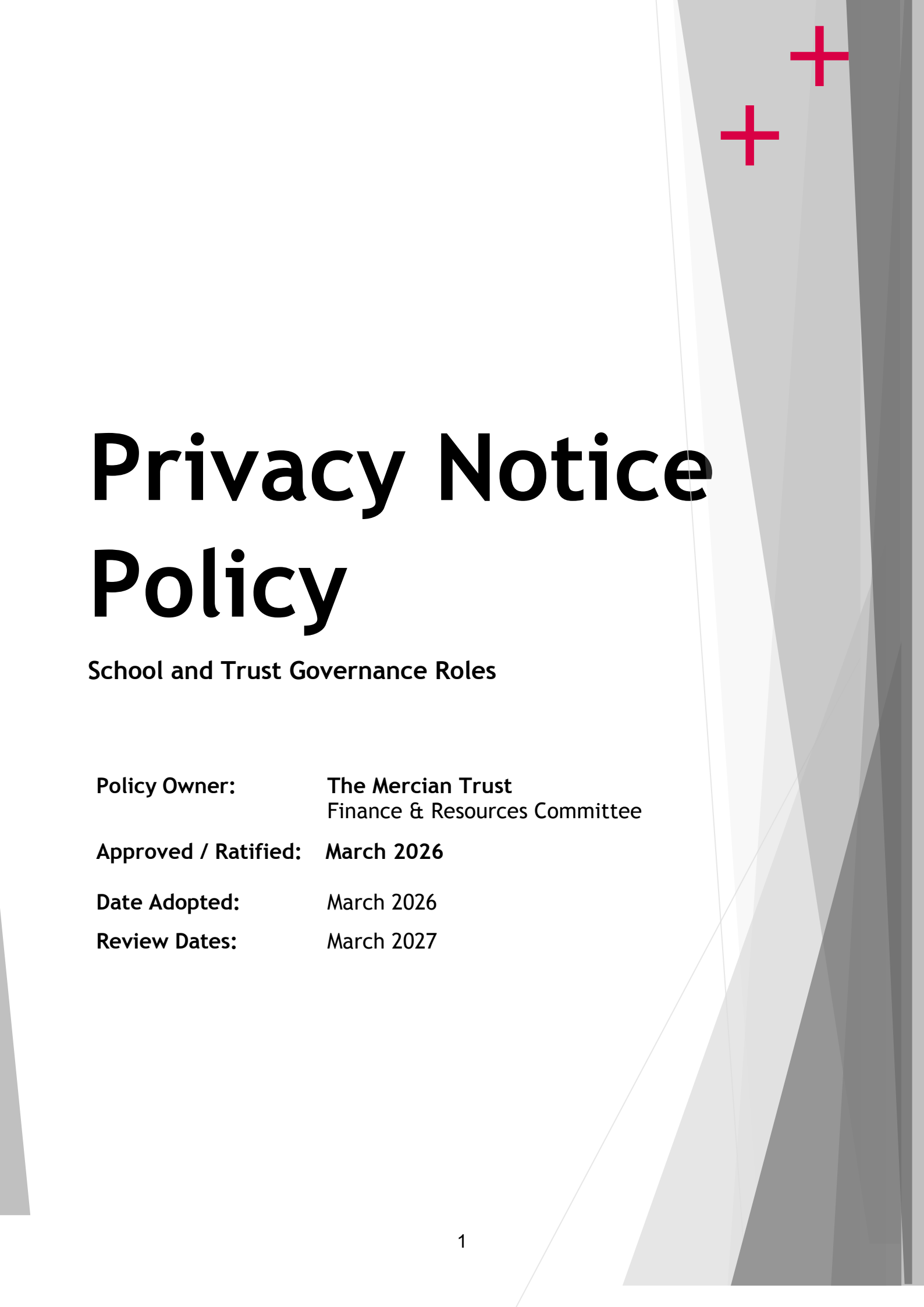




Privacy Notice Policy

School and Trust Governance Roles

Policy Owner:	The Mercian Trust Finance & Resources Committee
Approved / Ratified:	March 2026
Date Adopted:	March 2026
Review Dates:	March 2027

