



Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme

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Other Information:	
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Statement of intent

As an educational provider, our school has an obligation to publish a freedom of information statement, outlining how we will meet our duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and associated regulations. The development and effective implementation of this policy fulfils that requirement.

More specifically, this policy outlines:

- How the school will respond to requests from individuals for access to information held about them.
- Our school's policy and procedures for the release and publication of private data and public records.
- Our school's policy and procedures for providing applicants with advice and assistance throughout the duration of their requests.

It also clarifies our position regarding the appropriate limit to the costs incurred by the school in obtaining any requested information, and on charging fees for its provision.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to the following legislation:

- The General Data Protection Regulation
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- ICO 'Model publication scheme' 2016
- ICO 'Duty to provide advice and assistance (section 16)' 2016

This policy will be viewed in conjunction with the following other school policies:

- Data Protection Policy

2. Accepting requests for information

The school will only accept a request for information which meets all of the following criteria:

- It is in writing
- It states the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence
- It describes the information requested

A request will be treated as made in writing if it meets all of the following requirements:

- It is transmitted by electronic means
- It is received in legible form
- It is capable of being used for subsequent reference

The school will publish details of its procedures for dealing with requests for information on the website, which includes:

- A contact address and email address
- A telephone number
- A named individual to assist applicants with their requests

3. General right of access to information held by the school

Provided that the request complies with [section 2](#) of this policy, the school will, no later than 20 working days from receipt of the request, comply with its duty to:

- Confirm or deny to any person making a request for information to the school, whether it holds information of the description specified in the request.
- Provide the documentation, if the school confirms that it holds the requested information

The school will not comply with section 3 of this policy where:

- The school reasonably requires further information to meet a freedom of information request, has informed the applicant of this requirement, but was not subsequently supplied with that further information.
- The information is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage or is difficult to access for similar reasons.
- A request for information is exempt under section 2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- The cost of providing the information exceeds the appropriate limit.
- The request is vexatious.
- The request is a repeated request from the same person made within 60 consecutive working days of the initial one.
- A fee notice was not honoured.

Where information is, or is thought to be, exempt, the school will, within 20 working days, give notice to the applicant which:

- States the fact.
- Specifies the exemption in question.

The information provided to the applicant will be in the format that they have requested, where possible.

Where it is not possible to provide the information in the requested format, the school will assist the applicant by discussing alternative formats in which it can be provided.

The information provided will also be in the language in which it is held, or another language that is legally required. If the school is required to translate any information, it will do so.

If, under relevant disability and discrimination regulations, the school is legally obliged to provide the information in other forms and formats, it will do so.

4. The appropriate limit

The school will not comply with any freedom of information request that exceeds the statutorily imposed appropriate limit of £450.

When determining whether the cost of complying with a freedom of information request is within the appropriate limit, the school will take account only of the costs we reasonably expect to incur in relation to:

- Determining whether it holds the information.
- Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information.
- Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information.
- Extracting the information from a document containing it.
- Costs related to the time spent by any person undertaking any of the activities outlined in section 4 of this policy on behalf of the school, are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour

Where multiple requests for information are made to the school within 60 consecutive working days of each other, either by a single person or by different persons who appear to be acting in concert, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the total costs to the school of complying with all of them.

5. Charging fees

The school may, within 20 working days, give an applicant who has requested information from the school, a written notice stating that a fee is to be charged for the school's compliance.

Charges may be made for disbursements, such as the following:

- Photocopying
- Postage and packaging
- Costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information

Fees charged will not exceed the total cost to the school of:

- Informing the person making the request whether we hold the information.
- Communicating the information to the person making the request.

Where a fee is to be charged, the school will not comply with [section 3](#) of this policy unless the requested fee is paid within a period of three months, beginning with the day on which the fees notice is given to the applicant.

The school will not take into account any costs which are attributable to the time spent by persons undertaking any of the activities mentioned in section 5.3 above.

When calculating the 20th working day in which to respond to a freedom of information request, the period beginning the day on which the fee notice is given to the applicant and ending with the day on which the fee is received, will be disregarded.

6. Means by which communication is to be made

Where, on making a request for information, the applicant expresses a preference for communication by any one of the following means, the school will, as far as is practicable, give effect to that preference:

- The provision to the applicant of a copy of the information in permanent form or in another form acceptable to the applicant.
- The provision to the applicant of a reasonable opportunity to inspect a record containing the information.
- The provision to the applicant of a digest, or summary of the information, in permanent form or in another form acceptable to the applicant.

7. Providing advice and assistance

The school will meet its duty to provide advice and assistance, as far as is reasonable, to any person who proposes to make, or has made, requests for information to the school.

