

Information and Records Retention Policy:



Ellesmere College

Introduction

- 1 This policy sets out a structured approach to reviewing and destroying records in relation to Ellesmere College (the **College**).
- 2 The retention period for each type of record is shown in the table. In addition, data protection legislation makes it unlawful to keep the information when it is no longer needed for the purpose for which it is held. This requirement is uncertain and allows discretion and may vary according to the circumstances, but in practice it means that the College should promptly destroy the record once the retention period in the table below has been reached. Occasionally there may be special circumstances which mean that a record should be kept for longer (for example where there is a risk of litigation or a request from an outside body such as the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). The College should refer to its insurance policies and further legal advice should be sought in these circumstances.
- 3 The retention periods stated in the table are the minimum storage requirements, in practice the College carries out a data cleanse of its files every 12 months. Accordingly, a 3 year retention period means 3 years plus up to 12 months to allow the College to securely dispose of the information.
- 4 Information must be securely deleted. This applies to paper records, electronic information and biometric information.
- 5 This policy does not apply to records connected with commercial activities.
- 6 The College will discuss document retention with its insurers (who may specify longer retention periods). If there is any conflict then any longer retention periods specified by the insurers should prevail.
- 7 If an email falls into one of the categories set out in the table then it should be filed centrally as soon as is reasonable.
- 8 "Routine"/"General" emails which do not fall into any of the categories in the table may be kept in inboxes for up to six months and should then be deleted. An example of a routine email is an internal email advising staff that the weekly meeting is cancelled. However, as a matter of good practice, ideally they should be deleted once they have served their purpose, normally within 30 days.
- 9 Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (**IICSA**):
 - 9.1 The IICSA has issued retention instructions to a range of institutions regarding records relating to the care of children. In light of this, we are advising schools to temporarily cease the routine destruction of those records which might be relevant to the Inquiry in case they are requested by the Inquiry or made subject to a disclosure order. This means that before destroying **any** document the College should consider if it contains information that may fall within the Inquiry's remit.
 - 9.2 The range of documentation which might need to be kept is wide. It will include any information linked to alleged or established child sexual abuse, whether by staff, volunteers or pupils with no limitation date. For example, a list of pupils who attended an overnight trip or admission registers which show which pupils were at the College at a given time. As such, documents should be kept for longer than the retention periods listed in the policy if they concern information which might be relevant to the Inquiry. The College should therefore review the retention periods under **each** of the rows below in case they are relevant to IICSA.
 - 9.3 Please note that the College should keep this under review so that it recommences document destruction at the appropriate time.

