

YEOVIL AREA COMMUNITY ACADEMY TRUST

Data Protection Complaints Policy

Version information

Policy Review

Review Cycle	Date of Current Policy	Author(s) of Current Policy	Review Date
Annual	25 November 2026	DPO Somerset	November 2027

Policy Ratification

Role	Name	Signature	Date
CEO	Mr N Heath	*Nick Heath*	25/11/2026
Chair of Directors	Mrs K Elston	*Kaye Elston*	25/11/2026

Details of Policy Updates

Date	Details
October 2025	Reviewed in line with SC DPO – no changes

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1 Purpose

This policy outlines how individuals can raise concerns about the way the school handles their personal data, and how those concerns will be addressed in line with the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (DUAA) and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR).

2 Scope

This policy applies to any data subject whose personal data we are processing. This will include:

- Children
- Parents/carers
- Staff
- Third parties

Complaints may relate to:

- Inaccurate or outdated personal data
- Unlawful data sharing
- Failure to respond to a Subject Access Request (SAR) or concern about full compliance with a SAR
- Excessive data retention
- Inappropriate use of profiling or artificial intelligence
- Any breach of data protection rights

3 How to Make a Complaint

Complaints can be submitted via:

- **Online form** available on the Trust website: www.yacat.org/GDPR
- **Email**: Clerk to the Directors office@yacat.org or Somerset DPO dpo@somerset.gov.uk
- **Post**: Yeovil Area Community Academy Trust
- **Phone**: 01935 474984

We require the complainant's:

- Full name
- Contact details
- Description of their concerns
- Any supporting evidence

If the complaint is unclear, we will ask for further information so that we can investigate appropriately.

If the complaint is made on behalf of someone else, e.g. a solicitor on behalf of a client, proof of authority to act must be provided. In the case of parents complaining about the processing of their child's personal data, we may seek consent from the child if they are able to control their own privacy rights and will also consider any relevant safeguarding context.

4 Identity verification

To protect personal data, the school may request ID verification before investigating a complaint. Acceptable forms include:

- Passport or driving license (for individuals)
- Written consent (for representatives)

5 Acknowledgement and response times

Complaints will be **acknowledged within 30 calendar days**. This includes complaints received during summer holidays.

A full response will be provided **without undue delay**, typically within **60 days**, unless complexity requires more time.

If there is likely to be any delay, we will inform the complainant about our progress and ensure that we have a clear record of our communication with the complainant.

6 Investigation process

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) or in-school Data Protection Lead will review the complaint. Relevant staff will also be consulted.

The complainant will be informed of the outcome and any remedial actions taken.

7 Escalation

If the complainant is dissatisfied with the outcome, they may escalate the matter to The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO): https://ico.org.uk

8 Record keeping

All complaints and outcomes will be logged securely and retained in line with the school's existing retention schedule for complaints. This is to comply with the Accountability principle of the UK GDPR.

9 Review

This procedure will be reviewed annually or upon significant legislative change.