
Professional Development Plans	6 years from the life of the plan
Allegations of a child protection nature against a member of staff including where the allegation is founded	10 years from the date of the allegation or the person's normal retirement age (whichever is longer). This should be kept under review. Malicious allegations should be removed.
Financial and Payroll Records	
Pension records	12 years
Retirement benefits schemes – notifiable events (for example, relating to incapacity)	6 years from the end of the scheme year in which the event took place
Payroll and wage records	6 years after end of tax year they relate to (Taxes Management Act 1970; Income and Corporation Taxes 1988)
Maternity/Adoption/Paternity Leave records	3 years after end of tax year they relate to
Statutory Sick Pay	3 years after the end of the tax year they relate to
Current bank details	Until updated plus 3 years
Bonus Sheets	Current year plus 3 years
Time sheets/clock cards/flexitime	Current year plus 3 years
Pupil Premium Fund records	Date pupil leaves the provision plus 6 years
National Insurance (schedule of payments)	Current year plus 6 years (Taxes Management Act 1970; Income and Corporation Taxes 1988)
Insurance	Current year plus 6 years (Taxes Management Act 1970; Income and Corporation Taxes 1988)
Overtime	Current year plus 3 years (Taxes Management Act 1970; Income and Corporation Taxes 1988)
Annual accounts	Current year plus 6 years
Loans and grants managed by The Golden Thread Alliance	Date of last payment on the loan plus 12 years
All records relating to the creation and management of budgets	Life of the budget plus 3 years
Invoices, receipts, order books and requisitions, delivery notices	Current financial year plus 6 years
Student Grant applications	Current year plus 3 years

Pupil Premium Fund records	Date pupil leaves The Golden Thread Alliance plus 6 years
School fund documentation (including but not limited to invoices, cheque books, receipts, bank statements etc).	Current year plus 6 years
Free school meals registers (where the register is used as a basis for funding)	Current year plus 6 years
School meal registers and summary sheets	Current year plus 3 years
Agreements and Administration Paperwork	
Collective workforce agreements and past agreements that could affect present employees	Permanently
Trade union agreements	10 years after ceasing to be effective
School Development Plans	3 years from the life of the plan
Visitors Book and Signing In Sheets	6 years
Newsletters and circulars to staff, parents and pupils	1 year (and The Golden Thread Alliance may decide to archive one copy)
Minutes of Senior Management Team meetings	Date of the meeting plus 3 years or as required
Reports created by the Head Teacher or the Senior Management Team.	Date of the report plus a minimum of 3 years or as required
Records relating to the creation and publication of The Golden Thread Alliance prospectus	Current academic year plus 3 years
Health and Safety Records	
Health and Safety consultations	Permanently
Health and Safety Risk Assessments	Life of the risk assessment plus 3 years
Health and Safety Policy Statements	Life of policy plus 3 years
Any records relating to any reportable death, injury, disease or dangerous occurrence	Date of incident plus 3 years provided that all records relating to the incident are held on personnel file
Accident reporting records relating to individuals who are under 18 years of age at the time of the incident	Until the child reaches the age of 21.
Accident reporting records relating to individuals who are over 18 years of age at the time of the incident	Accident book should be retained 3 years after last entry in the book. (Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979; Social Security Administration Act 1992; Limitation Act 1980)

Fire precaution log books	Current year plus 3 years
Medical records and details of: - - control of lead at work - employees exposed to asbestos dust - records specified by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)	40 years from the date of the last entry made in the record (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH); Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations)
Records of tests and examinations of control systems and protection equipment under COSHH	5 years from the date on which the record was made
Temporary and Casual Workers	
Records relating to hours worked and payments made to workers	3 years
Governing Committee Documents	
Instruments of government	For the life of The Golden Thread Alliance
Meetings schedule	Current year
Minutes – principal set (signed)	Generally kept for the life of the organisation
Agendas – principal copy	Where possible the agenda should be stored with the principal set of the minutes
Agendas – additional copies	Date of meeting
Policy documents created and administered by the governing committee	Until replaced
Register of attendance at full governing committee meetings	Date of last meeting in the book plus 6 years
Annual reports required by the Department of Education	Date of report plus 10 years
Records relating to complaints made to and investigated by the governing committee or Headteacher	Major complaints: current year plus 6 years. If negligence involved: current year plus 15 years. If child protection or safeguarding issues are involved then: current year plus 40 years.
Correspondence sent and received by the governing committee or head teacher	General correspondence should be retained for current year plus 3 years
Records relating to the terms of office of serving governors, including evidence of appointment	Date appointment ceases plus 6 years
Register of business interests	Date appointment ceases plus 6 years
Records relating to the training required and received by governors	Date appointment ceases plus 6 years

