



Freedom of Information Policy November 2023

Reviewed without change: November 2023

Next review: September 2024

As an educational provider, our school has an obligation to publish a freedom of information statement, outlining how we will meet our duties under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and associated regulations. The development and effective implementation of this policy fulfils that requirement.

More specifically, this policy outlines:

- How the school will respond to requests from individuals for access to information held about them.
- Our school's policy and procedures for the release and publication of private data and public records.
- Our school's policy and procedures for providing applicants with advice and assistance throughout the duration of their requests.

It also clarifies our position regarding the appropriate limit to the costs incurred by the school in obtaining any requested information, and on charging fees for its provision.

Legal Framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to the following legislation:

- The General Data Protection Regulation.
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

1.2. This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- ICO 'Model publication scheme' 2016.
- ICO 'Duty to provide advice and assistance (section 16)' 2016.

1.3. This policy will be viewed in conjunction with the following other school policies:

- Data Protection Policy.

2. Accepting requests for information

2.1. The school will only accept a request for information which meets all of the following criteria:

- It is in writing.
- It states the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence.
- It describes the information requested.

2.2. A request will be treated as made in writing if it meets all of the following requirements:

- It is transmitted by electronic means.
 - It is received in legible form.
 - It is capable of being used for subsequent reference.
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2.3. The school will publish details of its procedures for dealing with requests for information on the website, which includes:

- A contact address and email address.
- A telephone number.
- A named individual to assist applicants with their requests.

3. General right of access to information held by the school

3.1. Provided that the request complies with [section 2](#) of this policy, the school will, no later than 20 working days from receipt of the request, comply with its duty to:

- Confirm or deny to any person making a request for information to the school, whether it holds information of the description specified in the request.
- Provide the documentation, if the school confirms that it holds the requested information.

3.2. The school will not comply with section 3.1 of this policy where:

- The school reasonably requires further information to meet a freedom of information request, has informed the applicant of this requirement, but was not subsequently supplied with that further information.
- The information 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.
- A request for information is exempt under section 2 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- The cost of providing the information exceeds the appropriate limit.
- The request is vexatious.
- The request is a repeated request from the same person made within 60 consecutive working days of the initial one.
- A fee notice was not honoured.

3.3. Where information is, or is thought to be, exempt, the school will, within 20 working days, give notice to the applicant which:

- States the fact.
- Specifies the exemption in question.

3.4. The information provided to the applicant will be in the format that they have requested, where possible.

3.5. Where it is not possible to provide the information in the requested format, the school will assist the applicant by discussing alternative formats in which it can be provided.

3.6. The information provided will also be in the language in which it is held, or another language that is legally required. If the school is required to translate any information, it will do so.

3.7. If, under relevant disability and discrimination regulations, the school is legally obliged to provide the

information in other forms and formats, it will do so.

4. The appropriate limit

- 4.1. The school will not comply with any freedom of information request that exceeds the statutorily imposed appropriate limit of £450.
- 4.2. When determining whether the cost of complying with a freedom of information request is within the appropriate limit, the school will take account only of the costs we reasonably expect to incur in relation to:
 - Determining whether it holds the information.
 - Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information.
 - Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information.
 - Extracting the information from a document containing it.
 - Costs related to the time spent by any person undertaking any of the activities outlined in section 4.2 of this policy on behalf of the school, are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour.
- 4.3. Where multiple requests for information are made to the school within 60 consecutive working days of each other, either by a single person or by different persons who appear to be acting in concert, the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the total costs to the school of complying with all of them.

5. Charging fees

- 5.1. The school may, within 20 working days, give an applicant who has requested information from the school, a written notice stating that a fee is to be charged for the school's compliance.
 - 5.2. Charges may be made for disbursements, such as the following:
 - Photocopying.
 - Postage and packaging.
 - Costs directly incurred as a result of viewing information.
 - 5.3. Fees charged will not exceed the total cost to the school of:
 - Informing the person making the request whether we hold the information.
 - Communicating the information to the person making the request.
 - 5.4. Where a fee is to be charged, the school will not comply with [section 3](#) of this policy unless the requested fee is paid within a period of three months, beginning with the day on which the fees notice is given to the applicant.
 - 5.5. The school will not take into account any costs which are attributable to the time spent by persons undertaking any of the activities mentioned in section 5.3 above.
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5.6. When calculating the 20th working day in which to respond to a freedom of information request, the period beginning the day on which the fee notice is given to the applicant and ending with the day on which the fee is received, will be disregarded.

