



POLSKA MACIERZ SZKOLNA
POLISH EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

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Polish Educational Society Exam Centre

Centre No 10157

Data Protection Policy

The Polish Educational Society Exam Centre collects and uses personal information about staff and candidates who come into contact with the exam centre. This information is gathered in order to enable it to provide examinations and other associated functions. In addition, there may be a **legal requirement** to collect and use information to ensure that the centre complies with its statutory obligations.

Purpose

This policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with correctly and securely and in accordance with **The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, together with the new Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other related legislation. It will apply to information regardless of the way it is collected, used, recorded, stored, and destroyed, and irrespective of whether it is held in paper files or electronically.

All staff involved with the collection, processing and disclosure of personal data will be aware of their duties and responsibilities by adhering to these guidelines.

Polish Educational Society Exam Centre Data Protection can be accessed on www.polskamacierz.org. A signed hardcopy is kept in the Exam Policies File stored in the exam office. All candidates are given access to this policy via written request.

It is the responsibility of the head of centre to ensure that the centre has in place the following policies available for inspection.

What is Personal Information?

Personal information or data is defined as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data, or other information held.

Data Protection Principles

Exam office staff responsible for collecting and sharing candidates' data are required to follow strict rules ensuring the information is:

1. Used fairly and lawfully
2. Used for limited, specifically stated purposes

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3. Used in a way that is adequate, relevant, and not excessive
4. Accurate
5. Kept for no longer that is absolutely necessary
6. Handled according to people's rights
7. Kept safe and secure
8. Not transferred outside the European Economic Area without adequate protection

General Statement

The Centre is committed to always maintaining the above principles. Therefore, the Centre will:

- Inform individuals why the information is being collected when it is collected
- Inform individuals when their information is shared, and why and with whom it was shared
- Check the quality and the accuracy of the information it holds
- Ensure that information is not retained for longer than is necessary
- Ensure that when obsolete information is destroyed that it is done so appropriately and securely
- Ensure that clear and robust safeguards are in place to protect personal information from loss, theft, and unauthorised disclosure, irrespective of the format in which it is recorded
- Share information with others only when it is legally appropriate to do so
- Set out procedures to ensure compliance with the duty to respond to requests for access to personal information, known as Subject Access Requests
- Ensure our staff are aware of and understand our policies and procedures

The Polish Educational Society Exam Centre shares candidates results and other exams related information with those with parental responsibility and third parties as follows:

- Results and other exam related information will be sent to candidates in hardcopy addressed to the candidate and posted to the address provided by them on application form
- Some information about exam will be sent to the candidates electronically on email address provided by them on application form
- The centre will always inform the candidates if a parent/third party has requested information and will only forward this information where is a legal entitlement to do so, or when the candidate has given permission

Complaints

Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Centre's complaints policy. Complaints relating to information handling may be referred to the Information Commissioner (the statutory regulator).

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Review

This policy will be reviewed as it is deemed appropriate, but no less frequently than every 2 years. The policy review will be undertaken by the Examinations Officer or nominated representative.

Contacts

If you have any enquires in relation to this policy, please contact **(Exams Officer; examcentre@polskamacierz.org)** who will also act as the contact point for any subject access requests.

Further advice and information is available from the Information Commissioner's Office, www.ico.gov.uk or telephone 01625 545745 3

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Appendix 1

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Procedures for responding to subject access requests made under The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Rights of access to information

There are two distinct rights of access to information held by Centres about candidates.

1. Under **The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** any individual has the right to make a request to access the personal information held about them.
2. The right of those entitled to have access to curricular and educational records as defined within the Education Pupil Information (Wales) Regulations 2004.

These procedures relate to subject access requests made under The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Auctioning a subject access request

1. Requests for information must be made in writing, which includes email, and be addressed to Magdalena Synowiec. If the initial request does not clearly identify the information required, then further enquiries will be made.
2. The identity of the requestor must be established before the disclosure of any information, and checks should also be carried out regarding proof of relationship to the candidate. Evidence of identity can be established by requesting production of:
 - passport
 - driving licence
 - utility bills with the current address
 - Birth / Marriage certificate
 - P45/P60
 - Credit Card or Mortgage statement

This list is not exhaustive.

3. Any individual has the right of access to information held about them. However, with children, this is dependent upon their capacity to understand (normally age 12 or above) and the nature of the request. The Exam Officer should discuss the request with the child and take their views into account when making a decision. A child with competency to understand can refuse to consent to the request for their records. Where the child is not deemed to be competent an individual with parental responsibility or guardian shall make the decision on behalf of the child.

4. The Centre may make a charge for the provision of information, dependant upon the following:

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- Should the information requested contain the educational record then the amount charged will be dependent upon the number of pages provided.
- Should the information requested be personal information that does not include any information contained within educational records Centre can charge up to £10 to provide it.
- If the information requested is only the educational record viewing will be free, but a charge not exceeding the cost of copying the information can be made by the Exam Officer.

5. The response time for subject access requests, once officially received, is 40 days **(not working or Centre days but calendar days, irrespective of Centre holiday periods)**. However, the 40 days will not commence until after receipt of fees or clarification of information sought

6. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) allows exemptions as to the provision of some information; **therefore, all information will be reviewed prior to disclosure.**

7. Third party information is that which has been provided by another, such as the Police, Local Authority, Health Care professional or schools.
Before disclosing third party information consent should normally be obtained.
There is still a need to adhere to the 40-day statutory timescale.

8. Any information which may cause serious harm to the physical or mental health or emotional condition of the candidate or another should not be disclosed, nor should information that would reveal that the candidate is at risk of abuse, or information relating to court proceedings.

9. If there are concerns over the disclosure of information then additional advice should be sought.

10. Where redaction (information blacked out/removed) has taken place then a full copy of the information provided should be retained in order to establish, if a complaint is made, what was redacted and why.

11. Information disclosed should be clear, thus any codes or technical terms will need to be clarified and explained. If information contained within the disclosure is difficult to read or illegible, then it should be retyped.

12. Information can be provided at the Centre with a member of staff on hand to help and explain matters if requested or provided at face-to-face handover.
The views of the applicant should be taken into account when considering the method of delivery. If postal systems have to be used, then registered/recorded mail must be used.

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Complaints

Complaints about the above procedures should be made to the Chairperson of the Polish Educational Society who will decide whether it is appropriate for the complaint to be dealt with in accordance with the Centre's complaint procedure.

Complaints which are not appropriate to be dealt with through the Centre's complaint procedure can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner. Contact details of both will be provided with the disclosure information.

Contacts

If you have any queries or concerns regarding these policies / procedures then please contact **Magdalena Synowiec**, Exams Officer.

Reviewed 17.07.2025