Peters Hill Primary School
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Arbor

Peters Hill Primary School operates a cloud-based system. As such Peters Hill must consider the privacy implications of such a system. The Data Protection Impact Assessment is a systematic process for identifying and addressing privacy issues and considers the future consequences for privacy of a current or proposed action.

Peters Hill recognises that moving to a cloud service provider has a number of implications. Peters Hill recognises the need to have a good overview of its data information flow.

The Data Protection Impact Assessment looks at the wider context of privacy taking into account Data Protection Law and the Human Rights Act. It considers the need for a cloud- based system and the impact it may have on individual privacy.

The school needs to know where the data is stored, how it can be transferred and what access possibilities the school has to its data. The location of the cloud is important to determine applicable law. The school will need to satisfy its responsibilities in determining whether the security measures the cloud provider has taken are sufficient, and that the rights of the data subject under the UK GDPR is satisfied by the school.

Peters Hill aims to undertake this Data Protection Impact Assessment on an annual basis

A Data Protection Impact Assessment will typically consist of the following key steps:

1. Identify the need for a DPIA.
2. Describe the information flow.
3. Identify data protection and related risks.
4. Identify data protection solutions to reduce or eliminate the risks.
5. Sign off the outcomes of the DPIA.

Step 1: Identify the need for a DPIA

What is the aim of the project? – To help deliver a cost-effective solution to meet the needs of the business. The cloud-based system will improve accessibility and ensure information security when working remotely.

Peters Hill will undertake the following processes:

1. Collecting personal data
2. Recording and organizing personal data
3. Structuring and storing personal data
4. Copying personal data
5. Retrieving personal data
6. Deleting personal data

By opting for a cloud based server-based solution the school aims to achieve the following:

1. Scalability
2. Reliability
3. Resilience
4. Delivery at a potentially lower cost
5. Supports mobile access to data securely
6. Update of documents in real time
7. Good working practice, i.e. secure access to sensitive files

Arbor is a cloud-based system which enables the school to manage pupil information in a variety of ways through three broad modules.

- *Module (1)* MIS Core which include attendance, behaviour, progress tracking and school census and statutory reporting. Custom Report Writer, Student and Staff Profiles and e-mails and SMS

- *Module (2)* MIS Comms which include Parental Portal, Parents Evening Booking, Arbor App and Student Report Cards and Student Portal.

- *Module (3)* MIS Perform which include Formative Tracking, Payments, Meal Management and Intervention Tracking. Assignments, My Classroom and Staff Performance.

Functionality includes the following:

- **Communications:** Send and receive e-mail and SMS messages
- **Intuitive Dashboards:** which give an overview of key performance measures, management of schools exams end to end
- **My Classroom:** creating seating plans and managing the classroom setting
- **Report Builder:** building reports using data from Arbor
- **Payments:** Management of online and offline payments for meals, clubs and trips. Easily schedule activities and link them to payments and consent
- **Safeguarding:** securely permissioned access to special category safeguarding data including SEN. Record and report on attendance and pupil behaviour. Add interventions and monitor for effectiveness
- **Staff and HR:** keeping track of staff absences, appraisals and objectives

Use of AI platform - AskArbor:

The Arbor platform provides a facility called 'AskArbor', which utilises artificial intelligence to deliver time-saving tools and assistance in analysing data held within the MIS database. The facility is included in the Arbor MIS and allows a user to type in a sentence which is then analysed by the AI processor and produces an output.

The AI functionality in Arbor is grouped into the following areas:

- Retrieving information (e.g. AskArbor assistant)
- Automating workflows (e.g. AI Absence Tool)
- Summarising information (e.g. Draft Me a Message)

In addition, Arbor can integrate with a number of third-party systems including ParentMail CPOMS.

The cloud service provider cannot do anything with the school's data unless they have been instructed by the school. The schools Privacy Notice will be updated especially with reference to the storing of pupil and workforce data in the cloud.

Step 2: Describe the processing

The Privacy Notices (pupil) for the school provides the lawful basis of why the school collects data. The lawful basis in order to process personal data in line with the 'lawfulness, fairness and transparency principle is as follows:

6.1 (c) Processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject; e.g. health & safety and safeguarding

6.1 (e) Processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller

6.1 (f) Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interest pursued by the controller or by a third party

The lawful basis for collecting special category information relates to Article 9 2 (g) *processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest and is authorised by domestic law.*

The school has considered the lawful basis by which it processes personal data. This is recorded in Peters Hill's Privacy Notice (Pupil) and where appropriate in Privacy Notice (Workforce).