6. Means by which communication is to be made

6.1. Where, on making a request for information, the applicant expresses a preference for communication by any one of the following means, the school will, as far as is practicable, give effect to that preference:

- The provision to the applicant of a copy of the information in permanent form or in another form acceptable to the applicant.
- The provision to the applicant of a reasonable opportunity to inspect a record containing the information.
- The provision to the applicant of a digest, or summary of the information, in permanent form or in another form acceptable to the applicant.

7. Providing advice and assistance

7.1. The school will meet its duty to provide advice and assistance, as far as is reasonable, to any person who proposes to make, or has made, requests for information to the school.

7.2. The school may offer advice and assistance in the following circumstances:

- If an individual requests to know what types of information the school holds and the format in which it is available, as well as information on the fees regulations and charging procedures.
- If a request has been made, but the school is unable to regard it as a valid request due to insufficient information, leading to an inability to identify and locate the information.
- If a request has been refused, e.g. due to an excessive cost, and it is necessary for the school to assist the individual who has submitted the request.

7.3. The school will provide assistance for each individual on a case-by-case basis; examples of how the school will provide assistance include the following:

- Informing an applicant of their rights under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- Assisting an individual in the focus of their request, e.g. by advising of the types of information available within the requested category.
- Advising an applicant if information is available elsewhere and how to access this information.
- Keeping an applicant informed on the progress of their request.

7.4. In order to provide assistance as outlined above, the school will engage in the following good practice procedures:

- Make early contact with an individual and keep them informed of the process of their request.
 - Accurately record and document all correspondence concerning the clarification and handling of
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any request.

- Give consideration to the most appropriate means of contacting the applicant, taking into account their individual circumstances.
- Discuss with the applicant whether they would prefer to receive the information in an alternative format, in cases where it is not possible to provide the information requested in the manner originally specified.
- Remain prepared to assist an applicant who has had their request denied due to an exemption.

7.5. The school will give particular consideration to what level of assistance is required for an applicant who has difficulty submitting a written request.

7.6. In circumstances where an applicant has difficulty submitting a written request, the school will:

- Make a note of the application over the telephone and then send the note to the applicant to confirm and return – the statutory time limit for a reply would begin here.
- Direct the individual to a different agency that may be able to assist with framing their request. NB. This list is not exhaustive and the school may decide to take additional assistance measures that are appropriate to the case.

7.7. Where an applicant's request has been refused either because the information is accessible by other means, or the information is intended for future publication or research, the school, as a matter of good practice, will provide advice and assistance.

7.8. The school will advise the applicant how and where information can be obtained, if it is accessible by other means.

7.9. Where there is an intention to publish the information in the future, the school will advise the applicant of when this publication is expected.

7.10. If the request is not clear, the school will ask for more detail from the applicant in order to identify and locate the relevant information, before providing further advice and assistance.

7.11. If the school is able to clearly identify the elements of a request, it will respond following usual procedures and will provide advice and assistance for the remainder of the request.

7.12. If any additional clarification is needed for the remainder of a request, the school will ensure there is no delay in asking for further information.

7.13. If an applicant decides not to follow the school's advice and assistance and fails to provide clarification, the school is under no obligation to contact the applicant again.

7.14. If the school is under any doubt that the applicant did not receive the advice and assistance, the school will re-issue it.

- 7.15. The school is not required to provide assistance where an applicant's request is vexatious or repeated, as defined under section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- 7.16. The school is also not required to provide information where the cost of complying with a request exceeds the limit outlined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In such cases, the school will consider whether any information can be provided free of charge if the applicant refuses to pay the fee.
- 7.17. A record will be kept by the Headteacher in the Headteachers PA office of all the advice and assistance provided.

8. Publication scheme

- 8.1. The school will meet its duty to adopt and maintain a publication scheme which specifies the information which it will publish on the school website, and whether the information will be available free of charge or on payment.
- 8.2. The publication scheme will be reviewed and, where necessary, updated on a bi-annual basis.

