



**BERLESDUNA**  
ACADEMY TRUST

# SUBJECT ACCESS REQUEST POLICY

This policy was ratified and adopted by Trustees on:	<b>July 2025</b>
This policy will be reviewed:	<b>2 Years</b>
This policy is due for review on:	<b>July 2027</b>

### What is personal data?

For information to be personal data, it must relate to a living individual and allow that individual to be identified from that information (either on its own or in conjunction with other information held alongside it). The individual to whom the personal data relates to is the 'Data Subject'.

A Subject Access request (SAR) can be made by

- any parent/carer acting on behalf of their child(ren) as the Data Subject or
- any parent/carer acting in their own individual right as the Data Subject or
- any member of staff as the Data Subject

### How to make a Subject Access Request (SAR)

A request can be submitted to the school or Trust at any time and can be in any format. However, we would advise that you use the Subject Access Request form which can be found at the back of this document or can be obtained from the school office. Using the form will help mitigate any delay in replying to your request. Please ensure that you submit your completed form to the school office or to the Data Protection Officer, Lisa Perry at: Berlesduna Academy Trust, School House, Church Road, Basildon, Essex, SS14 2EX or email to [lisaperry@berlesduna.co.uk](mailto:lisaperry@berlesduna.co.uk)

We aim to deal with SARs efficiently and transparently and our Data Protection Officer will consult with the requester about how best we can provide the information requested. We will ask the requester about their preferred method of receiving the information. However, in cases where supplying a copy of the requested information in a hard copy would result in disproportionate effort, we would evaluate the particular circumstances of each request and reach agreement with the requester as to an alternative way of satisfying the request.

We will ascertain the most appropriate and secure way to provide you with the information.

### Charges for SARs

A Subject Access Request is **free of charge**. However, the school has the right to charge a reasonable administrative-cost fee should the request be manifestly unfounded or excessive, (i.e. involves complex data retrieval) or repetitive (i.e. involves additional copies of information already provided) which imposes a disproportionate administration burden on the school or Trust. We will provide evidence of how we make this decision about a request being excessive where appropriate.

### Confirming the requester's identity

We will ask the requester for some form of ID to ensure that the person making the request is the individual to whom the personal data relates (or a person authorised to make a SAR on their behalf). We will also check that we have the requester's correct postal address.

When dealing with SARs for personal data relating to a pupil at our school, we will clarify whether the requester has parental responsibility for the child or has the authorisation to act on their behalf.

### **Making a SAR on behalf of someone else**

If the requester is making a SAR on behalf of someone else (the 'Data Subject'), we need to be satisfied that the 'third party' requester making the request is entitled to act on behalf of the Data Subject. It is the responsibility of the third party requester to provide evidence of this entitlement to the school or Trust.

The school and Trust has discretion in deciding whether information in response to a SAR is disclosed to a third party who has made the SAR on behalf of the Data Subject or disclosed directly to the Data Subject. If disclosed directly to the Data Subject, then the Data Subject can choose to share the information with the third party if they wish.

### **Clarifying a SAR**

Before we respond to a SAR, we may ask for additional information from the requester to enable us to find the personal data covered by the request.

Each SAR received will be acknowledged and once the necessary ID checks have been satisfied and clarification sought regarding the context of the personal data being requested, we will inform the requester of the date by which the response must be provided (within one month).

### **How long will information resulting from a SAR be available?**

In accordance with the GDPR regulations, the school and Trust will provide the required information within one month from the date the school and Trust is satisfied with the confirmation of the identity of the requester and agreed the nature and requirements of the information being requested. The school and Trust has the right to extend this period for particularly complex requests which may require more time to process.

Whilst we aim to respond to requests within the required time period of one month, we may not be able to honour this time period if we receive requests just before or during school holidays. If the nature of the request is complex and/or the request falls within a holiday period, we will aim to reach a mutually agreed alternative time period.

If there is a delay in dealing with the request for any reason, we will contact the requester to explain the reason and the expected date for the response.

### **Information that is exempt from SARs**

Certain types of personal data are exempt from SARs because of its nature or effect its disclosure may have (e.g. safeguarding or legal issues) or where disclosure would involve information about another individual. In these cases, we will explain to the requester the reasons why information requested cannot be disclosed.

### How information is provided

Our responses to a SAR will include an explanation of the searches that have been made to deal with the request and the information revealed by those searches so that the requester is able to understand whether they have received all the information they are entitled to.

### Manifestly Unfounded and Malicious Subject Access Requests

Berlesduna Academy Trust may refuse to comply with a Subject Access Request if it is manifestly unfounded or manifestly excessive.