How will you collect, use, store and delete data? – The information collected by the school is retained on the school's computer systems and in paper files. The information is retained according to the school's Data Retention Policy.

What is the source of the data? – Pupil information is collected via registration forms when pupils join the school, pupil update forms the school issue at the start of the year, Common Transfer File (CTF) or secure file transfer from previous schools. Pupil information also includes classroom work, assessments and reports. Workforce information is collected through application forms, CVs or resumes; information obtained from identity documents, forms completed at the start of employment, correspondence, interviews, meetings and assessments.

Will you be sharing data with anyone? – Peters Hill routinely shares pupil information with relevant staff within the school, schools that the pupil attends after leaving, the Local Authority, the Department

for Education, Health Services, Learning Support Services, Arbor and various third-party Information Society Services applications.

Peters Hill routinely shares workforce information internally with people responsible for HR and recruitment (including payroll), senior staff, with the Local Authority, and the Department for Education.

What types of processing identified as likely high risk are involved? – Transferring 'special category' data from the school to local authority, and to hosted servers remotely. Storage of personal and 'special category' data. The WAN link from the school is a dedicated lease line so is not shared with other users like domestic broadband users, therefore it is protected from interception.

What is the nature of the data? – Pupil data relates to personal identifiers and contacts (such as name, unique pupil number, contact details and address). Characteristics (such as ethnicity, language, nationality, gender, religion, data of birth, country of birth, free school meal eligibility). Special education needs, safeguarding information, medical and administration (doctor's information, child health, dental health, allergies, medication and dietary requirements). Attendance information, assessment, attainment and behavioral information. The school also obtains data on parents/guardians/carers including their name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Workforce data relates to personal information (such as name, address and contact details, employee or teacher number, bank details, national insurance number, marital status, next of kin, dependents and emergency contacts). Special categories of data (such as gender, age, ethnic group). Contract information (such as start dates, terms and conditions of employment, hours worked, post, roles and salary information, pensions, nationality and entitlement to work in the UK). Work absence information, information about criminal records, details of any disciplinary or grievance procedures. Assessments of performance (such as appraisals, performance reviews, ratings, performance improvement plans and related correspondence). Information about medical or health conditions.

Special Category data? – Some of the personal data collected falls under the UK GDPR special category data. This includes race; ethic origin; religion; biometrics; and health. These may be contained in the Single Central Record, Arbor, child safeguarding files, SEN reports, etc.

The lawful basis for collecting special category information relates to Article 9 2 (g) *processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest and is authorised by domestic law.*

How much data is collected and used and how often? – Personal data is collected for all pupils. Additionally, personal data is also held respecting the school's workforce, Board of Governors,

Volunteers, and Contractors. Data relating to sports coaches and other educational specialist is contained within the Single Central Record to ensure health and safety and safeguarding within the school.

How long will you keep the data for? – Consider the data retention period as outlined in the IRMS Information Management Toolkit for Schools and the School's Data Retention Policy.

Information used in the generation of a result (eg. From entering a prompt instruction) in AskArbor is not stored or retained to train the AI model.

Scope of data obtained? – How many individuals are affected (pupils, workforce, governors, and volunteers)? And what is the geographical area covered? Nursery to Year 6 pupils, workforce, Board of Governors, Volunteers, and any other, i.e. contractors, education specialists.

Describe the context of the processing: what is the nature of your relationship with the individuals? How much control will they have? Would they expect you to use their data in this way? Do they include children or other vulnerable groups? Are there prior concerns over this type of processing or security flaws? Is it novel in any way? What is the current state of technology in this area? Are there any current issues of public concern that you should factor in? Are you signed up to any approved code of conduct or certification scheme (once any have been approved)?

The school provides education to its students with staff delivering the National Curriculum

What is the nature of your relationship with the individuals? – Peters Hill collects and processes personal data relating to its pupils and employees to manage the parent/pupil and employment relationship.

Through the Privacy Notice (pupil/workforce) Peters Hill is committed to being transparent about how it collects and uses data and to meeting its data protection obligation.

How much control will they have? – Access to the files will be controlled by username and password. Arbor is hosting the data and has the ability to access data on instruction of Peters Hill who is the data controller for the provision of supporting the service.

The school will be able to upload personal data from its PC via a web browser for the data to be stored remotely by a service provider. Changes made through the browser when accessing Arbor will update the data stored by the school.

Access to the AskArbor facility is not available as a default, schools must 'switch on' AskArbor. If it is not switched on, the facility is disabled for all staff.