Document Version Control Log

Version	Date	Description of changes and person/organisation responsible
2.0	30/04/2020	Text updated in 'Why We Collect and Use Workforce Information' to reflect Article 10 for processing criminal offence data and link to Data Protection Policy for conditions of processing in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018.
2.1	26/02/2021	Text updated to reflect end of Brexit transition and updates references from the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR). (SchoolPro TLC)
2.2	17/10/2022	Text updated in 'Requesting Access to Your Personal Data' to reflect new DfE wording regarding data subject rights. Bullet point list has been updated as well as introductory text to the list. (SchoolPro TLC)
2.3	11/08/2023	Text updated in 'How the Government Uses Your Data' to include some text minor changes. The changes are mostly to change references to the DfE to 'Department for Education (DfE)' in all cases and remove statistics on pupil data shares. (SchoolPro)
2.4	2/03/2026	Revised complaint handling section to reflect Section 164A DPA 2018 (as amended by DUAA 2025). Individuals must now submit complaints directly to the organisation.

Privacy Notice (How We Use Personal Information on Get Information About Schools - GIAS)

The Categories of Governance Information That We Process Include:

- personal identifiers, contacts and characteristics (such as name, date of birth, contact details and postcode)
- governance details (such as role, start and end dates and governor ID)

Why We Collect and Use Governance Information

The personal data collected is essential, in order for the school to fulfil their official functions and meet legal requirements.

We collect and use governance information, for the following purposes:

- a) to meet the statutory duties placed upon us
- b) to facilitate safe recruitment
- c) to inform our community

Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the legal bases we rely on for processing personal information for general purposes are:

Consent.

- For the performance of a contract.
- To comply with a legal obligation, as for purposes a) and b) above.
- To protect the vital interests of the individual or another person.
- For a task carried out in the public interest.
- For a legitimate interest of the school or one of the organisations, it shares data with (e.g. legal adviser) except where those rights are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection. Sometimes the handling of your personal data falls within several of the above lawful grounds.

Consent

We may ask for your consent to use your information in certain ways. For example, we may ask to use your image on our website or in school publications. If we ask for your consent to use your personal data, you can take back this consent at any time. Any use of your information before you withdraw your consent remains valid.

Performance of a contract

We need to process data to enter into a contract with you and to meet our obligations under such contract. For example, we may need to process your data to pay expenses in accordance with our policies and your role. Your personal data, where it is reasonable to do so, may also be shared with other professionals contracted by the school, such as legal and professional advisers.

Legal obligation

In some cases, we need to process data to ensure that we are complying with our legal obligations. For example, we must make a Section 128 direction check on trustees and governors. Safer recruitment procedures in schools also require appropriate checks to be made on persons in governance roles. Statutory reporting requirements are included within this section. As is disclosing information to third parties such as the courts or the police where we are legally obliged to do so.

Vital interests

This legal basis can be used where, for example, we need to disclose information about you to prevent you or someone else from being seriously harmed or killed. An example can include providing information to a medical professional about you in circumstances where you are unable to provide the information yourself. It may cover an emergency.

Public interest

We consider that we are acting in the public interest when providing education.

Specifically, we have a public interest in:

- Providing an education.
- Fulfilling our safeguarding obligations and investigating complaints that may be directly connected with you or may require access to your personal data when investigating complaints by others.
- Promoting the interests of the school.
- Managing the school efficiently.
- for the purpose **a)** named above in accordance with the legal basis of **Legal Obligation**

All maintained school governing bodies, under [section 538 of the Education Act 1996](#) and academy trusts, under the [Academies Financial Handbook](#) have a legal duty to provide the governance information as detailed above.

In addition, concerning any special category data:

We must also comply with an additional condition where we process special categories of your personal data. These special categories include personal information revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, genetic information, biometric information, health information, and information about sex life or orientation. Data relating to criminal offences is also given similar protection. Special category personal data and sensitive information are processed in accordance with GDPR - Article 9 and documented on our data asset register.

We process criminal offence data under Article 10 of the UK GDPR.

Our Data Protection Policy highlights the conditions for processing in Schedule 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 that we process Special Category and Criminal Offence data under.

Collecting Governance Information

We collect personal information via

Governor election nomination forms

- Your completion of your profile on The Trust Governor system
- Your passport or other identity check documents, such as your driving licence.
- From third parties such as the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in carrying out safeguarding checks.
- Information provided and recorded in the register of directors

Governance data is essential for the school's operational use. Whilst the majority of personal information you provide to us is mandatory, some of it may be requested on a voluntary basis. In order to comply with UK GDPR, we will inform you at the point of collection, whether you are required to provide certain information to us or if you have a choice in this.