The school may offer advice and assistance in the following circumstances:

- If an individual requests to know what types of information the school holds and the format in which it is available, as well as information on the fees regulations and charging procedures.
- If a request has been made, but the school is unable to regard it as a valid request due to insufficient information, leading to an inability to identify and locate the information.
- If a request has been refused, e.g. due to an excessive cost, and it is necessary for the school to assist the individual who has submitted the request.

The school will provide assistance for each individual on a case-by-case basis; examples of how the school will provide assistance include the following:

- Informing an applicant of their rights under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
- Assisting an individual in the focus of their request, e.g. by advising of the types of information available within the requested category
- Advising an applicant if information is available elsewhere and how to access this information
- Keeping an applicant informed on the progress of their request

In order to provide assistance as outlined above, the school will engage in the following good practice procedures:

- Make early contact with an individual and keep them informed of the process of their request.
- Accurately record and document all correspondence concerning the clarification and handling of any request.
- Give consideration to the most appropriate means of contacting the applicant, taking into account their individual circumstances.
- Discuss with the applicant whether they would prefer to receive the information in an alternative format, in cases where it is not possible to provide the information requested in the manner originally specified.
- Remain prepared to assist an applicant who has had their request denied due to an exemption.

The school will give particular consideration to what level of assistance is required for an applicant who has difficulty submitting a written request.

In circumstances where an applicant has difficulty submitting a written request, the school will:

- Make a note of the application over the telephone and then send the note to the applicant to confirm and return – the statutory time limit for a reply would begin here.

- Direct the individual to a different agency that may be able to assist with framing their request.

NB. This list is not exhaustive and the school may decide to take additional assistance measures that are appropriate to the case.

Where an applicant's request has been refused either because the information is accessible by other means, or the information is intended for future publication or research, the school, as a matter of good practice, will provide advice and assistance.

The school will advise the applicant how and where information can be obtained, if it is accessible by other means.

Where there is an intention to publish the information in the future, the school will advise the applicant of when this publication is expected.

If the request is not clear, the school will ask for more detail from the applicant in order to identify and locate the relevant information, before providing further advice and assistance.

If the school is able to clearly identify the elements of a request, it will respond following usual procedures and will provide advice and assistance for the remainder of the request.

If any additional clarification is needed for the remainder of a request, the school will ensure there is no delay in asking for further information.

If an applicant decides not to follow the school's advice and assistance and fails to provide clarification, the school is under no obligation to contact the applicant again.

If the school is under any doubt that the applicant did not receive the advice and assistance, the school will re-issue it.

The school is not required to provide assistance where an applicant's request is vexatious or repeated, as defined under section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The school is also not required to provide information where the cost of complying with a request exceeds the limit outlined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In such cases, the school will consider whether any information can be provided free of charge if the applicant refuses to pay the fee.

A record will be kept by the headteacher in the school_office of all the advice and assistance provided.

8. Publication scheme

The school will meet its duty to adopt and maintain a publication scheme which specifies the information which it will publish on the school website, and whether the information will be available free of charge or on payment.

The publication scheme will be reviewed and, where necessary, updated on an **annual** basis.

9. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, or in light of any changes to relevant legislation, by the headteacher.

Publication Scheme

This scheme follows the model approved by the ICO and sets out the classes of information which we publish or intend to publish; the format in which the information will be made available and whether the information is available free of charge or on payment.

1. Classes of information (see appendix A)

Information that is available under this scheme includes:

- Who we are and what we do
- What we spend and how we spend it
- What are our priorities and how we are doing?
- How we make decisions
- Our policies and procedures
- Lists and registers
- The services we offer

Information which **will not** be made available under this scheme includes:

- Information the disclosure of which is prevented by law, or exempt under the Freedom of Information Act, or is otherwise properly considered to be protected from disclosure.
- Information in draft form, or notes, documents in older versions, emails or other correspondence.
- Information that is no longer readily available as it is contained in files that have been placed in archive storage or is difficult to access for similar reasons.

2. How to request information

Requested documents under this scheme will be delivered electronically where possible, but paper copies can be provided by contacting the school using the below contact details.

Email: office@ladybridge.bolton.sch.uk

Tel: 01204 333646

Contact Address: Ladybridge Primary School, Broadford Road, Deane, Bolton. BL3 4NB

To enable us to process your request quickly, please mark all correspondence:

“FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST”

Documents can be translated under disability legislation into accessible formats where possible.

3. Charges

Single copies of information covered by this publication are provided free unless stated otherwise. If your request means that we have to do a lot of photocopying or printing, or pay a large postage charge, or is for a priced item such as some printed publications or videos we will let you know the cost before fulfilling your request..

