



preparing the way for others to follow

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PUBLICATION SCHEME

Key document details

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT PUBLICATION SCHEME

This publication scheme has been adopted from the Information Commissioner's model publication scheme which the Department for Education (DfE) has adapted.

This publication scheme commits Pioneer Educational Trust ("**Pioneer**") to make information available to the public as part of its commitment to adhering to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in particular section 19 which commits us to producing and publishing a publication scheme as part of our normal business activities. The information covered is included in the classes of information mentioned below, where this information is held by Pioneer. Additional assistance is provided to the definition of these classes in sector specific guidance manuals issued by the Information commissioner.

The scheme commits Pioneer:

- To proactively publish or otherwise make available as a matter of routine, information, including environmental information, which is held by Pioneer and falls within the classifications below
- To specify the information which is held by Pioneer 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
- 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 Pioneer 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 Pioneer that has been requested, and any updated versions it holds, unless Pioneer 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 Pioneer 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.

Classes of information:

- **Who we are and what we do**
Organisational information, 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, tendering, 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 Pioneer.
- **The services we offer**
Advice and guidance, booklets and leaflets, transactions and media releases, a description of the services offered.

The information we will not generally publish or release includes:

- the disclosure of information which is prevented by law or is otherwise considered to be protected from disclosure. In this category we would tend to not release information which would be exempt from disclosure – either because of an absolute exemption or because of a qualified exemption (where additional public interest considerations must be brought to bear before Pioneer takes any decision to withhold the requested material). Fuller details of the absolute exemptions and the qualified exemptions are set out in the Appendix to this publication scheme.
- 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
- Information which is not held by Pioneer in the first place (although reasonable searches will be made to establish that this is the case)
- Information which is disproportionately costly to obtain, sort, sift, or release (in excess of the ‘appropriate limit’ of £450 as described under Charges below). **The method by which information published under this scheme will be made available.**

Pioneer 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 Pioneer, 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, Pioneer will indicate how information can be obtained by other means and provide those means. This will include hard copy materials subject to a cost-recovery charge or the use of email where we have the recipient’s email address, and this is accurate and has been verified.

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 Pioneer 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 Pioneer 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.

If the costs of locating, sorting and providing the information sought exceed the current 'appropriate limit', i.e. £450, as stipulated in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, then the requested material does not need to be provided. Where a request exceeds such 'appropriate limit', we shall provide advice and assistance, where reasonable, to help the person making the request to refine their request so that it may fall within the statutory limits.

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 be applied for information provided under this scheme where they are legally permitted, justified in all the circumstances (including the general principles of access to public authority information), and set out in a published fee schedule that is easily accessible 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 information.

Written requests

Information held by Pioneer 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 2000.

Contact: Pioneer Educational Trust c/o office@pioneereducationaltrust.org.uk

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

Information to be published	How the information can be obtained	Standard Charge ¹
<i>Who we are and what we do</i> (Organisational information, structures, locations and contacts) This will be current information only Academy Funding Agreement – a link to the document can be found on the DFE’s website Academy Order (if applicable) School staff and structure – names of key personnel Board of directors – names and contact details of directors and the basis of appointment Local governing bodies – names and contact details of governors and the basis of appointment School session times, term dates and holidays Location and contact information – address, telephone number and website Contact details for the CEO/Headteachers School Prospectus GCSE results – a link to the data on the DFE’s website	(hard copy and/or website/ and/or email if recipient’s email contact details are provided and verified)	Hard copy per page 5p black & white 15p colour
<i>What we spend and how we spend it</i> (Financial information relating to projected and actual income and expenditure, procurement, contracts and financial audit) This should be a minimum of current and the previous two financial years (accounts that have been filed with the Charity Commission and Companies House) Annual budget plan and financial statements Capital funding – details of capital funding allocated to Pioneer schools along with information on related building projects and other capital projects Additional funding – Income generation schemes and other sources of funding Procurement and contracts – details of procedures used for the acquisition of goods and services. Details of contracts	(hard copy and/or website/ and/or email if recipient’s email contact details are provided and verified)	Hard copy per page 5p black & white 15p colour

¹ Subject at all times to the appropriate limit of £450 of cost per request.

that have gone through a formal tendering process		
Staff and grading structure		
Pay policy – a statement of Pioneer’s policy on procedures regarding teachers’ pay		
Directors/Governors’ allowances – details of allowances and expenses that can be claimed or incurred		
<i>What our priorities are and how we are doing</i> (Strategies and plans, performance indicators, audits, inspections and reviews)	(hard copy and/or website/ and/or email if recipient’s email contact details are provided and verified)	Hard copy per page 5p black & white 15p colour
Current information should be published		
Pioneer schools’ profiles Government supplied performance data OFSTED report – summary and full report		
Appraisal information		
Pioneer’s future plans – any major proposals on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children		
Child protection – policies and procedures on safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children		
<i>How we make decisions</i> (Decision making processes and records of decisions)	(hard copy and/or website/ and/or email if recipient’s email contact details are provided and verified)	Hard copy per page 5p black & white 15p colour
Current and previous three years as a minimum		
Admissions policy – arrangements and procedures and right of appeal – include information on application numbers and number of successful applicants by each oversubscription criteria		
Board of directors/local governing bodies meetings agendas, papers and minutes – information that is properly considered to be private should be excluded		
<i>Our policies and procedures</i> (Current written protocols, policies and procedures for delivering our services and responsibilities): Statutory policies for Schools and Academy Trusts	(hard copy and/or website/ and/or email if recipient’s email contact details are provided and verified)	Hard copy per page 5p black & white 15p colour
<i>Lists and Registers</i>		Hard copy per page

Currently maintained lists and registers only	(hard copy and/or website; some information may be only available for inspection)	5p black & white 15p colour
Curriculum circulars and statutory instruments		
Disclosure logs		
Asset register		
Any information Pioneer is currently legally required to hold in publicly available registers		
<i>The services we offer</i> (Information about the services we offer, including leaflets, guidance and newsletters produced for the public and businesses)	(hard copy and/or website; some information may only be available for inspection)	Hard copy per page 5p black & white 15p colour
Current information only		
Extra-curricular activities		
Breakfast and/or after school clubs		
Pioneer/school publications		
Services for which Pioneer is entitled to recover a fee, together with those fees		
Leaflets, booklets and newsletters		

APPENDIX – Exemptions

Absolute Exemptions – (where disclosure is not required and a public interest test does not apply)
As listed in the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Part 2: Exemption Information:

- S(2) 21 Information accessible by other means (e.g. in the Publication Scheme)
- S(2) 23 Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters
- S(2) 32 Court records, and information held in relation to court proceedings
- S(2) 36 Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs
- S(2) 40 Personal information – available under the UK GDPR (since 1 January 2021) and the Data Protection Act 2018
- S(2) 41 Information provided in confidence
- S(2) 44 Information whereby disclosure is prohibited by an enactment or would constitute contempt of court

Non-absolute Exemptions (where a judgement call must be made by Pioneer and a public interest test is not required)

- S(2) 22 Information intended for future publication
- S(2) 30 Investigations & proceedings conducted by public authorities
- S(2) 31 Law enforcement
- S(2) 36 Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs
- S(2) 38 Health & Safety
- S(2) 39 Environmental information
- S(2) 40 Personal information relating to a third party
- S(2) 42 Legal professional privilege
- S(2) 43 Commercial interests