



Ashfield Girls' High School



'Each different. Each talented. All valued'

GDPR Disposal of Records Schedule Policy



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Executive Summary

Ashfield Girls' High School aims to provide students with a secure learning environment that supports their individual needs, fosters academic success, and prepares them for life beyond school.

To support effective record management, the school has developed a Disposal Schedule in compliance with the Public Records Act (NI) 1923 and relevant legislation. This schedule governs the handling, retention, and disposal of both manual and electronic records, ensuring they are maintained securely while in the school's custody.

Key Components of the Disposal Schedule:

- **Categories of Disposal:** Records are either marked for destruction or permanent preservation.
- **File Closure:** Files are closed once they cease to be actively used and are marked with retention or disposal instructions.
- **Retention Period:** Retention periods are calculated from the point of file closure, with different rules for pupil files.
- **Destruction:** Records marked for destruction are securely disposed of, with a log maintained.
- **PRONI (Public Record Office of Northern Ireland):** Some records must be offered to PRONI for preservation.



Section A (Aims of the Policy)

The School recognises that the efficient management of its records is necessary to comply with its legal and regulatory obligations and to contribute to the effective overall management of the school. This document provides the policy through which this can be achieved and audited.

This disposal schedule identifies the disposal arrangements for all manual and electronic records created by Ashfield Girls' High School. The Schedule complies with the requirements of the Public Records Act (NI) 1923 and the Disposal of Documents Order (S.R.& O.1925 No 167).

Categories of Disposal

- Destruction
- Permanent preservation

This policy applies to all records created, received or maintained by staff of the school in the course of carrying out its functions.

Records are defined as all those documents which facilitate the business carried out by the school and which are thereafter retained (for a set period) to provide evidence of its transactions or activities. These records may be created, received or maintained in hard copy or electronically.

A number of identified School records will be offered to the Public Record Office (PRONI) for permanent preservation when no longer required by the School.



Section B (Legislative Context and Linked Policies)

General Data Protection Regulation (2016)

Department of Education: Disposal of Records Schedule (2013)

ISO 15801:2009 - Record Authenticity and Legal Admissibility

ISO 27001 - Information Security Management

BS 10008 - Legal Admissibility of Electronic Information

Linked Policies

This policy interlinks with all other school policies and the data referred to within these.



Section C (Policy and Procedures)

Closing a file

Manual records will be closed as soon as they cease to be of active use other than for reference purposes. When a file is due to be closed an appropriate member of staff should consult the disposal schedule and mark the front cover of the file, indicating the date on which the file can be destroyed, or whether it are reviewed by a member of staff. Closing a file simply means that no further papers can be added but the file can be used for reference.

Minimum Retention Period

With the exception of pupil files, the minimum retention period required for each type of record is calculated from the point the file/record is closed.

Destroy

Where the disposal action states 'Destroy' the records are kept for the period stated and then destroyed securely. A record is maintained of the files that have been destroyed.

Offer to PRONI

Where the disposal action states 'Offer to PRONI' the record is offered to the PRONI.

Commitment to preserving files/records

Ashfield Girls' High School declares that it will take measures to ensure that the records it creates (including electronic records) will be well maintained and protected while they are in its' custody.



Definitions of Records held by Ashfield Girls' High School in respect of its Functional Areas.

There are six main functional areas for which **Ashfield Girls' High School** keeps records as follows:

1. Management and Organisation
2. Legislation & Guidance
3. Pupils
4. Staff
5. Finance
6. Health & Safety

The records contained within these functional areas provide evidence and information about its business activities and are important for the efficient operation of the school.

1. Management and Organisation

This category comprises records held which relate to the management and organisation of the school. Typical records would include the minutes of the Board of Governors, the Senior Management Team and Parent/Teachers Association meetings which record the major decision making processes of the school. Also included are records detailing development, planning and curriculum policies as well as those that demonstrate how the school reports to its parents and other organisations. Records include the School Development Plan, the School Prospectus, Curriculum policies, Annual Report, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Plan along with the records of meetings, minutes, and policies documenting the decisions and actions taken within this business function.

2. Legislation and Guidance from DE, ELBs, ESA, & CCMS

Files maintained under this heading contain papers relating to legislation e.g. the Education (NI) Order, Circulars, Guidance, Bulletins from the Dept of Education and Education & Library Boards, CCMS etc, correspondence in connection with Statistical Returns and documents relating to Dept of Education Inspections and Reports.



