



Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School

Freedom of Information Policy

At Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, we recognise the uniqueness of each person, young and old, all people are special and of worth in God's eyes.

Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) as a public authority, and as such, must comply with any requests for information in accordance with the principles laid out in the Act.

This means that we must hold and publish a FOI Publication Scheme, to communicate the information which we hold that is readily available to the public, and where it can be found.

Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

Our school's publication scheme has been developed from the Information Commissioner's Office template documents. It is the school's aim to ensure that the publication of information is accessible for individuals. Much of the information listed is routinely published on our school website and handbook for parents.

The publication scheme and the material it covers is readily available in hard copy from the school.

Schedule of charges under Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

A charge may be made for any photocopies of information and any postal charges. Any charges made will reflect the actual cost to the school of photocopying and/or postage.

Where the cost of postage, printing or photocopying is below £10.00, we will not make a charge.

Where it is over £10.00, the first £10.00 will be free of charge, after that we will charge the full estimated cost of postage and copying.

Before we produce the information, we shall inform you of the total cost. You may wish to refine the request in order to reduce the cost and we would be happy to discuss this with you.

There will not be a charge for any information which is supplied electronically.

Freedom of Information requests

Any request for any information from our school will be considered to see if it meets the criteria of FOI. This is irrespective of whether or not the individual making the request mentions the FOI.

If the request is simple and the information is to be released, then the information will be released within the timescale set out below.

All requests should be referred in the first instance to headteacher who may co-ordinate the process with other staff.

All requests under FOI are treated as if made by any member of the general public. Any information released will be within the public domain and may not be marked restricted or confidential.

Time limits for FOI requests

The school must respond as soon as possible, and in any event, within 20 working days of the date of receipt of the request. When calculating the 20 working day deadline, a “working day” is a school day (one in which pupils are in attendance), subject to an absolute maximum of 60 normal working days (not school days) to respond.

Procedure for dealing with a request

All FOI requests will be forwarded on receipt to the specified co-ordinator of FOI requests.

Initially it will be necessary to determine whether or not we hold the information requested. This might be in hard copy or digital media.

There may be occasions where information is held, but the process of extracting the relevant information would take considerable time. In those instances, the requester may be given the opportunity to refine the request based on the information given.

Part 1 – Identifying the types of information

As an organisation we hold different types of information, including:

- Organisational information, prospectus, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.
- Financial information about income and expenditure, financial audit, funding agreements, procurement, tendering and contracts.
- Plans, strategies, aims and objectives, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews.
- Decision making processes and records of decisions, internal criteria and procedures
- Policies and procedures –protocols, policies and procedures for delivering services and compliance with our statutory and regulatory obligations.
- Lists and registers required by law and other key information.
- Details of our curriculum and wider educational offering.

Part 2 - Considering the nature of the request

FOI requests will be fully complied with unless an exemption applies.

Common exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 include:

Section 40 (1) – the request is for the applicants personal data. This must be dealt with under the subject access regime in the GDPR, see the Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices.

Section 40 (2) – compliance with the request would involve releasing third party personal data, and this would be in breach of the GDPR principles as set out in Data Protection Policy

Section 41 – information that has been sent to the school which is confidential.

Section 21 – information that is already publicly available, even if payment of a fee is required to access that information.

Section 22 – information that the school intends to publish at a future date.

Section 43 – information that would prejudice the commercial interests of the school and/or a third party.

Section 38 – information that could prejudice the physical health, mental health or safety of an individual (this may apply particularly to safeguarding information);

Section 31 – information which may prejudice the effective detection and prevention of crime – such as the location of CCTV cameras.

Section 36 – information which, in the opinion of the chair of the governing board would prejudice the effective conduct of the school. There is a special form for this on the ICO's website to assist with the obtaining of the chair's opinion.

Information within these exemptions must be considered and weighed up about the general principal that information should be disclosed wherever applicable.

Part 3 - Responding to a request

When responding to a request where it is necessary to withhold some or all of the information, we will explain why the information has been withheld, quoting the appropriate section number and explaining how the information requested fits within that exemption. If the public interest test has been applied, this will be set out.

In these circumstances the requester can seek a review form with the school, and correspondence should be addressed in the first instance to the headteacher.

If anyone has any concerns, questions or complaints in relation to this policy or the publication scheme contained within it they should contact the headteacher.

If you require a paper version of any information set out under the FOI Publication Scheme, or want to ask whether information is available, contact the school using the details set out below.

Contact

As outlined above, please contact the headteacher for any FOI requests.

Our school address is:

Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School
Station Road
Stanley
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 6FB

Email: info@st-andrews-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk

You can also visit our website www.st-andrews-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk.

To help us process requests quickly, any correspondence should be clearly marked 'FOI Request'.

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 a formal complaint needs to be made, then this should be addressed to:

Information Commissioners Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5A

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

website: www.ico.org.uk

Review

This policy was reviewed by the Data Protection Co-ordinator in July 2022 and approved for use by the governing body at their meeting on 18 July 2022.

This procedure will be reviewed every three years in accordance with our schools' policy delegation schedule. All stakeholders will be notified of any changes to this policy.

We will review this policy earlier than the scheduled review date should there be any change in guidance or legislation related to this policy or should we feel that an earlier review is necessary.