A request may be manifestly unfounded if:

- the individual clearly has no intention to exercise their right of access.
- the request is malicious in intent and is being used to harass an organisation with no real purpose other than to cause disruption. For example:
  - explicitly states in the request itself or in other communications that they intend to cause disruption
  - makes unsubstantiated accusations against specific employees which are clearly prompted by malice
  - targets a particular employ against whom they have a grudge
  - systematically sends different requests as part of a campaign

What does manifestly excessive mean?

To determine if a request is manifestly excessive, Berlesduna Academy Trust will consider all the circumstances of the request, including:

- the nature of the requested information
- the context of the request, and the relationship between the school/Trust and the individual
- whether a refusal to provide the information or even acknowledge if the school or Trust hold the information may cause substantive damage to the individual
- available resources
- whether the request largely repeats previous requests and a reasonable interval hasn't elapsed
- whether it overlaps with other requests

### Monitoring our compliance with responding to SARs

We retain a log of SARs received which includes the details of requests received which we update to monitor progress as the SAR is processed. The log contains copies of the information supplied in response to the SAR together with copies of any material withheld and an explanation why.

We also monitor the time period for responding to SARs as well as deal with requests that have not been dealt with within the one-month timeframe.

Compliance with dealing and responding to SARs is monitored and discussed at senior leadership level and with our Trust Board/Board of Governors.

### **Complaints about our Subject Access request procedure**

If the requester believes that a request for information has not been dealt with properly, the requester should make a complaint to the school through our normal complaints procedure. If following the conclusion of the complaints procedure within the school, the requester is still dissatisfied or the original decision is not reviewed, the requester can complain directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns>.



# BERLESDUNA ACADEMY TRUST

## Subject Access Request (SAR) Form

You can use this form to request access to your personal information held by our school. Our school's **Privacy Notices** details the personal information held, how we use this information and the reasons why we share this information.

You should describe the information you need as clearly as possible: it is not sufficient to ask for "everything about me". If your request is too broad or unclear, we may need to ask you to be more specific.

In addition, you must also enclose **proof of your identity** such as a photocopy of your passport, driving license, or birth certificate.

This Subject Access Request form and proof of identity should be sent to the school office or the Data Protection Officer at Berlesduna Academy Trust, School House, Church Road, Basildon, Essex, SS14 2EX or emailed to [lisaperry@berlesduna.co.uk](mailto:lisaperry@berlesduna.co.uk).

If you need assistance with completing this form or have any questions regarding the SAR process, please contact our Data Protection officer, Lisa Perry on 01268 464 759.

### Section 1 – Details of person requesting information (requester)

<b>Title :</b>	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Title (please state):
<b>Forename(s):</b>	
<b>Surname:</b>	
<b>Daytime Telephone:</b>	
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Current Address:</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	

## Section 2 - Are you the Data Subject?

- Yes - I am the Data Subject** (the person the information is about) (go to Section 4):

*As the Data Subject, you will need to provide evidence of your identity so that we can check we are releasing the data to the correct person*

- No - I am acting on behalf of the Data Subject** (go to Section 3)

*If you are acting on behalf of another adult, you must provide written authorisation from the Data Subject to obtain their personal data before this request can be processed. We will still require confirmation of the identity of the Data Subject.*

*If you are acting on behalf of a child, you must provide evidence of parental responsibility*

## Section 3 – Details of Data Subject (if different from Section 1)

<b>Title (please tick one):</b>	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Title (please state):
<b>Forename(s):</b>	
<b>Surname:</b>	
<b>Current Address:</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>My relationship to the data subject is:</b>	(e.g. parent; carer; legal representative)
<b>If the Data Subject is an adult, I have provided evidence of authorisation from the Data Subject to act on their behalf (e.g. letter of authority; Power of Attorney)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>If the Data Subject is a child, I have provided evidence of parental responsibility for the Data Subject</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



**Section 6 – Declaration**

Verification of identity is required before your request can be processed.

**I enclose as verification of identity a photocopy of my:**

- Driving License       Passport       Birth Certificate       Other

**Data Subject Declaration**

**I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information I have provided in this form is correct.**

**I understand that the school is obliged to confirm proof of identity/authority and it may be necessary to obtain further information in order to comply with this subject access request.**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

**Authorised person Declaration**

**I confirm that I am legally authorised to act on behalf of the Data Subject.**

**I understand that the school is obliged to confirm proof of identity/authority and it may be necessary to obtain further information in order to comply with this subject access request.**

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

The information you have provided in this form will be kept confidential and kept for as long as necessary in accordance with our data retention schedule and will be disposed of in a safe and secure manner.

<b>Office Use</b>		<b>SAR Reference No</b>	
Actioned By		Date Form Received	
ID Checked Date		Agreed Response date	
Information requested confirmed Date		Date Responded	
Notes	Added to SAR Log Y / N		