



General Data Protection Regulation Policy for Examinations

2024/25

SGS

This policy is annually reviewed to ensure compliance with current regulations

Approved/reviewed by	
Ms Niamh Boyle	
Date of next review	30/03/2026

Key staff involved in the General Data Protection Regulation policy

Role	Name(s)
Head of Centre	Mrs Madeleine Moran
Exams Officer	Ms Niamh Boyle
Exams officer line manager (Senior Leader)	Mr Brian Finnegan
Data Protection Officer	Mrs Kate Jackson
IT Manager	Mr Hayden Clarke-Goddard
Data Manager	Mr Kenneth Sinclair

Contents

Purpose of the Policy	Page 3
Section 1 Exams-Related Information	Page 3
Section 2: Informing Candidates of the Information Held	Page 4
Section 3: Hardware and Software	Page 4
Section 4: Dealing with Data Breaches	Page 4
Section 5: Candidate Information, Audit & Protection Measures	Page 6
Section 6: Data Retention Periods	Page 6
Section 7: Access to Information	Page 6
Section 8: Candidate Exams-Related Information Held	Page 7

Purpose of the policy

- This policy details how St. Gregory's Catholic Science College, in relation to exams management and administration, ensures compliance with the regulations as set out by the Data Protection Act (DPA) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Students are given the right to find out what information the centre holds about them, how this is protected, how this can be accessed and how data breaches are dealt with.
- All exams office staff responsible for collecting and sharing candidates' data are required to follow strict rules called 'data protection principles' ensuring the information is:
 - used fairly and lawfully
 - used for limited, specifically stated purposes
 - used in a way that is adequate, relevant and not excessive
 - accurate
 - kept for no longer than is absolutely necessary
 - handled according to people's data protection rights
 - kept safe and secure
 - not transferred outside the European Economic Area without adequate protection
- To ensure that the centre meets the requirements of the DPA and GDPR, all candidates' exam information – even that which is not classified as personal or sensitive – is covered under this policy.

Section 1 – Exams-related information

- There is a requirement for the exams office(r) to hold exams-related information on candidates taking external examinations. For further details on the type of information held please refer to *Section 5 – Candidate information, audit and protection measures*.
- Candidates' exams-related data may be shared with the following organisations:
 - Awarding bodies
 - Joint Council for Qualifications
 - [insert (by listing) any other organisations as relevant to your centre e.g. Department for Education; Local Authority; Multi Academy Trust; Consortium; the Press; etc.]
- This data may be shared via one or more of the following methods:
 - hard copy
 - email
 - secure extranet site(s) – eAQA; OCR Interchange; Pearson Edexcel Online.
 - Management Information System (MIS) provided by Capita SIMS) sending/receiving information via electronic data interchange (EDI) using A2C (<https://www.jcq.org.uk/about-a2c>) to/from awarding body processing systems; etc.]
- This data may relate to exam entries, access arrangements, the conduct of exams and non-examination assessments, special consideration requests and exam results/post-results/certificate information.

Section 2 – Informing candidates of the information held

- St. Gregory's Catholic Science College ensures that candidates are fully aware of the information and data held.
- All candidates are:
 - informed via centre newsletter and assemblies.
 - given access to this policy via the centre website.
- Candidates are made aware of the above in the month before examinations.

Section 3 – Hardware and software

- The table below confirms how IT hardware, software and access to online systems is protected in line with DPA & GDPR requirements.

• Hardware	• Date of purchase and protection measures	• Warranty expiry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop computer. • Laptop. 	<p>St. Gregory's uses SOPHOS anti-virus software on an ongoing basis and is due to install Intercept-X and Malwarebytes through the LGFL.</p>	

• Software/online system	• Protection measure(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIMS 	SIMS incorporates a facility to set up different levels of security for different staff needs. Staff would only have access to data that they need to do their job.
Spreadsheets	Confidential spreadsheets are encrypted. Access to spreadsheets is limited by User IDs and Passwords. The IT Support team oversee creation of user accounts and passwords. Complex passwords are changed every term.
Exam Boards	Access to Exam Board web sites are controlled through the use of authorisation and approvals followed by user ID and password access.
Analysis Companies	Analysis companies typically have a registration process followed by allocation of user IDs and passwords.