9. Contact Information

- 9.1. For advice and assistance please contact Miss M Griffith. Freedom of information requests should be received by post or email for the attention of The Data Protection Officer:

Mr Gary Hipple

Email: Gary.Hipple@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Contact Address: **Parkham Street, Battersea, London, SW11 3DQ**

- 9.2. Further advice and information about the Freedom of Information Act, including full details of exemptions and advice on the public interest test, is available from the Information Commissioner's website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

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 that a formal complaint needs to be made then this should be addressed to

the Information Commissioner's Office. This is the organisation that ensures compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that deals with formal complaints. They can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Website www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

10. Monitoring and review

10.1. This policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis, or in light of any changes to relevant legislation by the DPO, DoFO and the Headteacher.

[St John Bosco College Publication Scheme](#)

St John Bosco College Publication Scheme Adopted by St John Bosco College Governing Body in October 2022

Reviewed without change: November 2023

Next Review September 2024

This Information Commissioners Office Publication Scheme Version 1.2 20151023 has been adopted by the Governing Body of St John Bosco College without modification.

The guide to information available under the scheme is attached in Appendix B.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to reflect any changes to legislation, how information can be obtained and the costs of providing information.

Freedom of Information Act

This model publication scheme has been prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. It may be adopted without modification by any public authority without further approval and will be valid until further notice.

This publication scheme commits an authority 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 authority. Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information Commissioner.

The scheme commits an authority:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by the authority and falls within the classifications below.
 - To specify the information which is held by the authority and falls within the
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classifications below.

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information in line with the statements contained within this scheme.
- 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 review and update on a regular basis the information the authority makes available under this scheme.
- 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.
- To publish any dataset held by the authority that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds, unless the authority is satisfied that it is not appropriate to do so; to publish the dataset, where reasonably practicable, in an electronic form that is capable of re-use; and, if any information in the dataset is a relevant copyright work and the public authority is the only owner, to make the information available for re-use under the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, if they apply, and otherwise under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act section 19.

The term 'dataset' is defined in section 11(5) of the Freedom of

Information Act. The term 'relevant copyright work' is defined in section 19(8) of that Act.

Classes of information

- 3 Who we are and what we do.
Organisational information, locations and contacts, constitutional and legal governance.
 - 4 What we spend and how we spend it.
Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, tendering, procurement and contracts.
 - 5 What our priorities are and how we are doing.
Strategy and performance information, plans, assessments, inspections and reviews.
 - 6 How we make decisions.
Policy proposals and decisions. Decision making processes, internal criteria and procedures, consultations.
 - 7 Our policies and procedures.
Current written protocols for delivering our functions and responsibilities.
 - 8 Lists and registers.
Information held in registers required by law and other lists and registers relating to the
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functions of the authority.

9 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.

The method by which information published under this scheme will be made available

The authority 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 a public authority, information will be provided on a 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, a public authority will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide it by those means.

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 which may be made for information published under this scheme

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 authority 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.

Charges may also be made for making datasets (or parts of datasets) that are relevant copyright works available for re-use. These charges will be in accordance with the terms of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015, where they apply, or with regulations made under section 11B of the Freedom of Information Act, or with other statutory powers of the public authority.

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.

Written requests

Information held by a public authority that is not published under this scheme can be requested in writing, when its provision will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act

Guide to information available from St John Bosco College under the model publication scheme – Appendix B

Class 1 - Who we are and what we do <i>(Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts) This will be current information only</i>	
Information to be published.	How the information can be obtained (hard copy and/or website)
Who's who in the school	Website - Our School – Our Staff http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Staff&pid=16
Who's who on the governing body / board of governors and the basis of their appointment	Website – Community – Governors http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=103

Instrument of Government	Hard copy Contact school office
Contact details for the Head teacher and for the governing body, via the school (named contacts where possible)	Headteacher - Website - Our School – Our Staff http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Staff&pid=16 Governing Body - Website – Community – Governors http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Governors&pid=103
School prospectus	Website – Admissions – Prospectus http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Prospectus&pid=92