Do they include children or other vulnerable groups? – Some of the data may include special category data such as child safeguarding records, Arbor, SEN records, Single Central Record. The cloud service provider may provide access controls to the files. For example, files designated as private – only you can access the files; public – everyone can view the files without any restriction; and shared – only people you invite can view the files.

Are there prior concerns over this type of processing or security flaws? – Arbor are ISO 27001 accredited, the international standard for information security management. In addition, Arbor uses Amazon Web Services (AWS) in the UK.

Peters Hill recognises a number of UK General Data Protection Regulations issues as follows:

- **ISSUE:** The cloud based solution will be storing personal data including sensitive information
  RISK: There is a risk of uncontrolled distribution of information to third parties

  MITIGATING ACTION: All users of Arbor have their own accounts. Arbor servers are patched continuously to reduce security vulnerabilities

- **ISSUE**: Transfer of data between the school and the cloud
  RISK: Risk of compromise and unlawful access when personal data is transferred.

  MITIGATING ACTION: All data is encrypted at rest and in transit using 256-bit SSL encryption. All Arbor servers are situated in secure locations.

- **ISSUE:** Use of third party sub processors?
  RISK: Non-compliance with the requirements under UK GDPR

  MITIGATING ACTION: While Arbor does not embed an exhaustive list in all public-facing pages, its documentation confirms use of industry-standard infrastructure providers, including: cloud hosting and infrastructure services (e.g. AWS); security, monitoring, and backup providers; and Support and communication tooling (where personal data is unavoidable). Arbor confirms that its hosting provider meets ISO 27001, ISO 27017 and ISO 27018 standards, which are specifically relevant to cloud and personal-data processing.

Where Arbor enter into a written agreement with a sub-processor it ensures that the equivalent data protection obligations to those contained within Arbor's contract with the school, including obligations regarding confidentiality, technical and organisational measures, assistance with data subject rights and engagement of further sub-processors are fully met.

- **ISSUE:** Understanding the cloud-based solution chosen where data processing/storage premises are shared?
  RISK: The potential of information leakage
  MITIGATING ACTION: All data is encrypted at rest and in transit using 256-bit SSL encryption. All Arbor servers are situated in secure locations. Physical security is maintained at every Arbor office using access control, secure keys, CCTV 24/7, security personnel and secure perimeter doors

- **ISSUE:** Cloud solution and the geographical location of where the data is stored
  RISK: Within the EU, the physical location of the cloud is a decisive factor to determine which privacy rules apply. However, in other areas other regulations may apply which may not be Data Protection Law compliant.
  MITIGATING ACTION: The servers hosting Arbor are located within the UK, within multiple geographic locations utilizing Amazon Web Services 'Software as a Service' (SaaS).

- **ISSUE:** Cloud Service Provider and privacy commitments respecting personal data, i.e. the rights of data subjects
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance
  MITIGATING ACTION: Access to schools' data is strictly controlled and monitored at Arbor, and they employ a 'least privilege' code of practice within our organisation.

  Arbor have various security procedures in place which ensure the safety of school data within Arbor's ISO 27001 system, and the database is only accessed with express permission from the school.

  Arbor offer a range of additional security features, including password rules, enforced regular password changes, and two-factor authentication. Arbor also automatically logs out after a period of inactivity.

Arbor lock down access to its databases to specific individuals, and only allow access through strict gateways requiring two-factor authentication login and public/private key identification. All logins to Arbor are logged and tracked, and strict policies are enforced which create alerts if breached.

Staff passwords are also changed regularly and, since data is kept on Arbor's central system, permissions can easily be revoked if needed.

- **ISSUE:** Implementing data retention effectively in the cloud
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance
  MITIGATING ACTION: Arbor is fully compliant with UK GDPR data security retention and storage. Arbor has data deletion functionality

  The data the school holds will only be kept for as long as is necessary, and in accordance with the school's Data Retention Policy. Arbor enables the school to delete data when required in accordance with its Data Retention Policy

  In certain circumstances, individuals have the right to erasure. This means that the data subject has the right to request that their data be deleted or removed where there is no lawful basis for its continued storage

- **ISSUE:** Responding to a data breach
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance
  MITIGATING ACTION: Arbor is an ICO registered company, fully compliant with UK GDPR data security handling and reporting

- **ISSUE:** Data Retention
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION: Arbor has a policy where data is retained for as long as necessary to provide the service.

