



**BERKSHIRE SCHOOLS
TRUST**

Freedom of Information Policy

2020

In reviewing this policy, the trust board has had regard to the Equality Act 2010 and carried out an equality impact assessment. It is satisfied that no group with a protected characteristic will be unfairly disadvantaged by this policy.

<u>Document History</u>			
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Policy group	Group A - Statutory policies required by education legislation Group B - Statutory policies under other legislation Group C – Other statutory documents Group D – Documents referred to in statutory guidance		
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1.2	Thomas NG, DPO West Berks CC		
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The Model Publication Scheme below comes from the Information Commissioner's Office, and has been adopted in its entirety by the Trust as instructed by the guidance issued by the Information Commissioner. Where the scheme refers to "the authority" this will be taken to mean Berkshire Schools Trust or the individual school in question.

1. Model Publication Scheme

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.

2. 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.

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.

3. Method by which Published Information will be made available

The school 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 school, 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.

4. Charges

Charges 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 school 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.

5. Written Requests

Information held by the school 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.

6. Monitoring and Evaluating

This policy will be monitored by the Headteacher and the Local Governing Body and reviewed by the staff as part of the school's monitoring cycle.

7. Contact Details

If you have any questions, concerns or would like more information about anything mentioned in this policy, please contact our **data protection officer**:

BST Data Protection Officer
Thomas Ng
c/o The Berkshire Schools Trust
New Town Primary School
School Terrace
Reading
RG1 3LS
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