

DOCUMENT DETAILS

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Summary	The purpose of this document is to set out the policy for data protection at Nottingham College.			

DOCUMENT CONSULTATION & APPROVAL

Consultation person / body	Date passed
Digital Strategy Group	4 th February 2026

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Audit Committee / Corporation	25 th March 2026

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A significant negative impact has been identified in the following area and a full impact assessment / risk assessment is available.

Equality & diversity	No
GDPR	No
Health & safety	No
Safeguarding	No

Friendly version of policy available	No
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POLICY CHANGES

Key updates	Impact	Section reference
Section 7.3 moved into new Section 11 and expanded to clearly define the college data protection complaints procedure	Clarification of process for making a data protection complaint	7.3 (removed) / 11 (added)

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Nottingham College is committed to preserving the privacy of the personal data of its staff, students, applicants and customers through compliance with the Data Protection Act (2018), the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Digital Use and Access Act (2025) (collectively referred to as 'data protection legislation'). The College undertakes to process personal data responsibly, protect it and keep it secure. Nottingham College is on the Information Commissioner's Register of Data Controllers, reference no. Z700805X.
- 1.2 Personal data is data relating to a living individual who can be identified from it alone, or when it is combined with other information held by the college or which the college is likely to receive. This can include sensitive (special category) data relating to an individual's gender, age, ethnicity, disability, trade union membership, political opinions, religious or similar beliefs, physical or mental health, sexual life, or information relating to criminal proceedings or outcomes. The college has a procedure for processing special category and criminal conviction data specifically, in line with the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.
- 1.3 Processing of personal information within the scope of the UK GDPR includes obtaining, storing, viewing, using, updating, disclosing and destroying any data held electronically, in structured manual records and to a limited extent in unstructured manual records.
- 1.4 Article 5 of the UK GDPR requires that personal data shall be:
 - 1.4.1 Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals
 - 1.4.2 Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
 - 1.4.3 Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
 - 1.4.4 Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
 - 1.4.5 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
 - 1.4.6 Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures
- 1.5 Nottingham College also complies with Freedom of Information legislation. This compliance is governed by the Freedom of Information policy.

2. OBJECTIVE

- 2.1 Nottingham College processes the personal data of its students, employees, contractors, volunteers and associates to provide, produce or fulfil the following:
 - 2.1.1 financial and staffing records including salary and benefits, holiday and sickness, performance and achievement
 - 2.1.2 safeguarding and other statutory obligations relating to staff and students such as equality, diversity and inclusion and health and safety
 - 2.1.3 education and support to students and promotion of these services
 - 2.1.4 funding claims and contractual obligations
 - 2.1.5 publications
 - 2.1.6 maintenance of the security of the premises and for the prevention or detection of crime (including CCTV)

- 2.2. This is not an exhaustive list. More information on processing of data subjects' information is provided in the college's Privacy Notices for students, staff and other groups.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 All staff, volunteers and governors of Nottingham College and all other parties under contract are expected to read this policy and to act in accordance with data protection legislation when handling the personal information of students, staff and others associated with the college.
- 3.2. Any unauthorised disclosure of personal data to a third party by any staff member may result in disciplinary or legal action. Failure to comply with college policies and procedures for handling staff/student data is a disciplinary offence which may be considered gross misconduct and may also involve personal criminal liability.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

- 4.1. This policy outlines the responsibilities of all staff, governors and volunteers with regard to data protection legislation.
- 4.2. All staff, volunteers and governors of Nottingham College and all other parties under contract are required to handle and process data in any of the college's records or systems in accordance with this policy and in accordance with other related policies concerning the handling or processing of data.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 To meet its responsibilities Nottingham College will:
- 5.1.1 Maintain an information asset register of where personal information is located within the college and how this is processed, including its sharing internally and externally (record of processing activity)
 - 5.1.2 Ensure any new or planned projects that involve Personal Data are preceded with a Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA)
 - 5.1.3 Ensure any personal data is processed in a fair and lawful way and that only the minimum amount of information needed is collected and used
 - 5.1.4 Ensure that any personal information processing has an identified legal basis and gain explicit consent where required
 - 5.1.5 Explain at the outset why information is being collected, what it will be used for and with whom it will be shared
 - 5.1.6 Ensure any information processed is up to date and accurate
 - 5.1.7 Review the length of time information is held, in line with JISC recommendations and other relevant legislation, including disposing of data when appropriate
 - 5.1.8 Ensure information is kept securely, including ensuring that system access controls are limited to role relevance
 - 5.1.9 Ensure that data subjects can exercise easily their rights under data protection legislation
 - 5.1.10 Ensure that anyone managing and handling personal information is trained to do so and is aware of how to report a data breach
 - 5.1.11 Ensure that anyone wanting to make enquiries about handling personal information, whether a member of staff, volunteer or service user, knows what to do
 - 5.1.12 Ensure that any disclosure or sharing of personal information is in line with relevant legislation and internal policies and procedures
 - 5.1.13 Take measures to ensure safe transfers of data where cross border sharing is necessary.