Section 4 – Dealing with data breaches

- Although data is handled in line with DPA/GDPR regulations, a data breach may occur for any of the following reasons:
 - loss or theft of data or equipment on which data is stored
 - inappropriate access controls allowing unauthorised use
 - equipment failure
 - human error
 - unforeseen circumstances such as a fire or flood
 - hacking attack
 - 'blagging' offences where information is obtained by deceiving the organisation who holds it
- If a data protection breach is identified, the following steps will be taken:

Containment and recovery

- The Data Protection Officer will lead on investigating the breach.
- It will be established:
 - who needs to be made aware of the breach and inform them of what they are expected to do to assist in the containment exercise. This may include isolating or closing a compromised section of the network, finding a lost piece of equipment and/or changing the access codes

- whether there is anything that can be done to recover any losses and limit the damage the breach can cause. As well as the physical recovery of equipment, this could involve the use of back-up hardware to restore lost or damaged data or ensuring that staff recognise when someone tries to use stolen data to access accounts
- which authorities, if relevant, need to be informed
- **Assessment of ongoing risk**
- The following points will be considered in assessing the ongoing risk of the data breach:
- what type of data is involved?
- how sensitive is it?
- if data has been lost or stolen, are there any protections in place such as encryption?
- what has happened to the data? If data has been stolen, it could be used for purposes which are harmful to the individuals to whom the data relates; if it has been damaged, this poses a different type and level of risk
- regardless of what has happened to the data, what could the data tell a third party about the individual?
- how many individuals' personal data are affected by the breach?
- who are the individuals whose data has been breached?
- what harm can come to those individuals?
- are there wider consequences to consider such as a loss of public confidence in an important service we provide?
- **Notification of breach**
- Notification will take place to enable individuals who may have been affected to take steps to protect themselves or to allow the appropriate regulatory bodies to perform their functions, provide advice and deal with complaints.
- **Evaluation and response**
- Once a data breach has been resolved, a full investigation of the incident will take place. This will include:
- reviewing what data is held and where and how it is stored
- identifying where risks and weak points in security measures lie (for example, use of portable storage devices or access to public networks)
- reviewing methods of data sharing and transmission
- increasing staff awareness of data security and filling gaps through training or tailored advice
- reviewing contingency plans

