



# Education Trust

Inspiring the individuals of today, for a better society tomorrow,

*“Aspire, Belong, Collaborate”*

## RET FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY

Review Frequency	Annual
Reviewed	7/11/25
Next Review	November 2026
Agreed by Trustees	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2025



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## Purpose

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 makes it a legal requirement for any public authority including schools to produce a publication scheme and guidance for any information requests.

The Act gives legal rights to any person wishing to access information held by the Riviera Education Trust (“Trust”). We have a duty to provide advice and guidance to anyone requesting information.

This Policy outlines information regarding the Act with details of the procedures to follow should a request for information be received.

## Scope

This publication scheme commits the Trust to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by the Trust.

The scheme commits the Trust:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the Trust and falls within the classifications below.
- To specify the information which is held by the Trust and falls within the classifications below.
- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme. The preferred medium will be the school or Trust website, but information will also be available from the school or Clerk to the Trustees.
- To produce and publish the methods by which the specific information is made routinely available so that it can be easily identified and accessed by members of the public.
- To produce a schedule of any fees charged for access to information which is made proactively available.
- To make this publication scheme available to the public.

## Classes of information

### Who we are and what we do

Organisational information, registered company details, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.



## **What we spend and how we spend it**

Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement and contracts.

## **What our priorities are and how we are doing**

Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.

## **How we make decisions**

Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.

## **Our policies and procedures**

Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.

## **Lists and registers**

Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the functions of the Academy.

## **The services we offer**

Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases. A description of the services offered.

The classes of information will not generally include:

- 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.
- 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.

## **Methods of publication**

The Riviera Education Trust will indicate clearly to the public what information is covered by this scheme and how it can be obtained.

Where it is within the capability of our Trust, information will be provided on the website. Where it



is impracticable to make information available on a website or when an individual does not wish to access the information by the website, we will ensure that the same information can be obtained from the Clerk to the Trustees.

In exceptional circumstances, some information may be available only by viewing in person. Where this manner is specified, contact details will be provided. An appointment to view the information will be arranged within a reasonable timescale.

Information will be provided in the language in which it is held or in such other language that is legally required. Where an authority is legally required to translate any information, it will do so.

Obligations under disability and discrimination legislation and any other legislation to provide information in other forms and formats will be adhered to when providing information in accordance with this scheme.

## Charges

The purpose of this scheme is to make the maximum amount of information readily available at minimum inconvenience and cost to the public. Charges made by the Trust for routinely published material will be justified and transparent and kept to a minimum.

Material which is published and accessed on a website will be provided free of charge. Charges may be made for information subject to a charging regime specified by Parliament.

Charges may be made for actual disbursements incurred such as:

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

Charges may also be made for information provided under this scheme where they are legally authorised, they are in all the circumstances, including the general principles of the right of access to information held by public authorities, justified and are in accordance with a published schedule or schedules of fees which is readily available to the public.

If a charge is to be made, confirmation of the payment due will be given before the information is provided. Payment may be requested prior to provision of the information.

## Requests

Requests must be in writing, and include the enquirer's name and correspondence address. They must also include a description of exactly what information is needed. Enquirers do not need to say



why they require the information. Requests should be made in writing to:

Clerk to the Trustees  
Riviera Education Trust  
Higher Polsham Road  
Paignton  
Devon  
TQ3 2SY

Tel: 01803 557190

## Exemptions

- Information accessible by other means (e.g. website or prospectus)
- Personal Information – this is covered by the Data Protection Act 2018 (unless the enquirer wishes to know what information is held about them) and UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- Environmental Information (e.g. regarding playing fields, car parking, phone masts, etc.)
- Requests can also be denied if the information is simply not held by the school; if the cost of accessing the information is above £500, or the request is considered vexatious or repeated.

## Contact details

If you require a paper version of any information, or want to ask whether information is available please contact the Clerk to the Trustees, by telephone, email, or letter.

## Information publication

### Charges

In some cases, information can be downloaded from the School or Trust website free of charge.