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	All Records:	Occasionally there may be special circumstances which mean that a record should be kept for longer (for example where there is a risk of litigation or a request from an outside body such as the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).		
1	Pupils			
1.1	Admission registers (however held)	Three years from the date of the last entry	Review for further retention in the case of contentious dispute SHRED/DELETE or delete including back-ups and copies	Yes
1.2	Attendance registers (however held)	Three years from the date of the last entry	Review for further retention in the case of contentious dispute SHRED/DELETE or delete including back-ups and copies	Yes
1.3	Child protection records	DOB of the pupil + 50 years	Review for further retention in the case of contentious dispute SHRED/DELETE Notes 1 Child protection information must be copied and sent under separate cover to the new school whilst the child is still under 18. The College should ensure secure transit and confirmation of receipt should be obtained 2 Where a child is removed from roll to be educated at home, the file should be copied to the Local Authority (LA) 3 In accordance with the terms of reference of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse all schools are required to retain information which relates to allegations (substantiated or not) of organisations and individuals who may have been involved in, or have knowledge of child	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
			sexual abuse or child sexual exploitation; allegations (substantiated or not) of individuals having engaged in sexual activity with, or having a sexual interest in, children; institutional failures to protect children from sexual abuse or other exploitation. 50 years from the date of birth of the pupil involved should be a sufficient period of retention but this should be kept under review	
1.4	Biometric information (e.g. fingerprints to be used as part of an automated biometric recognition system)	For as long as the College requires the information for the automated biometric recognition system	This information must not be kept for longer than it is needed. The information must be destroyed if the pupil no longer uses the system including when they leave the College, where the parent or pupil withdraws consent or the pupil objects to its use	No
1.5	Medical records held by the College	DOB of the pupil + 24 years; or Six years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident Whichever is the longer The 24 year period is based on the fact that once the child turns 18 years old they have a certain amount of time (known as a limitation period) in which to bring claims against the	Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
		College. The longest of these limitation periods is six years, albeit that some periods can be extended by the courts		
1.6	Counselling records held by the College	DOB of the pupil + 24 years; or Six years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident Whichever is the longer	Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	No
2	Pupil files			
2.1	Pupil files (including public examination scripts, marks & results)	DOB of the pupil + 24 years; or Six years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident Whichever is the longer	Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes, for example, parental complaints, disciplinary matters, pupil exclusions, bullying incidents and subject access requests SHRED/DELETE Notes 1 When reviewing pupil files, the College should have regard to other applicable sections of this policy 2 Any examination certificates left unclaimed should be returned to the appropriate Examination Board	No
2.2	Internal examination scripts, marks &	<u>Scripts:</u> Scripts from weekly or monthly tests:	Keep for longer in accordance with the retention periods and guidance set out in row 2.1 above if risk of contentious disputes, for example, parental complaints, disciplinary matters, pupil exclusions,	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	results	<p>Keep until the end of the next term.</p> <p>Whichever is the longer</p> <p>Scripts from termly or yearly tests: Keep until the end of the next academic year.</p> <p><u>Marks & results:</u></p> <p>If the purpose of the test is to progress the child (either internally or externally) then keep marks & results in accordance with the retention periods and guidance set out in row 2.1 above.</p> <p>If the purpose of the test is for general internal assessment of academic performance then keep marks & results for the same period as the scripts themselves.</p>	bullying incidents and subject access requests.	
2.3	Special Educational Needs files, reviews and Individual Education Plans	<p>DOB of the pupil + 24 years; or</p> <p>Six years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident</p> <p>Whichever is the longer</p>	<p>Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes</p> <p>SHRED/DELETE</p>	No
2.4	Statement of Special Education	Statements of SEN (including appendices) and EHC Plans should	SHRED/DELETE unless legal action pending	Yes

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	Needs (SEN) and Education Healthcare (EHC) Plans	never be retained once the pupil has left the College	The Statement / Plan belongs to the LA which makes and maintains the Statement / Plan	
2.5	Letters authorising absence	Three years from the date of the last entry on the attendance register	SHRED/DELETE	No
2.6	Documents that are required to be retained for each migrant enrolled under Tier 4 (General) Student or Tier 4 (Child) Student visas	Through the period of sponsorship and for whichever is the shorter period of either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one year from the date that the College ends sponsorship of the Tier 4 student, or • if the Tier 4 student is no longer sponsored, the point at which a Home Office compliance officer has examined and approved the documents 	SHRED/DELETE	No
3	Permissions			
3.1	Parental permission slips for trips – where there has been no major incident, accident, injury or near miss involving anyone	Conclusion of the trip + three years	Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes otherwise SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	on the trip			
3.2	Parental permission slips for trips – where there has been a major incident, accident, injury or near miss involving anyone on the trip	DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 24 years; or Six years from the date of the incident if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident Whichever is the longer The permission slips for all pupils on the trip may need to be retained to show that the rules had been followed for all pupils	Review for further retention in the case of relevance to contentious disputes. SHRED/DELETE	No
4	Admission department and bursarial records			
4.1	Admission and parent contract documents including registration form, letter of offer and acceptance form	Six years from date of leaving the College	Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	No
4.2	Admissions documents relating to applicants who did not join the College	One year, in normal circumstances, although the documents can be kept for as long as the College considers that they are required, subject to the College's obligation not to keep the documents for longer than is	SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
		necessary		
4.3	Financial information in respect of fees	Six years from date of leaving the College	Review for further retention in the case of contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	No
5	Employment			
5.1	Employment or personnel records including recruitment information, contracts of employment, changes to terms and condition, disciplinary matters, grievance procedures.	For at least six years after date of termination of employment For at least 12 years after date of termination if any of the documents were signed as a deed	If on a date no earlier than six years after the termination date there has been no recent contact from the relevant individual and no apparent breach of contract claim, dispose securely of documentation unless any child protection concerns. Records of anyone with child protection concerns (even if not proved) should be retained	No
5.2	Single central register (SCR)	There is no legal requirement to keep the SCR entry for staff who have left as it ceases to be relevant for inspection purposes, but this information could also be requested in relation to the IICSA. Therefore the SCR entry for each former member of staff will be retained indefinitely either on an archive SCR or within the	Review whether further retention is necessary. If so, these reasons must be documented. If not SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
		personnel file.		
5.3	Records and documents relating to membership of and contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme	Indefinitely	Review whether further retention is necessary. Decisions in relation to the Teachers' Pension Scheme may have ramifications beyond six years, and may be queried at any time by members and the Teachers' Pension Scheme	No
5.4	Employment references received and references provided (where no safeguarding concerns have arisen or are known)	While employment continues and at least up to six years after employment terminates	Consider whether any recent reference requests for the relevant individual have been received. If any concerns are/have been raised by social services or other agencies see 5.5 below. If none, SHRED/DELETE	No
5.5	Employment reference where an individual's employment ended for a safeguarding reason or where safeguarding was outstanding at the time of termination	At least for 10 years after the person has retired or until the individual reaches the age of 75, whichever is the later	Consider whether any recent reference requests for the relevant individual or new concerns raised by social services or other agencies If none, SHRED/DELETE	Yes