Class 1 - Who we are and what we do <i>(Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts) This will be current information only</i>	
Information to be published.	How the information can be obtained (hard copy and/or website)
Staffing structure	Hard copy. Contact school office
School session times and term dates	Website – Parents Section – Term Dates and Attendance & Absence pages http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Term+Dates&pid=74
Address of school and contact details, including email address	Website – Contact Us http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Contact+Us&pid=2

Class 2 – What we spend and how we spend it (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit) Current and previous financial year as a minimum	
Information to be published.	How the information can be obtained (hard copy and/or website)
Annual budget plan and financial statements	Hard copy – Contact school office
Capital funding	Hard copy – Contact school office
Financial audit reports	Hard copy – Contact school office
Details of expenditure items over £5000	Hard copy – Contact school office
Procurement and contracts the school has entered into	Hard copy – Contact school office
Pay policy	Hard copy – Contact school office
Staff allowances and expenses	Hard copy – Contact school office
Staffing, pay and grading structure.	Hard copy – Contact school office
Governors Allowances	Paying Governors Expenses Policy – on website

Information available from St John Bosco College under the model publication scheme

Class 3 – What our priorities are and how we are doing (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews) Current information as a minimum	
Information to be published.	How the information can be obtained (hard copy and/or website)
Performance data supplied to the Government	Website – Our School – Progress & Outcomes http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Progress+%26amp%3B+outcomes&pid=22
The latest Ofsted report – Summary and full report	Website – Our School – Ofsted Report http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Ofsted+Report&pid=130
Post-inspection action plan	Hard copy of School Improvement Plan- contact school office
Appraisal policy and procedures adopted by the governing body	Hard copy – Contact school office
The school's future plans; for example, proposals for and any consultation on the future of the school, such as a change in status	Hard copy – Contact school office No current plans to change status in place

Safeguarding and child protection	Website – Our School – School Polices - Keeping Children Safe In Education http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Policies&pid=27
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Class 4 – 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 (hard copy or website)
Admissions policy/decisions (not individual admission decisions)	Website – Admissions http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Admissions&pid=12
Agendas and minutes of meetings of the governing body and its committees. (NB this will exclude information that is properly regarded as private to the meetings).	Hard copy – contact school office

Class 5 – Our policies and procedures (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities) Current information only.	
Information to be published.	How the information can be obtained (hard copy or website)
School Policies	Website – Our School – School Policies http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Policies&pid=27 For other policies not listed on the school website, contact the school office for a hard copy
Records management and personal data policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information security policies • Records retention, destruction and archive policies Data protection (including information sharing policies)	Hard copy – contact school office Website – Our School – GDPR http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=GDPR&pid=136
Charging regimes and policies.	Website – Our School – School Policies – Charging and Remissions http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Policies&pid=27

Class 6 – Lists and Registers

Currently maintained lists and registers only (this does not include the attendance register).

Information to be published.	How the information can be obtained (hard copy or website; some information may only be available by inspection)
Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments	Hard copy – contact school office
Disclosure logs	Hard copy – contact school office
Asset register	Hard copy – contact school office
Any information the school is currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers (This does not include the Attendance register)	Hard copy – contact school office

Class 7 – The services we offer

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

Information to be published.	How the information can be obtained (hard copy or website; some information may only be available by inspection)
Extra-curricular activities	Website – Parents – Extra-Curricular Activities http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra%2Dcurricular+Activities&pid=129
Out of school clubs	Not applicable
Services for which the school is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees	Website – Parents – Catering http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Catering&pid=77 Music tuition – see Charging policy (link above)

School publications, leaflets, books and newsletters	Website – Parents – Newsletters http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Newsletters&pid=113 Website – Parents – Letters http://www.sjbc.wandsworth.sch.uk/page/?title=Letters&pid=83
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SCHEDULE OF CHARGES

This describes how the charges have been arrived at and should be published as part of the guide.

TYPE OF CHARGE	DESCRIPTION
Disbursement cost	Photocopying/printing @ 4p per sheet (black & white)
	Photocopying/printing @ 10p per sheet (colour)
	Postage
Statutory Fee	We will comply in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act in particular section 12.