

## DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

**Document Title:** Data Breach Reporting Policy for Schools

# Data Breach Policy

## Burradon Community

## Primary School

September 2023

## 1.0 **Introduction**

Burradon Community Primary School holds processes and shares a large amount of personal data, a valuable asset that needs to be protected.

Every care is taken to protect personal data from incidents (either accidental or deliberate) to avoid a data protection breach that could compromise security.

Compromise of information, confidentiality, integrity, or availability may result in harm to individuals, reputational damage, detrimental effect on service provisions, legislative non-compliance and financial costs.

## 2.0 **Purpose**

Burradon Community Primary School is obliged under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) to have in place a framework designed to ensure the security of all personal data during its lifecycle, including clear lines of responsibility.

This policy sets out the procedure to be followed to ensure a consistent and effective approach is in place for managing data breaches and information security incidents across the school.

## 3.0 **Scope**

This policy relates to all personal and special category data held by the Burradon Community Primary School regardless of format

This policy applies to all staff and contractors at the school. This includes teaching staff, temporary, casual and agency staff, suppliers and data processors working for or on behalf of the school.

The objective of this policy is to contain any breaches, to minimise the risk associated with the breach and consider what remedial action is necessary to secure personal data and prevent further breaches.

#### 4.0 **Definition/types of breach**

For the purposes of this policy, data security breaches include both confirmed and suspected incidents.

An incident in the context of this policy is an event which may compromise the confidentiality, integrity or availability of systems or data, either accidentally or deliberately and has caused or has the potential to cause damage to the schools information assets and/or reputation.

An incident includes but is not restricted to, the following:-

- Loss or theft of confidential or special category data or equipment on which such data is stored (e.g loss of a laptop, memory stick, I Pad/Tablet or paper record).
- Equipment theft or failure
- Unauthorised use of, access to or modification of data or information systems
- Attempts ( failed or successful) to gain unauthorised access to information or I.T systems
- Unauthorised disclosure of special category/ confidential data
- Website defacement
- Hacking or Phishing attack
- Unforeseen circumstances such as a fire or flood
- Human Error
- Offences where information is obtained by deceiving the organisation who holds it.

#### 5.0 **Reporting an incident**

Any individual who accesses, uses or manages the School's data is responsible for reporting the data breach and information security incidents immediately to [dpo.schools@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:dpo.schools@northtyneside.gov.uk)

If a breach occurs or is discovered outside normal working hours, it must be reported as soon as practicable. Under the UK GDPR the school has 72 hours to report a breach to the Information Commissioner.

The report will include full and accurate details of the incident, when the breach occurred (dates and times), who is reporting it, if the data relates to people, the nature of the information, and how many people are involved. An incident reporting form should be completed as part of the reporting process.

## **6.0 Containment and recovery**

The Data Protection Officer (DPO) will firstly determine if the breach is still occurring and if so, the appropriate steps will be taken immediately to minimise the effect of the breach.

An initial assessment will be made by the DPO in liaison with relevant officers to establish the severity of the breach and who will take the lead investigating the breach (this will depend on the nature of the breach, in some cases it could be the DPO).

The Headteacher will establish who may need to be notified as part of the initial containment and will inform the police, where appropriate.

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The Head teacher in liaison with the relevant officers determine the suitable course of action to be taken to ensure a resolution to the incident.

## **7.0 Investigation and Risk Assessment**

An investigation will be undertaken by the Headteacher immediately and where possible within 24 hours of the breach being discovered/reported.

The Headteacher will investigate the breach and assess the risks associated with it, for example, the potential adverse effects for individuals, how serious or substantial those are and how likely they are to occur.

The investigation will need to take into account the following:-

- The type of data involved
- It's sensitivity
- The protection in place ( e.g encryption)
- What's happened to the data, has it been lost or stolen
- Whether the data could be put to illegal or inappropriate use
- Who the individuals are, the number affected and the potential effects on those data subjects
- Whether there are wider consequences to the breach

## **8.0 Notification**

The Headteacher and/or the DPO, in consultation with the Headteacher, will; determine whether the breach needs to be reported to the Information Commissioner.

Every incident will be assessed on a case by case basis; however, the following will need to be considered:-

- Whether there are any legal/contractual notification requirements
- Whether notification would assist the individual affected – could they act on information to mitigate the risks
- Whether notification would help prevent the unauthorised or unlawful use of personal data
- Would notification help the school meet its obligation under the principle
- Whether this breach constitutes a high risk to individuals and therefore needs to be reported to the ICO

Notification to the individuals whose personal data has been affected by the incident will include a description of how and when the breach occurred and the data involved. Specific and clear advice will be given on what they can do to protect themselves, and include what action has already been taken to mitigate the risks. Individuals will also be provided with a way in which they can contact the school for further information.

The Headteacher and/or the DPO must consider notifying third parties such as the Police, insurers and banks. This would be appropriate where illegal activity is known or is believed to have occurred, or where there is a risk that illegal activity might occur in the future.

The Headteacher and/or DPO will consider whether any press release may be required.

All actions will be recorded by the Headteacher and DPO.

## **9.0 Evaluation and response**

Once the initial incident is contained, the Headteacher and DPO will carry out a full review of the causes of the breach, the effectiveness of the response and whether any changes to systems, policies or procedures should be undertaken.

Existing controls will be reviewed to determine their adequacy, and whether any corrective action should be taken to minimise the risk of similar incidents occurring.

The review will consider:-

- Where and how the personal data is held and where it is stored
- Where the biggest risks lie, and will identify any further potential weak points within its existing measures
- Whether methods of transmission are secure; sharing minimum amount of data necessary
- Identifying weak points within existing security measures
- Staff awareness
- Implementing a data breach plan and identifying a group of individuals responsible for reacting to reported breaches of security