

Greenhead College Corporation

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
POLICY**

(including publication scheme)

Reviewed June 2021



GREENHEAD COLLEGE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY

Introduction

The policy of the College in relation to public access to information is to demonstrate that it is open and accountable in the conduct of business and decision-making. The College has produced a Publication Scheme to meet the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Details are available on the College website or by contacting the College or Clerk to the Corporation. The College also complies with the Data Protection Act 1998 and ensures that personal data is dealt with appropriately – see paragraph 4 on confidentiality.

Identification of Chair, Principal and Clerk to Corporation

The name and contact details for the Chair, Principal and Clerk to the Corporation are published on the College website and in the Publication Scheme.

Register of Interests

Members of the Corporation and College budget holders are required to complete a declaration of interest form for inclusion in the Register of Interests and to inform the Clerk to the Corporation of any changes during the year. The declarations are renewed annually in the autumn term.

The Register of Interests is kept by the Clerk to the Corporation and can be inspected during office hours at Greenhead College by prior arrangement.

Confidentiality

The Corporation has agreed that confidentiality must be observed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and the exemptions in the Freedom of Information Act, which allows for information to be withheld or qualified. This includes personal information deemed sensitive under the Data Protection Act 1998 and information where a public interest test applies. The categories for determining confidentiality are:

- a. personal information relating to an individual;
- b. information provided in confidence by a third party who has not authorised its disclosure;
- c. financial or other information relating to procurement decisions, including information relating to the College negotiating position, during the course of those negotiations;
- d. information relating to the negotiating position of the College in employment relations matters, during the course of those negotiations;
- e. information relating to the financial position of the College where the Corporation is satisfied in good faith that disclosure might harm the College or its competitive position;
- f. legal advice received from or instructions given to the College legal advisors;
- g. information planned for publication in advance of that publication, and/or

- h. information not otherwise covered above, but considered to be commercially sensitive by the Principal.

Confidential minutes

Where information has been recorded in the confidential minutes of a meeting, the Clerk to the Corporation will review these prior to the preparation of the papers for the meeting at which the confidential minutes would be approved. In consultation with the Chair of the Corporation or relevant committee, a decision will be made regarding the criteria for maintaining confidentiality of the minutes.

Attendance at Corporation, College Council and committee meetings by members of the general public and the media/press

The Corporation has decided that attendance by the public or by the media / press at meetings of the Governors, College Councils and committees is not allowed. In exceptional circumstances the Corporation may decide (by a majority vote) to allow members of the public or media / press to attend for all or a specific part of a particular Governor, College Council or committee meeting.

Freedom of Information Statement

A statement giving details of the College's Freedom of Information Policy and Publication Scheme has been prepared for issue to any member of the public enquiring about the availability of information related to the College.

1 Policy

Information about College activities and meetings of the Corporation, College and Committees is available to the public through the Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme. The Scheme includes classes of information under the following headings:

- Governance;
- Financial Resources;
- Human Resources;
- Physical Resources;
- Student Administration and Support;
- Information Services;
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment;
- External Relations.

2 Confidential Information

Some information held by the College is confidential in compliance with the Data Protection Act and the exemptions allowed in the Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. The Policy provides further detail.

3 Responses to Enquiries

The Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme sets out the manner in which information is available. Most of this can be found on the College website or a hard copy can be provided on request. The College will endeavour to provide information promptly and without making a charge unless significant work is involved. The Charging Policy and Scale of Charges are set out in the Publication Scheme. Any charges will be notified in advance to the person making the request to check that they wish to proceed.

4 Contacts

Greenhead College website: www.greenhead.ac.uk.

Greenhead College, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4ES
Tel 01484 422032, fax 01484 518025, email college@greenhead.ac.uk.

Clerk to the Corporation, Greenhead College, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield. HD1 4ES
Contacts as above.

Freedom of Information Act 2000

PUBLICATION SCHEME

MAIN CATEGORIES

The main groups of classes of information in the model publication scheme are:

- Governance;
- Financial Resources;
- Human Resources;
- Physical Resources;
- Student Administration and Support;
- Information Services;
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment;
- External Relations.

The columns used are shown below:

Class	Description	Manner	Fee
Examples of the type of information that fit in this class.	A brief description to aid the public in understanding what the type of information is.	The media in which the information is to be provided, i.e. paper or electronically (via the Internet or email).	Whether there is a charge for any of the information within each class.

1. Governance

Introduction

This section covers information relating to the way the institution is governed and how decisions are made. It includes information on the legal status of the institution, which individual member of staff or group within the organisation is responsible for specific functions and where they fit in the overall structure of the organisation. In some instances information from committee minutes will be exempt from disclosure where it contains personal information, information that may damage the commercial interests of the institution or that may threaten the health and safety of specific individuals.