  Arbor will automatically flag records that have passed the school's data retention period, meaning the school can easily find and remove all students (and staff) who left the school more than six years ago

- **ISSUE:** Subject Access Requests
  RISK: The school must be able to retrieve the data in a structured format to provide the information to the data subject

MITIGATING ACTION: Arbor has the functionality within the reports module to respond to Subject Access Requests. Arbor agrees to comply with Subject Access Requests relating to the data it stores

A complete record of all personal data stored on Arbor via a student or staff member profile page can be downloaded

- **ISSUE:** Data Ownership
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION: The school remains the data controller. Arbor is the data processor

- **ISSUE:** Post Brexit
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION: Arbor is hosted on UK servers

- **ISSUE:** Cloud Architecture
  RISK: The school needs to familiarise itself with the underlying technologies the cloud provider uses and the implications these technologies have on security safeguards and protection of the personal data stored in the cloud.

  MITIGATING ACTION: As a service, Arbor is UK GDPR compliant. The data processor remains accountable for the data within the system. For the services it manages, Arbor applies its own security updates. Where security updates are applicable to the infrastructure, Amazon Web Services will manage these

- **ISSUE:** Third-party Access to Data
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION: Before any access is granted to the school's data held in Arbor, to third-party applications, the school must give explicit authorization and review the type of data that the application is requesting. The permissions can be revoked at any time by the school

- **ISSUE:** UK GDPR Training
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

MITIGATING ACTION: Appropriate training is undertaken by personnel that have access to Arbor in strict compliance with ISO 27001 and agree to abide by the Arbor data sharing and confidentiality policies

Where any personal data is transferred outside the UK and/or the EEA, we have ensured that an appropriate transfer mechanism is in place and have carried out a transfer risk assessment.

- **ISSUE:** Security of Privacy
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION Arbor has various security procedures in place which ensure the safety of the school's data. These include:

  Cyber Essentials: Cyber Essentials is a government-backed certification scheme designed to protect organisations from 80% of common cyber-attacks and increase cyber security
  Arbor are certified with Cyber Essentials and are audited annually. This means Arbor IT systems are security approved by an accreditation body selected by the NCSC and Arbor have technical defences in place against cyber threats

  ICO Registration: Arbor are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for data protection, the UK's independent supervisory authority, that upholds public information rights and regulatory controls in the use of personal data by data controllers such as schools. The registration number is Z3022381

  ISO 27001: is one of the most widely recognized, internationally accepted independent security standards. Arbor has earned ISO 27001 certification for the systems, applications, people, technology, processes, and data centres that make up its shared Common Infrastructure

  Use of AI Platform

- **ISSUE:** Processing of personal data by an Artificial Intelligence facility
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION: Schools can choose to turn on AskArbor. If they don't choose to turn the functionality on, it will be disabled for all staff.

If a school's Arbor administrator chooses to turn on AskArbor, then they must permit individual staff members to use AskArbor. AskArbor is not blanket-enabled for all staff. This means that access can be more tightly controlled by the school's AskArbor administrators.

This also applies to access-controlled student and staff data. If a user doesn't have access to certain fields, they will not be able to use AskArbor to view this data - the permissions to access data lies with the user making the request, not the AI agent.

For example: A school may only wish to enable AskArbor for staff members who have undergone AI training and have signed the school's AI policy.

- **ISSUE:** Access to an Artificial Intelligence facility by staff who should not have access.
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION: Initially, schools must choose to "switch on" AskArbor.

  Once switched on, AskArbor permissions will be automatically added as 'Ad Hoc' permissions to:

  - Anyone who has the Head Teacher business role.
  - The person who has switched Ask Arbor on.

  Access to AskArbor is controlled and restricted in the same way as other features in Arbor. This means that access is determined on a per-user basis. Only the users granted permission by an administrator will have access to the functionality.

  Audit trails: all AskArbor requests are logged by Arbor. The logs include:

  - The user making the request
  - Details of the request, including prompts
  - Agent responses
  - The 'Tools' invoked by the agent
  - Any follow-up requests

- **ISSUE:** Arbor's AI functionality taking action autonomously
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

MITIGATING ACTION: A user must always initiate any interactions with Arbor's AI functionality. All AI-generated content and/or actions must always be confirmed by a user. For example, when creating an Ask Arbor 'Student Report':

- The user must click on 'Student Report' to initiate the report generation.
- After the content is generated, the user is shown a preview of the report. They must then choose to share the report.

Depending on the user's access rights, they may or may not have access to the AI functionality. Arbor identifies where in the application that AI is used. Users can simply choose not to use it. When opting in, it is possible to control which users have access to the functionality. Further, the AI does not work independently to carry out actions or manipulate data on its behalf - actions are user-initiated or require human approval.

