

# Retention Guidelines Continued

## Retention Guidelines

### 1 Governing Body

This section contains retention periods connected to the work and responsibilities of the governing body.

For further information about governing body records please see: "The constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities in England August 2017"

1.1 Management of Governing Body					
	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
1.1.1	Instruments of government		For the life of the school	Consult local archives before disposal	
1.1.2	Trusts and endowments		For the life of the school	Consult local archives before disposal	
1.1.3	Records relating to the election of parent and staff governors not appointed by the governors		Date of election + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.1.4	Records relating to the appointment of co-opted governors		Provided that the decision has been recorded in the minutes, the records relating to the appointment can be destroyed once the co-opted governor has finished their term of office (except where there have been allegations concerning children). In this case retain for 25 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
1.1.5	Records relating to the election of chair and vice chair		Once the decision has been recorded in the minutes, the records relating to the election can be destroyed	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.1.6	Scheme of delegation and terms of reference for committees		Until superseded or whilst relevant [Schools may wish to retain these records for reference purposes in case decisions need to be justified]	These could be offered to the archives if appropriate	
1.1.7	Meetings schedule		Current year	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
1.1.8	Agendas - principal copy		Where possible the agenda should be stored with the principal set of the minutes	Consult local archives before disposal	Potential
1.1.9	Minutes - principal set (signed)		Although generally kept for the life of the organisation, the Local Authority is only required to make these available for 10 years from the date of the meeting	Consult local archives before disposal	Potential



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	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
1.1.10	Reports made to the governors' meeting which are referred to in the minutes		Although generally kept for the life of the organisation, the Local Authority is only required to make these available for 10 years from the date of the meeting	Consult local archives before disposal	Potential
1.1.11	Register of attendance at Full governing board meetings		Date of last meeting in the book + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.1.12	Papers relating to the management of the annual parents' meeting		Date of meeting + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.1.13	Agendas - additional copies		Date of meeting	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
1.1.14	Records relating to Governor Monitoring Visits		Date of the visit + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.1.15	Annual Reports required by the DoE		Date of report + 10 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
1.1.16	All records relating to the conversion of schools to Academy status		For the life of the organisation	Consult local archives before disposal	



	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
1.1.17	Records relating to complaints made to and investigated by the governing body or head teacher		Major complaints: current year + 6 years. If negligence involved then: current year + 15 years If child protection or safeguarding issues are involved then: current year + 40 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.1.18	Correspondence sent and received by the governing body or head teacher		General correspondence should be retained for current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Potential
1.1.19	Action plans created and administered by the governing body		Until superseded or whilst relevant	SECURE DISPOSAL	
1.1.20	Policy documents created and administered by the governing body		Until superseded [The school should consider keeping all policies relating to safeguarding, child protection or other pupil related issues such as exclusion until the IICSA has issued its recommendations.]		



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1.2 Governor Management					
	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
1.2.1	Records relating to the appointment of a clerk to the governing body		Date on which clerk appointment ceases + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.2.2	Records relating to the terms of office of serving governors, including evidence of appointment		Date appointment ceases + 6 years		Yes
1.2.3	Records relating to governor declaration against disqualification criteria		Date appointment ceases + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.2.4	Register of business interests		Date appointment ceases + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.2.5	Governors Code of Conduct		This is expected to be a dynamic document; one copy of each version should be kept for the life of the organisation		
1.2.6	Records relating to the training required and received by Governors		Date Governor steps down + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
1.2.7	Records relating to the induction programme for new governors		Date appointment ceases + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.2.8	Records relating to DBS checks carried out on clerk and members of the governing body		Date of DBS check + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
1.2.9	Governor personnel files		Date appointment ceases + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes

## 2 Management of the School

This section contains retention periods connected to the processes involved in managing the school, including Human Resources, Financial Management, Payroll and Property Management.

<b>2.1 Head Teacher and Senior Management Team</b>					
	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
2.1.1	Log books of activity in the school maintained by the Head Teacher		Date of last entry in the book + minimum of 6 years, then review	These could be of permanent historical value and should be offered to the County Archives Service if appropriate	Potential
2.1.2	Minutes of Senior Management Team meetings and the meetings of other internal administrative bodies		Date of the meeting + 3 years then review annually, or as required if not destroyed	SECURE DISPOSAL	Potential
2.1.3	Reports created by the Head Teacher or the Management Team		Date of the report + a minimum of 3 years then review annually or as required if not destroyed	SECURE DISPOSAL	Potential



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	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
2.1.4	Records created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities which do not fall under any other category		Current academic year + 6 years then review annually, or as required if not destroyed	SECURE DISPOSAL	Potential
2.1.5	Correspondence created by head teachers, deputy head teachers, heads of year and other members of staff with administrative responsibilities		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Potential
2.1.6	Professional development plans		These should be held on the individual's personnel record. If not then termination of employment + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Potential
2.1.7	School development plans		Life of the plan + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	



