

Policy Statement

Winchmore Tutors (hereinafter referred to as the “**Company**”) recognises and understands that the efficient management of its data and records is necessary to support its core business functions, to comply with its legal, statutory and regulatory obligations, to ensure the protection of personal information and to enable the effective management of the organisation.

This policy and related documents meet the standards and expectations set out by contractual and legal requirements and has been developed to meet the best practices of business records management, with the direct aim of ensuring a robust and structured approach to document control and systems.

Effective and adequate records and data management is necessary to: -

- Ensure that the business conducts itself in a structured, efficient and accountable manner
- Ensure that the business realises best value through improvements in the quality and flow of information and greater coordination of records and storage systems
- Support core business functions and providing evidence of conduct and the appropriate maintenance of associated tools, resources and outputs to clients and regulator
- Meet legislative, statutory and regulatory requirements
- Deliver services to staff and stakeholders in a consistent and equitable manner
- Assist in document policy formation and managerial decision making
- Provide continuity in the event of a disaster
- Protect the interests of the organisation and the rights of employees, clients and present and future stakeholders
- Protection personal information and data subject rights
- Avoid inaccurate or misleading data and minimise risks to personal information
- Erase data in accordance with the legislative and regulatory requirements

Information held for longer than is necessary carries additional risk and cost and can breach data protection rules and principles. The Company only ever retains records and information for legitimate business reasons and use, and we comply fully with the UK data protection laws and guidance.

Legal Framework

This policy supports compliance with:

- UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR)
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance

Winchmore Tutors is committed to retaining personal data only for as long as necessary and securely disposing of information when it is no longer required.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide the Company's statement of intent on how it provides a structured and compliant data and records management system with records being defined as all documents, regardless of the format; which facilitate business activities, and are thereafter retained to provide evidence of transactions and functions.

Such records may be created, received or maintained in hard copy or in an electronic format with the overall definition of records management being a field of management responsible for the efficient and systematic control of the creation, receipt, maintenance, use, distribution, storage and disposal of records.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff and tutors within the Company (*meaning permanent, fixed term, and temporary staff, any third-party representatives or sub-contractors, agency workers, volunteers, interns and agents engaged with the Company in the UK or overseas*) and pertains to the processing of personal information. Adherence to this policy is mandatory and non-compliance could lead to disciplinary action.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Data Protection Officer is responsible for:

- Monitoring compliance with this policy
- Managing retention schedules
- Reviewing erasure requests
- Conducting compliance reviews

All staff, tutors and contractors are responsible for ensuring records are retained and destroyed in accordance with this policy.

UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018

The Company needs to collect personal information about the people we employ, work with have a business relationship with to effectively and compliantly carry out our everyday business functions and activities, and to provide the products and services defined by our business type. This information can include (*but is not limited to*), name, address, email address, data of birth, IP address, identification number, private and confidential information, sensitive information and bank details.

In addition, we may occasionally be required to collect and use certain types of personal information to comply with the requirements of the law and/or regulations, however we are committed to collecting, processing, storing and destroying all information in accordance with the **General Data Protection Regulation**, UK data protection law and any other associated legal or regulatory body rules or codes of conduct that apply to our business and/or the information we process and store.

Our Data Retention Policy and processes comply fully with the GDPR's fifth Article 5 principle: -

Personal data shall be kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1) subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by this Regulation in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject ('storage limitation').

Data Minimisation

The Company will ensure that personal data collected is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purposes for which it is processed.

Personal information will not be retained merely because storage is available.

Objectives

A record is information, regardless of media, created, received, and maintained which evidences the development of, and compliance with, regulatory requirements, business practices, legal policies, financial transactions, administrative activities, business decisions or agreed actions. It is the Company's objective to implement the necessary records management procedures and systems which assess and manage the following processes: -

- The creation and capture of records
- Compliance with legal, regulatory and contractual requirements
- The storage of records
- The protection of record integrity and authenticity
- The use of records and the information contained therein
- The security of records
- Access to and disposal of records

Records contain information that are a unique and invaluable resource to the Company and are an important operational asset. A systematic approach to the management of our records is essential to protect and preserve the information contained in them, as well as the individuals such information refers to. Records are also pivotal in the documentation and evidence of all business functions and activities.

The Company's objectives and principles in relation to Data Retention are to: -

- Ensure that the Company conducts itself in an orderly, efficient and accountable manner
- Realise best value through improvements in the quality and flow of information and greater coordination of records and storage systems
- Support core business functions and providing evidence of conduct and the appropriate maintenance of associated tools, resources and outputs to clients and 3rd parties
- Meet legislative, statutory and regulatory requirements

- Deliver services to staff and stakeholders in a consistent and equitable manner
- Provide continuity in the event of a disaster
- Protect the interests of the organisation and the rights of employees, clients and present and future stakeholders
- Ensure the safe and secure disposal of confidential data and information assets
- Ensure that records and documents are retained for the legal, contractual and regulatory period stated in accordance with each bodies rules or terms.
- Ensure that no document is retained for longer than is legally or contractually allowed
- Mitigate against risks or breaches in relation to confidential information

Guidelines & Procedures

The Company manage records efficiently and systematically, in a manner consistent with the GDPR requirements, ISO15489 and regulatory Codes of Practice on Records Management. Records management training is mandatory for all staff as part of the Company's statutory and compliance training programme and this policy is widely disseminated to ensure a standardised approach to data retention and records management.

Records will be created, maintained and retained in order to provide information about, and evidence of the Company's transactions, customers, employment and activities.