4. Feedback and Complaints

We welcome any comments or suggestions you may have about the scheme. If you want to make any comments about this publication scheme or if you require further assistance or wish to make a complaint then initially this should be addressed to Mr C Watson Head Teacher.

If you are not satisfied with the assistance that you get or if we have not been able to resolve your complaint and you feel that a formal complaint needs to be made then this should be addressed to the Information Commissioner's Office. This is the organisation that ensures compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that deals with formal complaints. They can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or Enquiry/Information Line 01625 545 700; E Mail: publications@ic-foi.demon.co.uk. Website :www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Appendix A

Classes of Information Currently Published

School Prospectus – this section sets out information published in the school prospectus.

Class	Description
School Prospectus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No longer published

Information relating to the governing body – this section sets out information published in governing body documents.

Class	Description
Instrument of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The name of the schoolThe category of the schoolThe name of the governing bodyThe manner in which the governing body is constitutedThe term of office of each category of governor if less than 4 yearsThe name of anybody entitled to appoint any category of governorDetails of any trustIf the school has a religious character, a description of the ethosThe date the instrument takes effect
Minutes ¹ of meeting of the governing body and its committees	Agreed minutes of meetings of the governing body and its committees [<i>current and last full academic school year</i>]

Pupils & Curriculum Policies - This section gives access to information about policies that relate to pupils and the school curriculum.

Class	Description
Home – school agreement	Statement of the school’s aims and values, the school’s responsibilities, signed permissions, the parental responsibilities and the school’s expectations of its pupils for example homework arrangements
Curriculum Policy	Statement on following the policy for the secular curriculum subjects and religious education and schemes of work and syllabuses currently used by the school
Sex Education Policy	Statement of policy with regard to sex and relationship education
Special Education Needs Policy	Information about the school's policy on providing for pupils with special educational needs
Medical Conditions Policy	Statement of policy relating to medical conditions
Accessibility Plans	Plan for increasing participation of disabled pupils in the school’s curriculum, improving the accessibility of the physical environment and improving delivery of information to disabled pupils.
Collective Worship	Statement of arrangements for the required daily act of collective worship
Child Protection (and safeguarding) Policy	Statement of policy for safeguarding and promoting welfare of pupils at the school. <i>(from March 2004)</i>
EYFS Policy	Statement of policy for Early Years Foundation Stage
School Discipline and Behaviour Policy	Statement of general principles on behaviour and discipline and of measures taken by the head teacher to prevent bullying.

School Policies and other information related to the school - This section gives access to information about policies that relate to the school in general.

Class	Description
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Admissions Policy	Procedures for admission to school.
Allegations of Abuse Against Staff	Adopted procedures as per Bolton Safeguarding Children Board
Published reports of Ofsted referring expressly to the school	Published report of the last inspection of the school and the summary of the report and where appropriate inspection reports of religious education in those schools designated as having a religious character
Post-Ofsted inspection action plan	A plan setting out the actions required following the last Ofsted inspection and where appropriate an action plan following inspection of religious education where the school is designated as having a religious character
Charging and Remissions Policies	A statement of the school's policy with respect to charges and remissions for any optional extra or board and lodging for which charges are permitted, for example school publications, music tuition, trips
School session times and term dates	Details of school session and dates of school terms and holidays
Health and Safety Policy	Statement of general policy with respect to health and safety at work of employees (and others) and the organisation and arrangements for carrying out the policy
Complaints procedure	Statement of procedures for dealing with complaints
Performance Management of Staff	Statement of procedures adopted by the governing body relating to the performance management of staff and the annual report of the head teacher on the effectiveness of appraisal procedures
Pay Policy	Statement of procedure adopted by the Governing body from Local Authority guidance relating to teachers pay
Staff Conduct, Discipline and Grievance	Statement of procedure for regulating conduct and discipline of school staff and procedures by which staff may seek redress for grievance
Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments	Any statutory instruments, departmental circulars and administrative memoranda sent by the Department of Education and Skills to the head teacher or governing body relating to the curriculum
Equality	<p>Ladybridge Primary School is committed to the principle of equality of opportunity for all (as supported by our mission statement), and is about ensuring that those working in and with our school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - promote equality - eliminate discrimination - promote harmonious relations and help create good relationships between people of different groups.

Annex A - Other documents	Annex A provides a list of other documents that are held by the school and are available on request
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Annex A – Further documents held by the school

Name of Document	Description
Home School Partnership Agreement	An agreement through which home and school recognise their responsibilities, contributions and the importance of achieving standards
Medicine in School	Procedures for the administration and storage of medication
School Meals	Menus, cost and range of meals available
Starting School Booklet	Information prior to pupils starting the reception class
Parent/Carer Booklet	Booklet giving information about the life and work of the School
Community Cohesion	Procedures relating to community cohesion