3. Pupils

Pupil Files contain vitally important records which, not only capture the progress of the student throughout their time at the school, but also contain personal details and information beneficial to their well-being within the school environment. Such records would include admission data, attendance of the pupils at the school, timetables and class groupings, education/progress reports of pupils, special education needs documentation, child protection information, disciplinary action taken, examination results, careers advice, school trip details and medical records (details of medical conditions where medicines are required to be administered at school).

4. Staff

Staff category refers to those records required for the Human Resources Management function within the school. These include staff personnel records (recruitment, interview notes, appointments, training, staff development etc), staff salary records, staff induction, sickness records, staff performance review, substitute teacher records and student teachers on teaching practice etc.

5. Finance

This business function maintains records for a range of financial activities such as annual budgets, budget monitoring, Annual Statement of Accounts, procurement, tender information and prices, reconciliation of invoices, audit reports etc.

6. Health & Safety

The health and safety of children and staff is of paramount importance in the school and such records to support this are kept e.g. Accident/Incident Book, legal/accident/incident forms, risk assessments, fire procedure, CCTV, security system files, health and safety policy statement.



Electronic Records

The legal obligation to properly manage records, including compliance with Data Protection legislation, applies equally to electronic records. The main considerations for the management of electronic records are therefore the same as those for manual records. They include:

- Staff can use and access electronic information effectively
- Adequate measures are in place to ensure all information is stored securely and only available to authorised persons.
- School is able to demonstrate a record's authenticity by ensuring information cannot be altered when declared a record.
- A system is in place for disposing of electronic records in line with policy once they are no longer needed.

In addition to the above, sufficient backup/recovery processes must be in place. There must also be a process through which links are created from electronic records to any associated manual records.



Section D (Roles and Responsibilities)

Board of Governors:

- Have a written GDPR Disposal of Records policy in place.
- Ratify the policy and ensure that it is reviewed every two years, or when guidance changes.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy
- Have a corporate responsibility to maintain school records, and record keeping systems in accordance with the regulatory environment.

Principal:

- Has operational responsibility for the policy and its implementation and will assign any specific staff responsibilities as required in order to help fulfil the School's commitment to effective records management.
- Ensure that the policy follows the appropriate DENI guidance.
- Ensure that staff are aware of the policy and its procedures.
- Ensure the review of this policy, updating it when there is new guidance.

Staff:

- Individual staff must ensure that the records for which they are responsible are accurate, and are maintained and disposed of in accordance with the school's GDPR Disposal of Records policy and guidance.

Parents:

- Should ensure that the data they provide to the school is accurate, updating the school promptly of any changes.



Section E (Consultation, Communication, Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy)

This policy has been developed in line with the Department of Education Guidance on the management of records with governors, staff, pupils and parents/carers being made aware of the contents of this document.

This policy will be reviewed by all stakeholders and, if required, updated:

- following any incident which highlights the need for such a review.
- when directed to by the Department of Education Northern Ireland and in light of new guidance
- Every two-years (as identified on the front cover of this policy)



APPENDIX 1: School Disposal Schedule

1. Management & Organisation

Ref	Record	Minimum Retention Period	Action After Retention
1.1	Board of Governors – general correspondence	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
1.2	BOG Meetings Minutes (master)	Current school year + 6 years	Offer to PRONI for Permanent Preservation
1.3	Senior Management Team-Meeting Minutes	Current school year + 6 years	Offer to PRONI for Permanent Preservation
1.4	Staff Meeting Minutes	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
1.5	School Development Plan	Retain in school for 10 years from closure of Plan	Offer to PRONI for Permanent Preservation
1.6	School Policies	Retain while current. Retain 1 copy of old policy for 2 years after being replaced	Destroy
1.7	PTA – minutes and general correspondence	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
1.8	Visitors Book	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
1.9	Circulars to Staff, Parents and Pupils	Current school year + 3 years	Destroy
1.10	School Brochure or Prospectus	Current school year + 3 years	Destroy
1.11	Comments/Complaints	5 years after closing. Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes	Destroy
1.12	Annual Report	Retain in school for 10 years from date of Report	Offer to PRONI for Permanent Preservation
1.13	School Fund	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
1.14	Emergency Planning/Business Continuity Plan	Until superseded	Destroy