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
5.6	Working time opt-out forms	Two years from the date on which they were entered into	SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.7	Records to show compliance with the Working Time Regulations	Two years after the relevant period	SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.8	Payroll and wage records These include records of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details on overtime. • Bonuses. • Expenses. • Benefits in kind. 	Six years from the financial year end in which payments are made	SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.9	PAYE Records	Three years in addition to the current year (however it may be sensible to keep them for six years as they may fall within the definition of payroll and wage records).	SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.10	Maternity/ paternity records These include:	Three years after the end of the tax year in which the maternity pay period ends	SHRED/DELETE	Yes

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Records regarding Maternity payments made save for where those include payroll records. •Maternity certificates showing the expected week of confinement 			
5.11	Sickness records required for the purposes of Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)	During employment and for a period of three years after employment has ended and to be kept separate from absence records which merely demonstrate the dates absent and not the health issue.	SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.12	Records in relation to hours worked and payments made to workers	For a period of three years beginning with the last day of the following month to which the records relate	SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.13	Consents for the processing of personal data and sensitive personal data (known as special category	For as long as the data is being processed and up to six years afterwards For consent to be valid it must be "freely given". This is often difficult to	SHRED/DELETE	Yes

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	personal data under the GDPR)	evidence in an employment context owing to the imbalance in the relationship between the College and the employee. Therefore, the College should be very careful before asking employees to consent to their data being used in a particular way. In the vast majority of cases it is not necessary to obtain the employee's consent before using their personal data.		
5.14	Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and disclosures of criminal record forms	Dispose of securely after the recruitment process unless assessed as relevant to ongoing employment relationship. Once the conviction is spent, should be deleted unless it is an excluded profession. (Also see: Secure Storage, Handling, Retention & Disposal of Disclosures and Disclosure Information Policy)	Enter DBS certificate number, date, initials on Single Central Register SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.15	Immigration checks	Throughout employment and then retained for two years after the termination of employment	SHRED/DELETE	Yes
5.16	Recruitment records of unsuccessful	Six months after notifying unsuccessful candidates in order to demonstrate, if required, the fairness and transparency of the recruitment	SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	candidates	process		
5.17	Personnel and training records	Whilst employment continues and up to six years after employment ceases	SHRED/DELETE	No
5.18	Annual leave records	Six years or possibly longer if leave can be carried over from year to year	SHRED/DELETE	No
5.19	Collective / workforce agreements	Permanently or six years after the agreement comes to an end	SHRED/DELETE	No
5.20	Works Council minutes	Permanently	N/A	No
5.21	An Employee's bank details	Until last payment made	SHRED/DELETE	No
5.22	Travel and subsistence claims.	Whilst employment continues and up to six years after employment ends	SHRED/DELETE	
5.23	Records of advances for season tickets and loans to employees	Whilst employment continues and up to six years after repayment or end of employment	SHRED/DELETE	No
5.24	Death Benefit Nomination and Revocation Forms	Whilst employment continues and up to six years after payment of benefit	SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
6	Health and safety information - employees			
6.1	Reportable injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences (RIDDOR) reports or own record	Three years from the date of record If disease - indefinitely (recommended)	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes
6.2	First aid / accident book entry	Three years from the date of injury or last record in the book If disease - indefinitely	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes
6.3	Records of maintenance, examination and test control measures relating to substances hazardous to health under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regime	Five years	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes
6.4	Health records for licensable	At least 40 years from the date if the last entry	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action contentious disputes	Yes