6. DATA SECURITY

- 6.1 The college has an Information Security Policy that staff must adhere to in order to ensure personal information held on the college's network is protected from unauthorised viewing and from loss.
- 6.2 Where electronic files need to be shared, the following should be ensured:
 - 6.2.1 Any sensitive personal information sent by email should be password protected as a minimum, with the password delivered to the recipient using a method other than email
 - 6.2.2 Whenever possible, the information should be shared via an exclusive link through Office 365
- 6.3 Paper records containing personal information should be minimised, but where these need to be kept the following should be carried out:
 - 6.3.1 Use of lockable cupboards (with restricted access to keys)
 - 6.3.2 Minimisation of personal data taken off site and ensuring it is transported and stored as securely as possible
 - 6.3.3 Correct use of archiving and confidential waste services

7. DATA SUBJECTS' RIGHTS

- 7.1 The college has a Data Subject Access Request procedure governing its response to those who wish to access their personal information.
- 7.2 It is a criminal offence under the UK GDPR for any user to alter, illegally access, deface or remove any record (including e-mails) following receipt of an information request.

The college will take necessary action against any individual who is found to have carried out this act, which may result in disciplinary or legal action. Other criminal acts under the UK GDPR may also result in disciplinary or criminal proceedings; definitions can be found at www.ico.org.uk.

8. DATA SHARING

- 8.1 There are occasions when it is necessary for the college to share data with other organisations or people. Data subjects will be informed of this, most usually through the college's privacy notices. Where consent is the legal basis for any data sharing, this will be collected in line with data protection legislation.
- 8.2 Where appropriate, a data sharing or processing agreement will be put in place, and due diligence carried out with respect to the recipient of the personal information.

9. RETENTION AND DISPOSAL OF DATA

- 9.1 The college will retain information about staff and students for as long as is reasonable and necessary to comply with the law and for legitimate business needs. This will include information needed in connection with administering pensions and taxation, for potential or current disputes or litigation regarding employment, in the case of job applicants, in relation to any complaints or claims regarding the selection process, and information required for job references.
- 9.2 For students this will include information needed in connection with administering student applications, enrolment, attendance, achievement, success, post-college destinations, personal tutor notes, academic records, and information required for references, and in the case of prospective students, in relation to any enquiries, applications and interviews.
- 9.3 The College will dispose of data in line with its Data Retention and Disposal Policy, which has been written in conjunction with JISC recommended data retention principles for Further Education, and legal and funding audit requirements. Once any retention period has elapsed, the college will ensure that information is destroyed by secure means, i.e. by shredding, pulping or burning for hard copy, deletion for electronic/digitised copy. The College uses a reputable ISO accredited

company for destruction where archived information has been sent off site, and destruction certification is received as appropriate.

10. DATA BREACH PROCEDURE

- 10.1. The college takes the risk of information loss very seriously. It has a Data Breach Management Procedure to be followed in the event of a data breach or suspected data breach to ensure the college responds and manages effectively any breach in line with data protection legislation.

11. DATA PROTECTION COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 11.1. Any complaints regarding Nottingham College's management of personal data should be managed through its complaints policy, using feedback@nottinghamcollege.ac.uk, or directly in writing to the data protection inbox (dataprotectionofficer@nottinghamcollege.ac.uk). Any complaint related to data protection, in full or in part, will be logged in the data protection complaints log managed by the information compliance team. If complainants remain dissatisfied at the completion of college processes, they are directed to complain to the Information Commissioner through their website: www.ico.org.uk.

12. REFERENCES

- 12.1 The following policies and guidance are relevant to personal information:
- Social Media Guidelines
 - Freedom of Information Policy
 - Information Security Policy
 - Data Breach Management Procedure
 - Data Retention and Disposal Policy
 - Data Subject Access Request Procedure
 - Procedure for processing special category and criminal conviction data
 - Complaints Policy
 - Disciplinary Procedures for staff and students
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy
 - Safeguarding Policy
- 12.2 The college will adhere to its obligations under other legislation relevant to the use of personal data, which include:
- the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
 - the Telecommunications (Lawful Business Practice) (Interception of Communications) Regulations 2000
 - the Communications Act 2003
 - Data Protection Act 2018, the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Digital Use and Access Act 2025
 - the Human Rights Act 1998
 - the Defamation Act 2013
 - the Equality Act 2010
 - the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.