2. Legislation and Guidance from DE, ELB, ESA, CCMS etc

Ref	Record	Minimum Retention Period	Action After Retention
2.1	Education (NI) Order	Until superseded	Destroy
2.2	Circulars, Guidance, Bulletins from DE, ELB etc	Until superseded	Destroy
2.3	Correspondence re: Statistical Returns to DE, ELB etc	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
2.4	DE Reports, Inspections	Until superseded	Destroy

3. Pupils

Ref	Record	Minimum Retention Period	Action After Retention
3.1	<i>Pupil Admission Data</i>		
3.1a	Applications for enrolment	3 years after enrolment	Destroy
3.1b	Transfer applications (Transfer Forms)	3 years after enrolment	Destroy
3.2	Pupil Attendance Information/Registers	Date of Register + 10 years	Offer to PRONI for Permanent Preservation
3.3	Pupil Education Records - School/Progress Reports etc	Until pupil is 23 years old	Destroy
3.4	Pupil Education Records - School/Progress Reports etc (Special Educational Needs)	Until Pupil is 26 years old	Destroy
3.5	Child Protection Information- Record of concerns where case was not referred to Social Services	10 years after last entry on file	Destroy
3.6	Child Protection Information- Social Services investigation outcome was unfounded or malicious	10 years after last entry on file	Destroy
3.7	Child Protection Information- Social Services investigation outcome was	Until pupil is 30 years old	Destroy



	inconclusive, unsubstantiated or substantiated		
3.8	Disciplinary Action (Suspension/Expulsion)/Offences – bullying	Until pupil is 23 years old	Destroy
3.9	Disciplinary Action (Suspension/Expulsion)/Offences – bullying (Special Educational Needs)	Until pupil is 26 years old	Destroy
3.10	Timetables + Class Groupings	Retain while current	Destroy
3.11	Examination Results	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
3.12	Careers Advice	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
3.13	School Meals returns	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
3.14	Free Meals registers	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
3.15	School Trips – Financial & Administration details	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
3.16	School Trips-Attendance/Staff Supervision etc	Current financial year + 6 years. In the case of an incident/accident involving a pupil, retain until pupil is 23 years old or 26 for a pupil with special educational needs	Destroy
3.17	Reports of Stolen/Damaged Items	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
3.18	Medical Records – records of pupils with medical conditions and details for the administration of drugs when necessary.	Until pupil is 23years old or in the case of a Special Needs Pupil, until 26 years old	Destroy



4. Staff

Ref	Record	Minimum Retention Period	Action After Retention
4.1	Staff Personnel Records (including, appointment details, training, staff development etc.)	7 years after leaving employment	Destroy
4.2	Interview notes and recruitment records	Date of interview + 6 months	Destroy
4.3	Staff Salary Records	7 years after leaving employment	Destroy
4.4	Staff Sickness Records (copies of Medical Certs)	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
4.5	Substitute Teacher Records	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
4.6	Substitute Staff Records-non teaching (cover for nursery assistants)	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
4.7	Student Records-non teaching (e.g. nursery assistant students & pupils from schools on work experience)	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
4.8	Student Teachers on Teaching Practice – student teacher progress	Current school year + 6 years	Destroy
4.9	Procedures for Induction of Staff	Until superseded	Destroy
4.10	Staff/Teachers' Attendance Records	7 years after leaving	Destroy
4.11	Staff Performance Review	7 years after leaving	Destroy



5. Finance

Ref	Record	Minimum Retention Period	Action After Retention
5.1	Annual budget and budget deployment	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
5.2	Budget Monitoring	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
5.3	Annual Statement of Accounts (Outturn Statement)	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
5.4	Order Books, Invoices, Bank Records, Cash Books, Till Rolls, Lodgement books etc	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
5.5	Postage Book	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy
5.6	Audit Reports	Current financial year + 6 years	Destroy

6. Health & Safety

Ref	Record	Minimum Retention Period	Action After Retention
6.1	Accident Reporting (Adults)	Date of incident + 7 years	Destroy
6.2	Accident Reporting (Children)	Until pupil is 23years old or in the case of a Special Needs pupil, until 26 years old	Destroy
6.3	Risk Assessments – work experience locations/pupils	7 years	Destroy
6.4	H & S Reports	15 years	Destroy
6.5	Fire Procedure	Until superseded	Destroy
6.6	Security System File	For the life of the system	Destroy





Challenging girls today; creating women of value in the future



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