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	asbestos work		SHRED/DELETE	
6.5	Medical surveillance certificate for licensable asbestos work	At least four years from the date it was issued	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes
6.6	Records of air monitoring for asbestos	Where a health record is required at least 40 years from the date of the last entry In other cases at least five years from the date of the last entry		Yes
6.7	Records of examinations, tests and repairs carried out in respect of exhaust or respiratory protective equipment under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 (CAR)	Five years	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
6.8	Examination / report of defect for power presses	Two years	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes
6.9	Records of water monitoring, inspection, testing, checks and control measures for legionellosis	Five years from the date of the last entry	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes
7	Health and safety information - pupils			
7.1	Accident reports including first aid / accident book	DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 21 years of age; or Three years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	No
7.2	Reportable injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences (RIDDOR) reports or own record	Minimum statutory retention period is at least 3 years but, we recommend that the record is kept for DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 21 years of age; or Three years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	Yes

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
7.3	Incident investigations and reports, risk assessments and other relevant documents where there has been an accident or incident	DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 21 years of age; or Three years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or civil claims for personal injury SHRED/DELETE	No
8	Generic health and safety records			
8.1	Risk assessments, records of health and safety arrangements, copies of policies and procedures General records of health and safety auditing and monitoring including fire risk assessments, electrical testing, PAT testing and gas appliance testing Training records and copies of	These should be kept for as long as they remain relevant - at least three years (in the absence of a specific accident, incident, dangerous occurrence or notifiable disease)	Review for further retention in the case of enforcement action or contentious disputes SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	<p>instructions or information</p> <p>Maintenance logs and / or records of plant and / or equipment plus safety manuals / notices / instructions</p> <p>Records of emergency evacuations and fire drills, fire safety risk assessments and fire safety policy / fire arrangements</p>			
8.2	<p>Copies of documents, including health and safety files, prepared pursuant to the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015</p>	<p>Records should be retained as long as is reasonably necessary to inform on future construction projects at the College site</p>	SHRED/DELETE	N/A