Section 5 – Candidate information, audit and protection measures

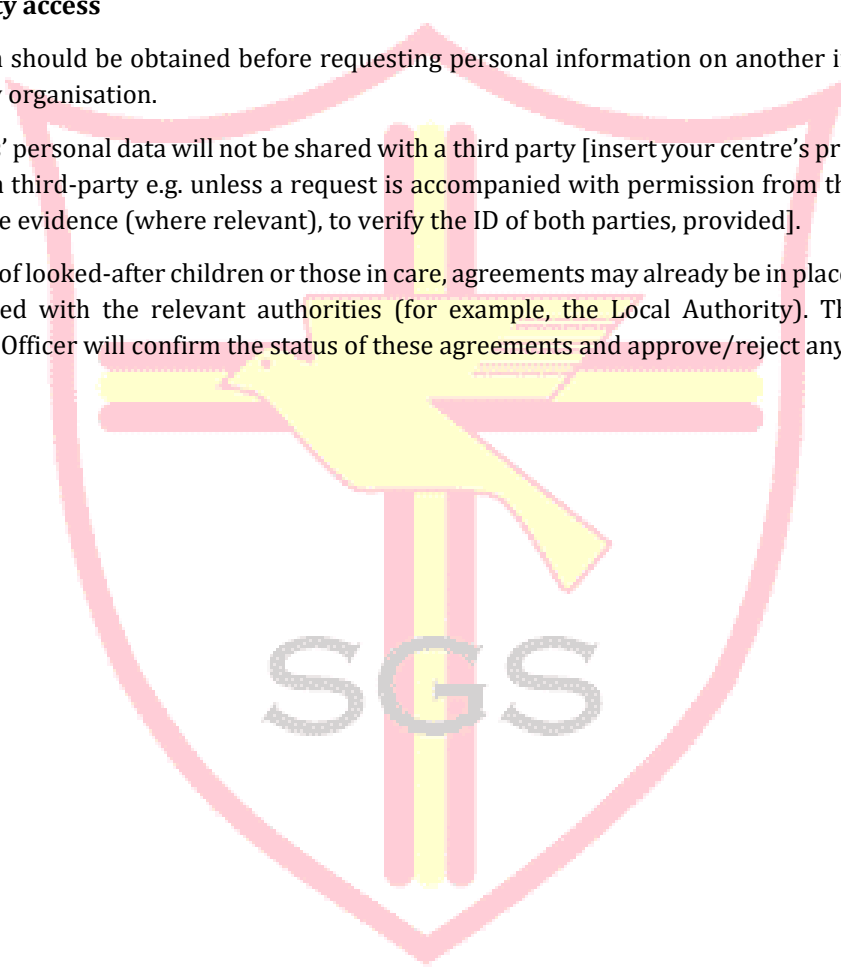
- For the purposes of this policy, all candidates' exam-related information – even that not considered personal or sensitive under the DPA/GDPR – will be handled in line with DPA/GDPR guidelines.
- The table below details the type of candidate exams-related information held, and how it is managed, stored and protected
- Protection measures may include:
- password protected area on the centre's intranet
- secure drive accessible only to selected staff
- information held in secure area
- updates undertaken every [X] months (this may include updating antivirus software, firewalls, internet browsers etc.)

Section 6 – Data retention periods

- Details of retention periods, the actions taken at the end of the retention period and method of disposal are contained in the centre's Exams archiving policy which is available/accessible from the Exams Officer.

Section 7 – Access to information

- Current and former candidates can request access to the information/data held on them by making a **subject access request** to Matt Lantos, the Data Protection Officer by writing/email. Date of birth, address, candidate number and subjects taken will need to be confirmed if a former candidate is unknown to current staff. All requests will be dealt with within 40 calendar days.
- **Third party access**
- Permission should be obtained before requesting personal information on another individual from a third-party organisation.
- Candidates' personal data will not be shared with a third party [insert your centre's process for sharing data with a third-party e.g. unless a request is accompanied with permission from the candidate and appropriate evidence (where relevant), to verify the ID of both parties, provided].
- In the case of looked-after children or those in care, agreements may already be in place for information to be shared with the relevant authorities (for example, the Local Authority). The centre's Data Protection Officer will confirm the status of these agreements and approve/reject any requests.



Section 8 – Table recording candidate exams-related information held

For details of how to request access to information held, refer to section 7 of this policy (**Access to information**)

For further details of how long information is held, refer to section 6 of this policy (**Data retention periods**)

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Access arrangements information		Candidate name Candidate DOB Gender Data protection notice (candidate signature) Diagnostic testing outcome(s) Specialist report(s) (may also include candidate address) Evidence of normal way of working	Access arrangements online MIS Lockable metal filing cabinet	Secure user name and password In secure area solely assigned to exams	
Attendance registers copies					
Candidates' work					
Certificates					
Certificate destruction information					
Certificate issue information					
Entry information					

ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC SCIENCE COLLEGE

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Exam room incident logs					
Overnight supervision information					
Post-results services: confirmation of candidate consent information					
Post-results services: requests/outcome information					
Post-results services: scripts provided by ATS service					
Post-results services: tracking logs					
Private candidate information					
Resolving clashes information					
Results information					
Seating plans					

ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC SCIENCE COLLEGE

Information type	Information description (where required)	What personal/sensitive data is/may be contained in the information	Where information is stored	How information is protected	Retention period
Special consideration information					
Suspected malpractice reports/outcomes					
Transfer of credit information					
Transferred candidate information					
Very late arrival reports/outcomes					

