



# **Freedom of Information Policy**





## Model Publication Scheme

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This model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It may be adopted without modification by any public authority without further approval and will be valid until further notice.

This publication scheme commits an authority to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the authority. Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information Commissioner.

The scheme commits an authority:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- To review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
- To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- To make this publication scheme available to the public.

### Classes of Information

#### **Who we are and what we do.**

Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.

#### **What we spend and how we spend it.**

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.

#### **What our priorities are and how we are doing.**

Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.

**How we make decisions.**

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.

**Our policies and procedures.**

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

**Lists and Registers.**

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the authority.

**The Services we Offer.**

Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

The classes of information will not generally include:

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
- Information in draft form.
- Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage, or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

**The method by which information published under this scheme will be made available**

The authority will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of a public authority, information will be provided on a website. Where it is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, a public authority will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

In exceptional circumstances some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where an authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

### **Charges which may be made for Information published under this scheme**

The purpose of this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the authority for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge.

Charges may be made for information subject to a charging regime specified by Parliament.

Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- photocopying
- postage and packaging
- the costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information

Charges may also be made for information provided under this scheme where they are legally authorised, they are in all the circumstances, including the general principles of the right of access to information held by public authorities, justified and are in accordance with a published schedule or schedules of fees which is readily available to the public.

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment may be requested prior to provision of the information.

### **Written Requests**

Information held by a public authority that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.





## Definition document for the Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools in England

This guidance gives examples of the kinds of information that we would expect schools to provide in order to meet their commitments under the model publication scheme. It will be of most use to schools developing their own guide to information. Nursery and primary schools may alternatively use the model guides to information which will be provided for this sector.

We would expect schools to make the information in this definition document available unless:

- they do not hold the information;
- the information is exempt under one of the FOI exemptions or Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) exceptions, or its release is prohibited under another statute;
- the information is archived, out of date or otherwise inaccessible; or,
- it would be impractical or resource-intensive to prepare the material for routine release.

The guidance is not meant to give a definitive list. The legal commitment is to the model publication scheme, and authorities should look to provide as much information as possible on a routine basis.

### Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts.

We would expect information in this class to be current information only.

- **Instrument of Government**

The Instrument of Government is the document which records the name and category of the school and the name and constitution of its governing body.

- **School prospectus**

The statutory contents of the school prospectus, as follows:

- information about the implementation of the governing body's policy on pupils with special educational needs (SEN).
- a description of the policies relating to disabled pupils, including facilities to improve access and the accessibility plan.

Once the prospectus has been published and made available to parents, access to it should be available to anyone.

- **Annual Report**

Only maintained nursery schools are required to produce a Governor's Annual Report to Parents.

- **Governing Body**

The names, and contact details of the governors should be available and the basis on which they have been appointed.

- **School session times and term dates**

Details of school session times and dates of school terms and holidays.

- **Location and contact information**

The address, telephone number and website for the school together with the names of key personnel.

**What we spend and how we spend it**

Financial information about projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit.

The minimum we would expect is that financial information for the current and previous two financial years should be available.

- **Annual budget plan and financial statements**

Details of the Individual Schools Budget distributed by the Local Authority and the school's annual income and expenditure returns.

- **Capital funding**

Details of the capital funding allocated to the school together with information on related building projects and other capital projects.

- **Additional Funding**

Income generation schemes and other sources of funding. (Specialist secondary schools may have additional government funding and arrangements with private sector sponsors.)

- **Procurement and contracts**

Details of procedures used for the acquisition of goods and services. Details of contracts that have gone through a formal tendering process.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pay policy</b></li> </ul> <p>The statement of the school's policy and procedures regarding teachers' pay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staffing and grading structure</b></li> <li>• <b>Governors' allowances</b></li> </ul> <p>Details of allowances and expenses that can be claimed or incurred.</p>
<p><b>What our priorities are and how we are doing</b> Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews.</p> <p>The minimum we would expect in this class is current information.</p> <p>Below is a list of the type of information that we would expect schools to have readily available for publication. Any other reports or recorded information showing the school's planned or actual performance should normally be included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School profile</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Government-supplied performance data</li> <li>○ Summary of latest Ofsted report*</li> <li>○ The required narrative sections covering areas such as: successes during the year; areas of improvement; efforts to meet the individual needs of every child; pupil's health, safety and support; post-Ofsted action plan; and links with parents and the community</li> </ul> <p>(* the full Ofsted report should also be available.)</p> </li> <li>• <b>Performance management information</b></li> </ul> <p>Performance management policy and procedures adopted by the governing body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Schools future plans</b></li> </ul> <p>Any major proposals for the future of the school involving, for example, consultation or a change in school status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Every Child Matters / child protection</b></li> </ul> <p>The contribution of the school to the five Every Child Matters outcomes. The policies and procedures that are in place to ensure that functions are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in compliance with any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.</p>

<p><b>How we make decisions</b> Decision-making processes and records of decisions.</p>
<p>We would expect information in this class to be available at least for the current and previous three years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Admissions policy / decisions</b></li> </ul> <p>The school's admission arrangements and procedures, together with information about the right of appeal. Individual admission decisions would not be expected to be published, but information on application numbers/patterns of successful applicants (including criteria on which applications were successful) should be if this information is held by the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Minutes of meetings of the Governing body and its sub-committees</b></li> </ul> <p>Minutes, agendas and papers considered at such meetings should be published as soon as practicable, with the exception of information that is properly considered to be private to the meeting.</p>
<p><b>Our policies and procedures</b> Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities.</p>
<p>We would expect information in this class to be current only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School policies</b></li> </ul> <p>This will include school policies and procedures together with other information related to the school such as charging and remissions policy, health and safety and risk assessment, complaints procedure, staff conduct policy, discipline and grievance policies, pay policy, staffing structure implementation plan. It will also include policies and procedures for handling information requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pupil and Curriculum policies</b></li> </ul> <p>This will include such policies as home-school agreement, curriculum, sex education, special educational needs, accessibility, race equality, collective worship, careers education (Key Stage 4 pupils) and pupil discipline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Records management and personal data policies</b></li> </ul> <p>This will include information security policies, records retention, destruction and archive policies, and data protection (including data sharing) policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Equality and diversity</b></li> </ul> <p>This will also include policies, schemes, statements, procedures and</p>

guidelines relating to equal opportunities.

- **Policies and procedures for the recruitment of staff**

If vacancies are advertised as part of recruitment policies, details of current vacancies will be readily available.

- **Charging regimes and policies**

Details of any statutory charging regimes should be provided. Charging policies should include charges made for information routinely published. They should clearly state what costs are to be recovered, the basis on which they are made, and how they are calculated.

### **Lists and registers**

We expect this to be information in currently maintained list and registers only.

- **Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments**

Statutory Instruments (for example Regulations), departmental circulars and administrative memoranda sent to the Head Teacher/Governing Body concerning the curriculum.

- **Disclosure logs**

If a school produces a disclosure log indicating the information provided in response to requests, it should be readily available. Disclosure logs are recommended as good practice.

- **Asset register**

We would expect some information from capital asset registers to be available, if such registers are held.

- **Any information the school is currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers**

### **The services we offer**

Information about the services the school provides including leaflets, guidance and newsletters.

Generally this is an extension of part of the first class of information and may also relate to information covered in other classes. Examples of services that could be included here are:

- **Extra-curricular activities**
- **Out of school clubs**
- **School publications**
- **Services for which the school is entitled to recover a fee, together**

**with those fees**

- **Leaflets, booklets and newsletters**