## 2.2 Operational Administration

	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
2.2.1	General file series which do not fit under any other category		Current year + 5 years, then review	SECURE DISPOSAL	Potential
2.2.2	Records relating to the creation and publication of the school brochure or prospectus		Current academic year + 3 years	The school could preserve a copy for their archive otherwise STANDARD DISPOSAL	
2.2.3	Records relating to the creation and distribution of circulars to staff, parents or pupils		Current academic year + 1 year	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
2.2.4	School Privacy Notice which is sent to parents as part of GDPR compliance		Until superseded + 6 years		
2.2.5	Consents relating to school activities as part of GDPR compliance (for example, consent to be sent circulars or mailings)		Consent will last whilst the pupil attends the school, it can therefore be destroyed when the pupil leaves	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.2.6	Newsletters and other items with a short operational use		Current academic year + 1 year [Schools may decide to archive one copy]	STANDARD DISPOSAL	
2.2.7	Visitor management systems (including electronic systems, visitors books and signing-in sheets)		Last entry in the visitors book + 6 years (in case of claims by parents or pupils about various actions).	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.2.8	Walking bus registers		Date of register + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



## Retention Guidelines Continued

2.3 Human Resources					
	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
<b>Recruitment</b>					
2.3.1	All records leading up to the appointment of a headteacher		Unsuccessful attempts. Date of appointment plus 6 months. Add to personnel file and retain until end of appointment + 6 years, except in cases of negligence or claims of child abuse then at least 15 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.2	All records leading up to the appointment of a member of staff/governor – unsuccessful candidates		Date of appointment of successful candidate + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.3	Pre-employment vetting information – DBS Checks – successful candidates	DBS Update Service Employer Guide June 2014; Keeping Children Safe in Education.2018 (Statutory Guidance from DoE) Sections 73, 74	Application forms, references and other documents – for the duration of the employee’s employment + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
<b>Recruitment</b>					
2.3.4	Forms of proof of identity collected as part of the process of checking "portable" enhanced DBS disclosure		Where possible this process should be carried out using the on-line system. If it is necessary to take a copy of documentation then it should be retained on the staff personal file.	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.5	Pre-employment vetting information – Evidence proving the right to work in the United Kingdom – successful candidates	An Employer's Guide to Right to Work Checks [Home Office, May 2015]	Where possible these documents should be added to the staff personnel file [see below], but if they are kept separately then the Home Office requires that the documents are kept for termination of employment + not less than 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
<b>Operational Staff Management</b>					
2.3.6	Staff personnel file	Limitation Act 1980 (Section 2)	Termination of Employment + 6 years, unless the member of staff is part of any case which falls under the terms of reference of IICSA. If this is the case then the file will need to be retained until IICSA enquiries are complete	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.7	Annual appraisal/assessment records		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



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	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
<b>Operational Staff Management</b>					
2.3.8	Sickness absence monitoring		<p>Sickness records are categorised as sensitive data. There is a legal obligation under statutory sickness pay to keep records for sickness monitoring. Sickness records should be kept separate from accident records.</p> <p>It could be argued that where sickness pay is not paid then current year + 3 years is acceptable, whilst if sickness pay is made then it becomes a financial record and current year + 6 years applies. The actual retention may depend on the internal auditors. Most seem to accept current year + 3 years as being acceptable as this gives them, 'benefits' and Inland Revenue have time to investigate if they need to</p>	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.9	Staff training – where the training leads to continuing professional development		Length of time required by the professional body	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.10	Staff training – except where dealing with children, e.g. first aid or health and safety		This should be retained on the personnel file [see 2.3.1 above]	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
<b>Operational Staff Management</b>					
2.3.11	Staff training – where the training relates to children (e.g. safeguarding or other child related training)		Date of the training + 40 years [This retention period reflects that the IICSA may wish to see training records as part of an investigation]	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
<b>Disciplinary and Grievance Processes</b>					
Where schools are in any doubt as to which categories disciplinary records fall under, then HR or legal advice should be sought from the Local Authority.					
2.3.12	Records relating to any allegation of a child protection nature against a member of staff	"Keeping children safe in education Statutory guidance for schools and colleges September 2018"; "Working together to safeguard children. A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children 2018"	Until the person's normal retirement age or 10 years from the date of the allegation (whichever is the longer) then REVIEW. Note: allegations that are found to be malicious should be removed from personnel files. If found they are to be kept on the file and a copy provided to the person concerned UNLESS the member of staff is part of any case which falls under the terms of reference of IICSA. If this is the case then the file will need to be retained until IICSA enquiries are complete	SECURE DISPOSAL These records must be shredded	Yes
2.3.13	Disciplinary proceedings				Yes



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### Disciplinary and Grievance Processes

**Note:**

The ACAS code of practice on disciplinary and grievance procedures recommends that the employee should be told how long a disciplinary warning will remain current. However, this does not mean that the data itself should be destroyed at the end of the set period.

