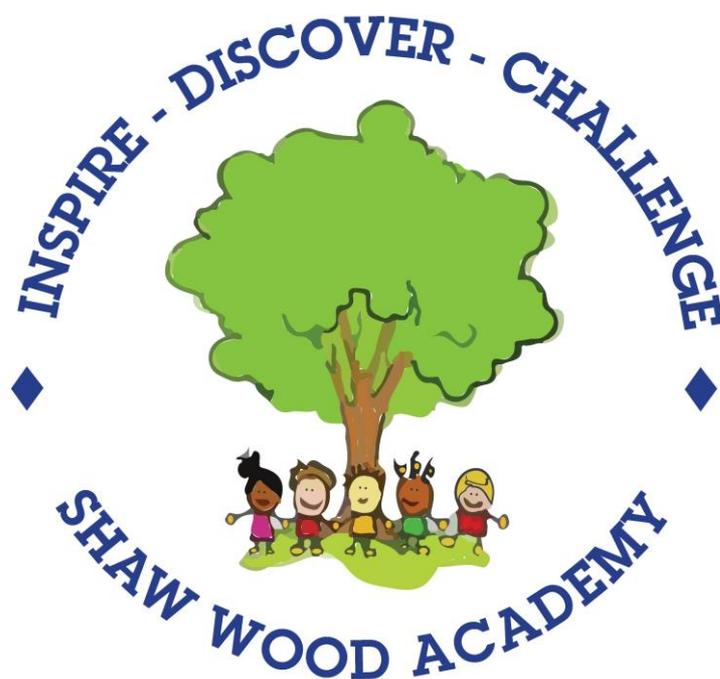


SHAW WOOD ACADEMY



CLOUD STORAGE POLICY

Date Prepared : April 2023	Prepared By : MR	Reviewed Date : April 2025
Approved By Governors :	Signed By Chair :	Dated By Chair :

Objective

Shaw Wood Academy is committed to ensuring its IT Systems are secure, School data and systems are protected, and are only accessed by authorised users. All School staff using "Cloud Storage" Services must therefore adhere to this Policy.

Definition

For this document, the phrase "**cloud storage**" refers to third party online storage services such as Google Drive, Dropbox and OneDrive. Files stored on these services can usually be accessed via any web browser and often have the capability to be "synchronised" to multiple computers and mobile devices such as mobile phone and tablets. They may also have facilities for sharing files with other people.

Risks

Many people are now using public cloud storage in their private lives. This allows convenient access to their files and data from a number of different devices. If employed in a work context however, such services also introduce risks to the security, privacy, copyright and retention of School data. Before using cloud storage for work, users of the School computing environment must consider if the usage is appropriate and follow the policy guidance in this document to limit the risk imposed on School data.

The main risks when files are stored in public cloud storage are that:

- The School can no longer guarantee the quality of access controls protecting the data
- The location where the data is stored may not be guaranteed as remaining in the European Economic Area (EEA) or US Safe Harbour and so may not meet Data Protection Act requirements for personal data
- In many cases, public cloud storage requires that files be associated with an individual's personal account. Should that individual suddenly become ill, be absent for other reasons or leave, the School will lose access to the data
- Cloud services generally limit their liability for negligence, resulting in little or no recourse should the provider misuse, lose or damage information stored in the cloud
- Few cloud providers guarantee they will not access the information stored within their service, leading to concerns over privacy and intellectual property rights
- Some if not all providers do not guarantee that the user's ownership of the data stored in the cloud will be retained. This is primarily to enable the providers to move data around to their different server locations without your prior approval but opens further questions about intellectual property rights
- Using cloud storage client software to synchronise files between work and personal devices could result in sensitive information being held inappropriately on personal equipment
- If they have financial difficulties a cloud storage provider may end the service with little or no notice, leaving users with no access to files

Policy Requirements

The following policy requirements aim to mitigate the risks above.

All staff have a responsibility to protect the School's data, particularly data about individuals. Staff must familiarise themselves and adhere to the following School policies, guidance and information:

[Data Protection Policy](#)

[Staff Acceptable Use Policy](#)

The School has provided all staff access to [Google Apps](#) and [Microsoft Office 365](#). As part of this, staff members have access to "Google Drive" and Microsoft "OneDrive for Business" using accounts based on their Staff logon ID. Microsoft and Google will store data uploaded by staff accounts in EEA or US Safe Harbour locations.

There may be some circumstances when other services and providers may need to be considered - for example when collaborating with other institutions which have a different service in place, such as Dropbox or Box.com. If other services are considered then staff must evaluate the Terms of Service for each provider and ensure that the risks above are avoided.

The following points relate to both School and externally provided services:

The only exception permitted is in the case of external collaboration, only if no other secure alternative is available. Each exception must be approved by the senior leadership team and recorded. Encrypting information about individuals or other sensitive information prior to uploading is mandatory. The School recommends the use of File Encryption functions included in Microsoft Office which are installed on all School Managed Desktop computers.

Do not use cloud storage for the long-term retention of School documents or files even for instances when you work with non-sensitive information. Use alternatives such as SharePoint and shared network drives.

- If you are using Cloud Storage for collaboration with others, either from within the School or elsewhere, only grant access to files or folders that are required for the collaboration to take place. Access to personal data should be given on a strictly need to know basis to comply with the Data Protection Act.
- Do not store the only copy of a file in cloud storage
- You must ensure that there is a suitable level of encryption on any mobile or portable device used to download any data about individuals from cloud storage. Such a device must be password protected.

Scope

This policy applies to all staff, data processors, partners, suppliers and contractors and other authorised users. Any exceptions must be documented and approved.