Storing Governance Information

We hold data securely for the set amount of time shown in our data retention schedule. For more information on our data retention schedule and how we keep your data safe, please visit Retention and Distribution Policy <https://www.themerciantrust.org/Policies/>

We take the security of your personal data very seriously. We have internal policies and controls in place to try to ensure that data is not lost, accidentally destroyed, misused or disclosed, and is not accessed except by our employees in the performance of their duties. Where we engage third parties to process personal data on our behalf, they do so based on written instructions, are under a duty of confidentiality and are obliged to implement appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the security of data

Who We Share Governance Information With

We routinely share this information with:

- our local authority (where applicable)
- the Department for Education (DfE)
- The Mercian Trust
- National Governance Association
- Companies House

Why We Share Governance Information

We do not share information about individuals in governance roles with anyone without consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so. We share governance data with the DfE on a statutory basis.

Department for Education (DfE)

The Department for Education (DfE) collects personal data from educational settings and local authorities. We are required to share information about individuals in governance roles with the Department for Education (DfE), under:

We are required to share information about individuals in governance roles with the Department for Education (DfE) under the requirements set out in the [Academies Financial Handbook](#)

All data is entered manually on the GIAS system and held by the Department for Education (DfE) under a combination of software and hardware controls which meet the current [government security policy framework](#).

For more information, please see 'How Government uses your data' section.

Requesting Access To Your Personal Data

Under data protection legislation, you have the right to request access to information about you that we hold. To make a request for your personal information, contact **James Fendek via GDPR@merciantrust.org.uk**

Depending on the lawful basis used for processing data (as identified above), you may also have the right to:

- have your personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete;
- request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing;
- restrict our processing of your personal data (i.e. permitting its storage but no further processing);
- object to direct marketing (including profiling) and processing for the purposes of scientific/historical research and statistics; or
- not be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect on you.

If you have a concern or complaint about the way we are collecting or using your personal data, you should raise your concern with us in the first instance or directly to the Information Commissioner's Office at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

For further information on how to request access to personal information held centrally by the Department for Education (DfE), please see the 'How Government uses your data' section of this notice.

Withdrawal of Consent and The Right to Lodge A Complaint

Where we are processing your personal data with your consent, you have the right to withdraw that consent. If you change your mind, or you are unhappy with our use of your personal data, please let us know by contacting **James Fendek via GDPR@merciantrust.org.uk**

Under Section 164A of the Data Protection Act 2018, you have a statutory right to complain if you believe your personal data has been handled inappropriately.

If you wish to raise a concern about how we process your personal data, please contact us directly at **GDPR@merciantrust.org.uk**. We will acknowledge your complaint within 30 days of receipt and take appropriate steps to investigate and respond without undue delay.

If you are not satisfied with our response, you may escalate your complaint to the Information Commission at: [Information Commissioner's Office](#)

Contact

If you would like to discuss anything in this privacy notice, please contact: **James Fendek via GDPR@merciantrust.org.uk**

How Government Uses Your Data

The governance data that we lawfully share with the Department for Education (DfE) via GIAS:

- will increase the transparency of governance arrangements
- will enable local authority maintained schools, academies, academy trusts and the Department for Education (DfE) to identify more quickly and accurately individuals who are involved in governance and who govern in more than one context
- allows the Department for Education (DfE) to be able to uniquely identify an individual and in a small number of cases conduct checks to confirm their suitability for this important and influential role

Data Collection Requirements

To find out more about the requirements placed on us by the Department for Education (DfE) including the data that we share with them, go to

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-database-of-governors>

Some of these personal data items are not publicly available and are encrypted within the GIAS system. Access is restricted to authorised Department for Education (DfE) and education establishment users with a Department for Education (DfE) Sign-in (DSI) account who need to see it in order to fulfil their official duties. The information is for internal purposes only and not shared beyond the Department for Education (DfE) unless the law allows it.

How to Find Out What Personal Information Department for Education (DfE) Hold About You

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018, you're entitled to ask the Department for Education (DfE):

- if they are processing your personal data
- for a description of the data they hold about you
- the reasons they're holding it and any recipient it may be disclosed to
- for a copy of your personal data and any details of its source

If you want to see the personal data held about you by the Department for Education (DfE), you should make a 'subject access request'. Further information on how to do this can be found within the Department for Education's (DfE) personal information charter that is published at the address below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/about/personal-information-charter>

To contact the Department for Education (DfE): <https://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>