



Digital Continuity Statement

This policy has been approved by Directors and the Operations Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alley", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Date Policy was created: December 2020

Date of next renewal: December 2022

The purpose and requirements for keeping the data

Skills for Life Trust is committed to the protection and security of all data it is required to keep, which in some cases this may be beyond a pupil, staff member or governor's tenancy. In light of this, Skills for Life Trust is required to keep a digital continuity statement pertaining to computerised data that must be kept for six or more years.

Should the Trust fail to retain this data, legal action may result in financial penalisation and/or negative press; it is for this reason that the Trust will retain relevant data for as long as it is required.

The information assets to be covered by the statement

Skills for Life Trust understands the sensitivity of some data it is required to keep and ensures measures are in place to secure this data, in accordance with the Trust's Data Protection Policy and the GDPR.

To ensure the safety of the data and records, Skills for Life Trust will not store any data on flash drives (memory sticks). Skills for Life Trust understands the importance and sensitivity of some data and sees the use of flash drives as inappropriate due to the fact they can be easy to corrupt, lose or steal. Data will be stored on password protected external hard drives.

The individuals responsible for the data preservation

Data retention will be overseen by the following personnel:

- The Headteacher of each Academy
- Central Service Managers
- DfE
- Local Authority

Should any of the above personnel change, appropriate updates will be made to this and other affected policies and correspondence.

The appropriate supported file formats for long-term preservation, and when they need to be transferred

As agreed with the Trust Network Manager, Microsoft Word documents will be converted into PDF files, to ensure the longevity of their accessibility – file formats should be converted as soon as possible, or within six months, to ensure their compatibility. Further specifications of file conversion are listed below:

Type of file	To be converted to
Microsoft Word document	PDF
Microsoft PowerPoint document	PDF

Microsoft Excel document	PDF
Images	JPEG
Videos and film, including CCTV	MOV/MP4

The retention of all software specification information and licence information

If it is not possible for the data created by an unsupported computer system to be converted to the supported file formats, the system itself should be ‘mothballed’ to preserve the files it has stored. If this is the case with any data, Skills for Life Trust will list the complete system specification for the software that has been used and any licence information which will allow the system to be retained in its entirety.

How access to the information asset is to be managed in accordance with the GDPR

To ensure the data’s relevance to the Academy, and that recent files have been correctly converted, the Information Asset Owners listed previously will undertake regular archive checks of the data – timeframes are listed in the table below. In accordance with principle five of the GDPR, personal data should be “kept in a form which permits the identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed”. Skills for Life Trust is committed to ensuring all data is checked regularly to ensure its relevance.

Timeframe	Type of check
Biannually	Relevance check
Annually	Compatibility check and, if required, back-up files created
At the end of the data’s lifecycle (at least every six years)	Check to ensure data is securely disposed of