- **ISSUE:** Utilisation of the school's MIS data to train an Artificial Intelligence Large Language Model (LLM)
  RISK: UK GDPR non-compliance

  MITIGATING ACTION: Currently, the AI functionality is embedded within the Arbor MIS. Schools using this service should be mindful that this may change in the future and a regular review of the service and DPIA can mitigate against possible non-compliance.

  Arbor uses Microsoft Azure's data centre, no data leaves the UK or is processed outside the UK. As such, Microsoft Azure is considered as another sub-processor. Data is stored and processed during AI operations in the following manner:

  - Arbor makes use of the Azure Open AI service. Any data processed by Arbor's AI functionality is not stored and isn't retained to train the AI model.
  - The prompts (the inputs) and the completions (the outputs):
  - Are not available/shared with other Microsoft Azure customers.
  - Are not available/shared with Open AI (the makers of ChatGPT).
  - Are not used to improve or train Open AI models.
  - Are not used to improve any Microsoft or third-party products or services.
  - Are not used to improve the Azure OpenAI models.

- The Azure Open AI Service is fully controlled by Microsoft; Microsoft hosts the Open AI model usings in Microsoft's Azure environment and the Service does NOT interact with any services operated by OpenAI (e.g. ChatGPT, or the OpenAI API).
- They are used exclusively by Arbor.

The processing of this data will allow the school to function safely. We know where our students are at any time and can access the vital information we need to keep them safe. We can build up patterns of academic achievement and attitude so that we can best support our students.

Combined staff and student data allows for timetable creation and school organisation with registers.

Step 3: Consultation process

As the system is already in use there is no need to consult stakeholders. Should systems change we would consult more stakeholders.

Step 4: Assess necessity and proportionality

The lawful basis for processing personal data is contained in the school's Privacy Notice (Pupil and Workforce). The lawful basis includes the following:

- Childcare Act 2006 (Section 40 (2)(a)
- The Education Reform Act 1988
- Further and Higher Education Act 1992,
- Education Act 1994; 1998; 2002; 2005; 2011
- Health and Safety at Work Act
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act
- Working together to Safeguard Children Guidelines (DfE)

The school has a Subject Access Request procedure in place to ensure compliance with Data Protection Law. The cloud based solution will enable the school to uphold the rights of the data subject. The right to be informed; the right of access; the right of rectification; the right to erasure; the right to restrict processing; the right to data portability; the right to object; and the right not to be subject to automated decision-making?

The school will continue to be compliant with its Data Protection Policy

Step 5: Identify and assess risks

Describe source of risk and nature of potential impact on individuals. Include associated compliance and corporate risks as necessary.	**Likelihood of harm**	**Severity of harm**	**Overall risk**
	Remote, possible or probable	Minimal, significant or severe	Low, medium or high
Data transfer; data could be compromised	Possible	Severe	Medium
Data Breaches	Possible	Significant	Medium
Subject Access Request	Probable	Significant	Medium
Data Retention	Probable	Significant	Medium

Step 6: Identify measures to reduce risk

Identify additional measures you could take to reduce or eliminate risks identified as medium or high risk in step 5				
Risk	**Options to reduce or eliminate risk**	**Effect on risk**	**Residual risk**	**Measure approved**
		Eliminated reduced accepted	Low medium high	Yes/no
Data Transfer	Secure network, end to end encryption	Reduced	Medium	Yes
Data Breaches	Documented in contract and owned by school	Reduced	Low	Yes
Subject Access Request	Technical capability to satisfy data subject access request	Reduced	Low	Yes
Data Retention	Implementing school data retention periods in the cloud	Reduced	Low	Yes
Processing by Artificial Intelligence	Technical and organisational measures	Reduced	Low	Yes

Step 7: Sign off and record outcomes

Item	Name/date	Notes
Measures approved by:	**Headteacher**	Integrate actions back into project plan, with date and responsibility for completion
Residual risks approved by:	**Headteacher**	If accepting any residual high risk, consult the ICO before going ahead
DPO advice provided:	Yes	DPO should advise on compliance, step 6 measures and whether processing can proceed
Summary of DPO advice:		
DPO advice accepted or overruled by: Accepted If overruled, you must explain your reasons		
Comments: [DPO Advice provided]		
Consultation responses reviewed by: **Headteacher** If your decision departs from individuals' views, you must explain your reasons		
Comments: [Comments provided]		
This DPIA will kept under review by:	**Data Protection Officer**	The DPO should also review ongoing compliance with DPIA

4 June 2026