It is our intention to ensure that all records and the information contained therein is: -

- **Accurate** - records are always reviewed to ensure that they are a full and accurate representation of the transactions, activities or practices that they document
- **Accessible** - records are always made available and accessible when required (*with additional security permissions for select staff where applicable to the document content*)
- **Complete** - records have the content, context and structure required to allow the reconstruction of the activities, practices and transactions that they document
- **Compliant** - records always comply with any record keeping legal and regulatory requirements
- **Monitored** – staff, company and system compliance with this Data Retention Policy is regularly monitored to ensure that the objectives and principles are being complied with at all times and that all legal and regulatory requirements are being adhered to.

Destruction and Disposal of Records & Data

All information of a confidential or sensitive nature on paper, card, microfiche or electronic media must be securely destroyed when it is no longer required. This ensures compliance with the Data Protection laws and the duty of confidentiality we owe to our employees, clients and customers.

The Company is committed to the secure and safe disposal of any confidential waste and information assets in accordance with our contractual and legal obligations and that we do so in an ethical and compliant manner. We confirm that our approach and procedures comply with the laws and provisions made in the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 and that staff are trained and advised accordingly on the procedures and controls in place.

Paper Records

Due to the nature of our business, the Company retains paper based personal information and as such, has a duty to ensure that it is disposed of in a secure, confidential and compliant manner. The Company utilise a professional shredding service provider to dispose of all paper materials.

Employee shredding machines are made available throughout the company and where we use a service provider for large disposals, regular collections take place to ensure that confidential data is disposed of appropriately.

Electronic & IT Records and Systems

The Company uses numerous systems, computers and technology equipment in the running of our business. From time to time, such assets must be disposed of and due to the information held on these whilst they are active, this disposal is handled in an ethical and secure manner.

The deletion of electronic records must be organised in conjunction with the IT Department who will ensure the removal of all data from the medium so that it cannot be reconstructed.

Only the IT Department can authorise the disposal of any IT equipment and they must accept and authorise such assets from the department personally. Where possible, information is wiped from the equipment through use of software and formatting, however this can still leave imprints or personal information that is accessible and so we also comply with the secure disposal of all assets.

Erasure

In specific circumstances, data subjects' have the right to request that their personal data is erased, however the Company recognise that this is not an absolute '*right to be forgotten*'. Data subjects only have a right to have personal data erased and to prevent processing if one of the *below conditions applies*: -

- Where the personal data is no longer necessary in relation to the purpose for which it was originally collected/processed
- When the individual withdraws consent
- When the individual objects to the processing and there is no overriding legitimate interest for continuing the processing
- The personal data was unlawfully processed
- The personal data must be erased in order to comply with a legal obligation
- The personal data is processed in relation to the offer of information society services to a child

Where one of the above conditions applies and the Company received a request to erase data, we first ensure that no other legal obligation or legitimate interest applies. If we are confident that the data subject has the right to have their data erased, this is carried out by the Data Protection Officer in conjunction with any department manager and the IT team to ensure that all data relating to that individual has been erased.

These measures enable us to comply with a data subjects right to erasure, whereby an individual can request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing. Whilst our standard procedures already remove data that is no longer necessary, we still follow a dedicated process for erasure requests to ensure that all rights are complied with and that no data has been retained for longer than is needed.

Where we receive a request to erase and/or remove personal information from a data subject, the below process is followed: -

1. The request is allocated to the Data Protection Officer and recorded on the Erasure Request Register
2. The DPO locates all personal information relating to the data subject and reviews it to see if it is still being processed and is still necessary for the legal basis and purpose it was originally intended
3. The request is reviewed to ensure it complies with one or more of the grounds for erasure: -
 - a. the personal data is no longer necessary in relation to the purposes for which it was collected or otherwise processed
 - b. the data subject has withdrawn consent on which the processing is based and where there is no other legal ground for the processing
 - c. the data subject objects to the processing and there are no overriding legitimate grounds for the processing
 - d. the personal data has been unlawfully processed
 - e. the personal data must be erased for compliance with a legal obligation
 - f. the personal data has been collected in relation to the offer of information society services to a child
4. If the erasure request complies with one of the above grounds, it is erased within 30 days of the request being received
5. The DPO writes to the data subject and notifies them in writing that the right to erasure has been granted and provides details of the information erased and the date of erasure
6. Where the Company has made any of the personal data public and erasure is granted, we will take every reasonable step and measure to remove public references, links and copies of data and to contact related controllers and/or processors and inform them of the data subjects request to erase such personal data

If for any reason, we are unable to act in response to a request for erasure, we always provide a written explanation to the individual and inform them of their right to complain to the Supervisory Authority and to a judicial remedy.

Such refusals to erase data include: -

- Exercising the right of freedom of expression and information
- Compliance with a legal obligation for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest
- For reasons of public interest in the area of public health
- For archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes, in so far as the right to erasure is likely to render impossible or seriously impair the achievement of the objectives of that processing
- For the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims

Children's Data

Winchmore Tutors recognises that children's personal data requires enhanced protection.

Requests concerning pupil records will be assessed alongside safeguarding, legal and regulatory obligations before any information is erased.

Backup and Archived Data

Where personal data is contained within secure backup systems, immediate deletion may not be technically possible.

Such information will remain protected and inaccessible and will be permanently removed in accordance with the organisation's backup retention schedule.

Issue Date: Jul 2026

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Review Date: July 2027

Signed:



Craig Varney : Winchmore Tutors - Director