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
9	Insurance			
9.1	Insurance certificates and schedules of cover	Indefinitely	N/A	No
9.2	Correspondence with insurers related to specific accidents or incidents	<p>Three years generally</p> <p>If the incident involved a pupil - DOB of the pupil involved in the incident + 21 years of age; or</p> <p>Three years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident</p> <p>Disease claims or where there have been allegations of abuse – indefinitely</p>	<p>Review for further retention in the case of civil claims for disease or personal injury</p> <p>SHRED/DELETE</p>	No
10	Investigations, reviews and inquiries			
10.1	Documents relevant to IICSA	Indefinitely	Review once the Inquiry has been completed.	No - unless the College has received a formal notice from IICSA
10.2	Internal reports and investigations	Where the investigation / inquiry / report has been necessitated as a	SHRED/DELETE	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	<p>into accidents / incidents</p> <p>Copies of reports submitted to external agencies / regulators such as Independent Schools Inspectorate, Health and Safety Executive, Local Authority, Charity Commission etc</p> <p>External reports, reviews, investigations and inquiries for example inquests and public inquiries</p>	<p>result of a specific incident, these documents are stored centrally for at least three years where there is a risk of enforcement action and / or criminal prosecution and / or a civil claim. Where this relates to pupil DOB +21 years of age); or</p> <p>Three years from the date of an incident which may become contentious if the pupil was 18 years old at the date of the incident.</p>		
11	Alumni records			
11.1	We recommend that alumni should be treated as employees for the purposes of health and safety records.	As set out in section 6 above	As set out in section 6 above	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	Although this is not strictly necessary, (some of the health and safety requirements relating to employees do not apply to alumni), treating them the same can be considered good practice and may be more straightforward to implement in practice			
11.2	General alumni correspondence, membership forms etc	Six years after the last time the individual contacted the College This is subject to any longer retention period set out above. For example, records relating to a reportable disease should be kept indefinitely.	SHRED/DELETE	No
12	Keeping information for longer			
12.1	Records which do not contain personal data, for example, old	Can be kept indefinitely	N/A	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	photographs of College buildings, title deeds etc			
12.2	Records relating to a number of pupils, or the College generally, such as old class photographs, lists of pupils attending the College in any given year, College prospectuses, newspaper cuttings etc	<p>Can be kept indefinitely provided the College is satisfied (1) there is a legitimate interest in doing so, (2) keeping the record is necessary for that legitimate interest, and (3) the legitimate interest is not overridden by the interests, rights or freedoms of the individuals concerned.</p> <p>It is expected, in the vast majority (if not all) cases, the College can keep these records. For example, the College may have a legitimate interest in building up a picture of the history of the College.</p> <p>Particular regard to paragraph 9 in the introduction should be had, before destroying any records. If in doubt, legal advice to be sought.</p>	N/A	No
12.3	Records concerning specific pupils kept for a valid reason. For example, a poem written by an	<p>Kept indefinitely if the College is satisfied that the legitimate interests test set out at paragraph 12.2 above has been met and documented.</p> <p>This does not apply to more routine pupils records. Routine work</p>	N/A	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	exceptionally gifted pupil.	<p>produced by pupils should not be kept for longer than the retention period set out in section 2.1 above unless the College has a specific reason for keeping it and that decision can be justified on the basis of the legitimate interests test.</p> <p>For example, if the College wished to retain the essays written by pupils which were submitted to an essay competition about growing up in the 2010s. This will usually be permissible but further legal advice should be sought.</p>		
13	CCTV, videos and photographs			
13.1	CCTV footage	30 days	<p>DELETE</p> <p>Review for further retention if the recording may be required for any reason such as in relation to an incident or accident involving any person.</p> <p>CCTV footage may also be needed in relation to parental complaints, disciplinary matters, pupil exclusions, bullying incidents or health and safety matters.</p> <p>If a subject access request has been made for the footage it must be retained.</p>	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
			The College should consider the relevant limitation periods for claims being brought against the College and seek advice as necessary.	
13.2	Photographs of pupils for internal administration purposes e.g. to identify the pupil or photographs used on security passes	These photographs should be retained for as long as they are required for the purpose for which they were taken.	SHRED/DELETE Review for further retention in the case of relevance to contentious disputes.	No
13.3	Photographs or videos of pupils taken for marketing reasons e.g. photographs for use in the College prospectus or a video of pupils on the College's website	These photographs and videos should be retained for as long as they are required for the purpose for which they were taken. If the College is to retain the images for historical reasons please see the comments at 12.3 above.	SHRED/DELETE Review for further retention in the case of relevance to contentious disputes.	No
13.4	Photographs or videos of pupils used as part of the curriculum e.g. a video of a drama lesson/	These photographs and videos should be retained for as long as they are required for the purpose for which they were taken. If the College would like to retain the images for historical reasons please	SHRED/DELETE Review for further retention in the case of relevance to contentious disputes.	No

	Record	Retention period	Action at the end of the retention period	Retention period required by law?
	performance or as part of an art project	see the comments at 12.3 above.		
14	General email correspondence not covered under items 1 to 13 above			
14.1	Routine or General emails	6 months, however as a matter of good practice ideally they should be deleted. Once they have served their purpose, normally within 30 days.	DELETE	No