Any disciplinary proceedings data will be a record of an important event in the course of the employer's relationship with the employee. Should the same employee be accused of similar misconduct five years down the line, and them defend him- or herself by saying "I would never do something like that", reference to the earlier proceedings may show that the comment should not be given credence. Alternatively, if the employee were to be dismissed for some later offence and then claim at tribunal that he or she had "fifteen years of unblemished service", the record of the disciplinary proceedings would be effective evidence to counter this claim.

Employers should, therefore, be careful not to confuse the expiry of a warning for disciplinary purposes with a requirement to destroy all reference to its existence in the personnel file. One danger is that the disciplinary procedure itself often gives the impression that, at the end of the effective period for the warning, the warning will be "removed from the file". This or similar wording should be changed to make it clear that, while the warning will not remain active in relation to future disciplinary matters, a record of what has occurred will be kept.

	Oral warning		Date of warning + 6 months	SECURE DISPOSAL [If warnings are placed on personal files then they must be weeded from the file]	
	Written warning – level 1		Date of warning + 6 months		
	Written warning – level 2		Date of warning + 12 months		
	Final warning		Date of warning + 18 months		
	Case not found		If the incident is related to child protection then see above, otherwise dispose of at the conclusion of the case	SECURE DISPOSAL	



	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
<b>Payroll and Pensions</b>					
2.3.14	Absence record		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.15	Batches	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.16	Bonus sheets	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.17	Car allowance claims	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.18	Car loans	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Completion of loan + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.19	Car mileage output	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.20	Elements		Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.21	Income tax form P60		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



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	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
<b>Payroll and Pensions</b>					
2.3.22	Insurance	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.23	Maternity payment		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.24	Members allowance register	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.25	National Insurance – schedule of payments	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.26	Overtime	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.27	Part time fee claims	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.28	Pay packet receipt by employee		Current year + 2 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.29	Payroll awards		Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



	<b>Basic file description</b>	<b>Statutory Provisions</b>	<b>Retention Period [Operational]</b>	<b>Action at end of the administrative life of the record</b>	<b>Personal Information</b>
<b>Payroll and Pensions</b>					
2.3.30	Payroll – gross/net weekly or monthly	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.31	Payroll reports	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.32	Payslips – copies	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.33	Pension payroll	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.34	Personal bank details	If employment ceases then end of employment + 6 years	Until superseded + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.35	Sickness records		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.36	Staff returns		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.37	Superannuation adjustments	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



## Retention Guidelines Continued

	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
<b>Payroll and Pensions</b>					
	Superannuation reports	Taxes Management Act 1970 Income and Corporation Taxes 1988	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.38	Tax forms P6/P11/ P11D/P35/P45/P46/ P48	The minimum requirement - as stated in Inland Revenue Booklet 490 - is for at least 3 years after the end of the tax year to which they apply. Originals must be retained in paper/ electronic format. It is a corporate decision to retain for current year + 6 years. Employees should retain records for 22 months after current tax year	Current year + 6 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes
2.3.39	Time sheets/clock cards/flexitime		Current year + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes



## 2.4 Health and Safety

	Basic file description	Statutory Provisions	Retention Period [Operational]	Action at end of the administrative life of the record	Personal Information
2.4.1	Health and safety policy statements		Life of policy + 3 years	SECURE DISPOSAL	
2.4.2	Health and safety risk assessments		Life of risk assessment + 3 years provided that a copy of the risk assessment is stored with the accident report if an incident has occurred	SECURE DISPOSAL	
2.4.3	Accident reporting records relating to individuals who are over 18 years of age at the time of the incident	<p>Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979 Regulation 25. Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 8. Limitation Act 1980</p> <p>Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979. SI 1979 No 628</p> <p>Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations SI 1987 No 1968 Revokes all but Part 1 of SI 1979 No 628</p> <p>Social Security Administration Act 1992 Section 8.</p> <p>Social Security (Claims and Payments) Amendment (No 30) Regulations 1993 SI 1993 No 2113</p> <p>Allows the information to be kept electronically</p>	<p>The Accident Book – BI 510 - 3 years after last entry in the book</p> <p>This includes the new format to be used from 1/1/04</p> <p>This means that, if it takes 5 years to complete, the book must be retained for a further 3 years from the last entry</p> <p>Completed pages must be kept secure with restricted access. Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR</p>	SECURE DISPOSAL	Yes