Records relating to the appointment of a clerk to the governing body	Date on which clerk appointment ceases plus 6 years
Governor personnel files	Date appointment ceases plus 6 years
Pupil Records	
Details of whether admission is successful/unsuccessful	1 year from the date of admission/non-admission
Proof of address supplied by parents as part of the admissions process	Current year plus 1 year
Admissions register	Entries to be preserved for three years from date of entry
Pupil Record	Primary – Whilst the child attends The Golden Thread Alliance
Electronic Pupil Record	This data will be held on Arbor until the pupil turns 25 years old
Attendance Registers	6 years from the date of entry
Correspondence relating to any absence (authorised or unauthorised)	Current academic year plus 2 years (Education Act 1996)
Counselling Records	Information will be held whilst the pupil is at The Golden Thread Alliance.
Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Education, Health and Care Plan, including advice and information provided to parents regarding educational needs and accessibility strategy	Date of birth of the pupil plus 31 years (Education, Health and Care Plan is valid until the individual reaches the age of 25 years – the retention period adds an additional 6 years from the end of the plan). (Children and Family's Act 2014; Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001)
Child protection information (to be held in a separate file).	Child protection notes will be passed to any new school a child attends. Records relating to children who have been 'looked after' by the local authority, adopted children and those with Special Educational Needs and EHCPs, or if the school is the last known school e.g moves onto homeschooling or CME, the Trust will keep this information until the child turns 25.
Exam results (pupil copy)	1-3 years from the date the results are released
Examination results (school's copy)	Current year plus 6 years
Allegations of sexual abuse	For the time period of an inquiry by the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

Records relating to any allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff	Until the accused normal retirement age or 10 years from the date of the allegation (whichever is the longer)
Consents relating to school activities as part of UK GDPR compliance (for example, consent to be sent circulars or mailings)	Consent will last whilst the pupil attends The Golden Thread Alliance.
Pupil's work	Where possible, returned to pupil at the end of the academic year (provided The Golden Thread Alliance have their own internal policy to this effect). Otherwise, the work should be retained for the current year plus 1 year.
Mark books	Current year plus 1 year
Schemes of work	Current year plus 1 year
Timetable	Current year plus 1 year
Class record books	Current year plus 1 year
Record of homework set	Current year plus 1 year
Photographs of pupils	For the time the child is at The Golden Thread Alliance and for a short while after. Please note select images may also be kept for longer (for example to illustrate history of The Golden Thread Alliance).
Parental consent forms for school trips where there has been no major incident	End of the trip or end of the academic year (subject to a risk assessment carried out by The Golden Thread Alliance)
Parental permission slips for school trips where there has been a major incident	Date of birth of the pupil involved in the incident plus 25 years. Permission slips for all the pupils on the trip should be retained to demonstrate the rules had been followed for all pupils
Other Records	
Emails	2 Years
Backup	2 years – please see M365 & Backup Policy, for further information
CCTV	One calendar month
Privacy notices	Until replaced plus 6 years
Inventories of furniture and equipment	Current year plus 6 years
All records relating to the maintenance of The Golden Thread Alliance carried out by	Whilst the building belongs to The Golden Thread Alliance

contractors or employees of The Golden Thread Alliance	
Records relating to the letting of school premises	Current financial year plus 6 years
Records relating to the creation and management of Parent Teacher Associations and/or Old Pupils Associations	Current year plus 6 years then review
Referral forms	While the referral is current
Contact data sheets	Current year then review, if contact is no longer active then destroy
SAR/FoI Paperwork	Paperwork that has been gathered in these regards will be destroyed six months after the release of the information.



West Hill Primary Academy
Dartford Road,
Dartford, Kent,
DA1 3DZ



01322 296140



hello@golden-thread.org



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