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
1.1	Legal framework	<p>This class contains information relating to how the institution was established and its standing from the point of view of the law. Ultimately the corporate status of Greenhead College's corporations is conferred by the relevant statutes, in particular the Education Reform Act of 1988 and the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. The actual legislation is already publicly available, for example on the HMSO web site (www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.htm).</p> <p>Further information includes the Instrument and Articles of Government for the College.</p>	<p>Website</p> <p>Paper</p>	
1.2	How the institution is organised	<p>This class contains information relating to how the individual units of the institution are organised and where each unit fits in the overall structure of the institution. Examples of the type of information in this class include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational structure chart; • Description of work/responsibilities of departments; • Prospectus. 	Website, Moodle & paper	
1.3	Information on the institutional context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College Mission Statement is in the prospectus and appears on the College website; • Relevant sections of the Corporation's Strategic Plan and the College Self-assessment Report; • The College's quality assurance procedures; • The College prospectus. 	Paper (and website as noted)	

1.4	Management structure	<p>This class contains information relating to how the institution's management structure is organised and the function and purpose of each part of the management structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The composition, roles and responsibilities of the Corporation, including the names of members; • Codes of Conduct for members of the Governors; • Description of the sub-structures and Committees supporting them; • Terms of reference, membership and mode of operation of all Committees in the formal structure; • Code of practice for College elections (e.g. Student Council) and Committee procedures; • Minutes and papers of Governing Body, Corporation meetings, Sub-Committees etc. • Search Committee and procedures. 	<p>e-records Website Paper</p>	
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2. Financial Resources

Introduction

This section covers information on the institution's strategy and management of financial resources. The Finance Class covers accounting, procurement and contracting services, helping to make best use of resources and fulfilling statutory responsibilities. Information that may damage the institution's commercial interests will be excluded from publication.

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
2.1	Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budgets and accounts: periodic reports to Corporation;• Goods and services: see Financial Procedures Handbook;• Insurance agreements;• Pensions scheme information – this is already publicly available from the relevant pensions organisations;• Remuneration of senior staff (published in annual accounts);• Travel and subsistence: published on expenses and CPD forms.	Paper	
2.2	Resource planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial regulations;• Annual accounts;• Annual budget (as it appears in the final accounts);• Planning and budgeting procedures;• Strategic Plan/Mission statement;• Annual report.	Paper	

3. Human Resources

Introduction

This section covers information on the institution's strategy and management of Human Resources, rather than information relating to individual members of staff which is exempt from disclosure as personal information. The information available covers HR policies and procedures (including terms and conditions of service including all current versions of the information specified in each class).

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
3.1	Employment and employee relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statements, procedures and guidelines relating to recruitment; • Generic terms and conditions of employment; • Salary grades; • Support Staff and Teaching Staff Handbooks as agreed by the National Joint Council for Staff in Sixth Form Colleges; • Disciplinary and Capability Policy; • Health and Safety Policy; • Public interest disclosure (for compliance with the Public Interest Disclosure Act): Governors' Register of Interests; • Job vacancies: advertisements within College, in local and national press, according to post. 	<p>Website</p> <p>Moodle</p> <p>e-records</p>	
3.2	Equality and Diversity	The College policy relating to the provision of equality and diversity with respect to age, race/ethnic origin, gender, religion and belief, sexual orientation, and disability, and the promotion of fundamental British values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.	Website	
3.3	Human Resources strategy	This class sets out the general aims of the institution, priority areas and plans for addressing them. This area is addressed in the College's Strategic Plan.	Paper	
3.4	Staff development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction – details of areas covered and procedures; • Policies and procedures relating to probation - this is detailed in the generic contract; • Policies and procedures pertaining to appraisal; • Policies and procedures relating to the on-going development of staff. 	e-records	

4. Physical Resources

Introduction

Classes in this section cover information at a strategic level relating to the institution's management of its physical resources. Information that provides specific details of the institution's future plans to alter its estate (e.g. proposals to purchase additional property) may be exempt from disclosure where such disclosure would damage the institution's commercial interests.¹

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
4.1	Estates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accommodation Policy;• Tendering policies – these are essentially decreed by the funding body and European Law;• Grounds maintenance is addressed through the Accommodation Strategy;• Building maintenance and upkeep: ongoing accommodation strategy;• Map of main site;• Address of main site;• Map of routes to the main site.	Paper	

¹ The types of information and documents listed in the classes are examples only and not mandatory, eg 'Cleaning policies'. The purpose of the examples is to indicate the type of information that should be made available, if held, via the MPS.

5. Student Administration and Support

Introduction

This section contains information on how the institution manages the administration and progression of their students from admission to course completion, including student support services. Information available within this section does not include specific student personal details, by virtue of being personal information.