In the case of information not obtainable through the School or Trust website, the School /Trust reserves the right to charge for actual disbursements incurred such as:

- photocopying – at 10p per sheet of A4 paper
- postage and packaging – at the actual cost to the Academy
- any other costs directly incurred as a result of the information request – at the actual cost to the Academy



## Who we are and what we do

*(Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts)*

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Academy Funding Agreement	Department for Education website/ Trust/School website
School staff and structure – names of key personnel	School websites, prospectus or hard copy
Local Standards Board (governors) – names and contact details of the governors and the basis of their appointment	Individual school website or hard copy
Instrument of Government / Articles of Association	Trust website or hard copy
MAT Board of Trustees	Trust website or hard copy
School session times, terms dates and holidays	School websites or hard copy
Location and contact information – address, telephone number and website	Trust/School websites, prospectus
Contact details for the Head of School and the Governing Body	Individual school websites, prospectus
Data / SATs results	School websites, DfE website

## What we spend and how we spend it

*(Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit)*

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Annual budget plan and financial statements.	Trust/School websites or hard copy, Companies House website, EFA website, published accounts online
Capital funding – details of capital funding allocated to the Academy and information on related building projects and other capital projects.	Hard copy or in published accounts online

Additional funding – Income generation schemes and other sources of funding.	Hard copy or in published accounts online
Procurement and contracts – details of procedures used for the acquisition of goods and services. Details of contracts that have gone through a formal tendering process.	Hard copy
Staffing and grading structure.	Hard Copy
Pay policy – a statement of the Trust’s policy on procedures regarding staff pay.	Hard copy
Governors’ allowances – Details of allowances and expenses that can be claimed or incurred.	Hard copy

## What our priorities are and how we are doing

*(Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)*

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Government supplied performance data. Latest Ofsted report	DfE website, Edubase, Hard copy
School Improvement Plans	Hard copy
The Trust’s Strategic Plan	Trust website or hard copy
Performance management policy and procedures	Hard copy
Child Protection policies and procedures	Trust/School websites or hard copy

## How we make decisions

*(Decision making processes and records of decisions – current and previous three years as a minimum)*

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Admissions Policy – arrangements and procedures and right of appeal	Individual school websites, prospectus or hard copy
Governing Body/Trust meetings agendas, papers and minutes – information that is considered to be private will be excluded	Trust/ Individual School Website Hard copy

## Our policies and procedures

*(Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities – current information only)*

*(Currently maintained lists and registers only)*

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments	School websites / newsletters or hard copy
Disclosure logs	Available for inspection
Asset register	Available for inspection
Any information the Academy is currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers	Available for inspection or hard copy

## The services we offer

*(Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses)*

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained
Extra-curricular activities	School websites / Prospectus / Newsletters
Out of school clubs	School websites / Prospectus / Newsletters
Academy publications	School websites / Prospectus / Newsletters or hard copy
Service for which the academy is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees	Hard copy
Leaflets, booklets and newsletters	School websites / Prospectus / Newsletters / hard copy

## Appeals procedure

The Act places a duty on public authorities to put a process in place to ensure that applicants are able to appeal to the public authority for an internal review if they are not content with the public authority's decision on the release of information. This provides a first review stage for the



applicants.

## Appeal Process

### Principles

If the Trust refuses to supply the information requested, or the applicant is dissatisfied with its response or feels that a fee has been applied unfairly they may ask for an internal review of that decision. The following principles will apply when considering an appeal request:

- The review will be undertaken by an individual who was not involved in the original request for information.
- If the applicant has not received a response to a request for information within 20 school days or 60 working days (whichever is shorter) it may be regarded that the Trust has refused the request; the individual therefore has a right of appeal.
- All reviews will make an assessment of the information released against the information requested and make a full review of the information associated with the original application.
- The reviewer will discuss the decisions made with the staff members concerned with the original request in order to gain a full picture of how decisions were made.
- The reviewer may contact the applicant at their own discretion.
- The reviewer may obtain advice from external sources including legal advice.
- Conclusion will be summarised and handed to the Trust Data Lead who will log them centrally for future reference.
- An internal review must be completed before an appeal can be made to the Information Commissioner.

### Timescales

- The Trust will aim to deal with complex appeals within 20 working days of the receipt of the appeal.
- If it becomes clear at any stage of the appeal that the above timescales cannot be met the Trust will inform the applicant in writing and give a revised deadline for completion of the review.

### Outcomes

An internal review may have three outcomes:

- The original decision is reversed.
- The original decision is amended.
- The original decision is upheld.

Whatever the outcome of the appeal the complainant will be informed in writing with appropriate information about what will be provided should a decision be reversed or amended.



## Requesting an Internal Review

- Requests for internal review should be submitted in writing to the Clerk to the Trustees
- If the applicant is not happy with the outcome of the internal review, they have the right to request a review externally to the Trust.

Requests for such an external review should be made in writing to:

The Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF



## Details of amendments

### July 2019

- July 2019 Updated to include Roselands and Shiphay Learning Academy.

### November 2020

- November 2020 reviewed

### August 2021

- reviewed without change

### December 2022

- reviewed without change

### December 2023

- reviewed without change

### 8.10.24

- reviewed without change

### 7/11/25

- Formatting refreshed, no other changes