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
5.1	Information on student admission, progression and completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student qualifications on entry; • The range of student entrants classified by age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background, disability and geographical origin as returned to the funding body; • Student progression, retention and completion data; • Data on qualifications awarded to students; • Data on employment/training outcomes for students. <p>This information is extensively repeated in publications such as the Self-assessment report and corporation agendas and minutes.</p>	Paper, some electronic	
5.2	Student accommodation	The College policy on access funds alludes to how students could apply for support with accommodation costs: this is pointed to in the student planner.	Paper	
5.3	Student administration	Security and data protection policy and procedure documents.	Paper	
5.4	Student admission and enrolment	Admissions and enrolment policies and procedures documents: these policies are summarised in the prospectus. There are also procedures for disabled applicants, available, like the Prospectus, in Braille, large print or as a voice recording on request.		
5.5	Student discipline	The College's policies on student discipline and complaints are detailed in the student planner.	Paper	
5.6	Student learning support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning development and support; • Personal development advice; • Services for students with special needs; • Student planner and prospectus. 		
5.7	Student liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Student Council meetings; • Terms of reference of staff/student liaison committee (the Student Council); 	Paper and Moodle	

5.8	Student policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other policies include the Personal Tutors' Handbook*, and the Internet Security Policy^ 	*Paper electronic	
5.9	Student welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare/advice services – student planner and prospectus. • Health services – ditto; • Careers services – ditto; • Sports and recreational facilities – prospectus and Enrichment leaflets; • Financial support – Student planner and Access Policy. 	Paper and on-line	
5.10	Student Associations and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Council Constitution, list of Officers etc. • Enrichment leaflets, published termly; • Prospectus. 	Paper and Moodle	

6. Information Services

Introduction

This section covers those functions within the institution that provide access to information to the student body and both academic and administrative staff. These include libraries, computing services and information support services.

Information services inevitably hold large quantities of personal data that are exempt from general disclosure.

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
6.1	Availability and conditions of use of facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library opening hours: student planner, prospectus and poster displays; The general rules and conditions of use (e.g. no smoking/drinking/eating, policies with regard to law such as copyright, computing code of practice, data protection) and also policies on IT monitoring, logging, disabling use etc. are advertised in induction sessions and on-screen at log-on* For other student policies, see other relevant student policies above. 	Paper *also electronic	
6.2	Mission statements and related documents	Self-assessment Report, Prospectus*	Paper *electronic	
6.3	Policies with regard to data and information	<p>Information in this class offers assurances to data subjects, whether they are individuals or companies that deal with the institution, that data relating to them is being handled well, minimising the risk of unauthorised access or disclosure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The College subscribes to the funding body and financial authority archiving policies; The College's Data Protection Act returns; Policy on CCTV monitoring. 		
6.4	Procurement and disposal policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy relating to the procurement and disposal of equipment – this is in the Financial Procedures handbook. 	Paper	
6.5	Scope of collections held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library catalogue. 	Paper	

7. Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Introduction

This section contains information regarding the management of teaching and learning within the institution including mechanisms for reviewing and ensuring the quality of teaching provided.

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
7.1	Academic year dates	The dates for the current academic year as well as future academic years (as far as is known) are published in the prospectus* and on the College website.	Paper *also electronic	
7.2	Further course information	Each department publishes a leaflet describing, where relevant, the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure of courses; • Qualification(s) gained; • Changing courses; • Work experience. Also in the prospectus.	Paper and electronic	
7.3	Information on internal procedures for assuring academic quality and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This class is extensively covered in the Self-assessment Report which summarises, in the introduction, quality procedures; • There is a policy on the introduction of new curriculum areas; • Examiners' and Moderators' reports, unless confidential to the exam board or an individual annual monitoring and review processes; • External assessment procedures are published by national awarding bodies (e.g. AQA, OCR and Pearson); • Departmental information in the prospectus; • The results of student and parent satisfaction surveys with various aspects of college are published in the SAR, and in an annual Parental Response publication; • Documentation on the college peer observation scheme and PSP observation is available on the staff intranet. 		
7.4	Staffing structure of schools/ departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job titles of staff; • Contact details for each department. 		

7.5	Student assessment strategy	<p>The College follows the policies published by external exam boards (AQA, OCR, Pearson):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination periods (published in the College Calendar); • Examination regulations; • Appeal procedures; • Policy on plagiarism. 		
7.6	Tuition fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospectus 		

8. External Relations

Introduction

This section covers information relating to the institution's relationship with its external environment. These include the formal reports the institution is required to provide to its funding bodies², arrangements with other institutions, how it manages its relationship with the local community and how it retains contact with its former staff and students.

	Class	Description	Manner	Fee
8.1	Community liaison (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Statement; • Work-shadowing scheme documents sent to parents. 		
8.2	Fundraising (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual August letter to parents/carers. 		
8.3	Government and Regulator relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-assessment Report (shared with local funding body); • Ofsted inspections; • Miscellaneous returns to LSC, DfES etc. 		
8.4	Marketing and recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospectus: this includes details of the following - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open days (also advertised by poster, newspaper advertisement, letters to schools, through careers service publications etc.); ○ Entry requirements; ○ Widening participation. 		
8.5	Public relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases; • Prospectus; • Bi-annual newsletters; • Current information provided to enrolled students (i.e. contents of the August 'welcome pack'). 		

Author:	John Blake
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“This policy has been impact assessed to ensure it complies with all aspects of Equality and Diversity. Members are reassured that this policy is compliant with current equality legislation”.

² Where these are already in the public domain web links should be provided or details of how they can be obtained.