RUSSET HOUSE SCHOOL

DATA PROTECTION (GDPR) POLICY

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1. Introduction

1.1 The School is required as part of its overall information governance structure, to ensure that appropriate controls are implemented and maintained in relation to the collection, use and retention of personal information pertaining to its pupils, parents, schools workforce and contractors; and that these are in accordance with the requirements of the current data protection law as enacted (The Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR); https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-and-the-eu/data-protection-and-the-eu-in-detail/the-uk-gdpr/ and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 ("DUAA", "the Act") received Royal Assent on 19 June 2025.

The DUAA does **not replace** the UK General Data Protection Regulation ("UK GDPR"), Data Protection Act 2018 or the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003.

1.2 This document provides a framework for the School workforce to meet legal and corporate requirements in relation to information requests that fall within the scope of the legislation.

1.3 The Policy applies to all personal information created, received, stored, used and disposed of by the School, irrespective of where or how it is held.

1.4 It must be noted, that compliance is a **legal** requirement and that individuals can face prosecution for breaches of its Principles.

1.5 This policy meets the requirements of the:

UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) – the EU GDPR was incorporated into UK legislation, with some amendments, by The Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020

Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018)

It is based on guidance published by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the UK GDPR and guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) on Generative artificial intelligence in education.

In addition, this policy complies with regulation 5 of the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005, which gives parents the right of access to their child's educational record.

2 Aim of the Policy

2.1 The aim of this document is to clarify the School's legal obligations and requirements for the processing of personal data and to ensure that all such data is:

- collected, stored and processed for justifiable school business reasons
- has appropriate legal basis or informed consent for use, and is not combined with other data or used for other purposes without appropriate legal basis or consent
- used only by those persons with a legitimate reason for access
- stored safely

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- retained only for the defined time period
- not disclosed to unauthorised persons, and transfers to authorised persons are recorded

2.2 School will actively seek to meet its obligations and duties in accordance with the law and in so doing will not infringe the rights of its employees, customers, third parties or others.

3 Scope

3.1 The scope of this policy requires compliance with the principles defined in law.

Personal Data is defined as: personal data relating to an identifiable living individual and includes the expression of opinion about the individual and any indication of the intentions of the data controller or any other person in respect of the individual.

Special category personal data is defined as personal data relating to any of the following. The UK GDPR calls this "special categories of personal data" (UK GDPR Article 9):

- racial or ethnic origin
- political opinions
- religious or philosophical beliefs
- trade union membership
- genetic or biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person
- data concerning health
- sex life or sexual orientation
- commission of criminal offences or alleged offences

Special category personal data may only be stored or processed for a limited variety of purposes. All processing of special category personal data without a legal basis for use must be cleared by the Information Commissioner.

Criminal offence data is personal data relating to criminal convictions and offences or related security measures. (UK GDPR Article 10).

Criminal offence data can only be processed:

- under the control of official authority; or if
- authorised by domestic law. This means that one of the conditions in Schedule 1 of the DPA 2018 is met.

All personal data must be protected. Special category personal data and criminal offence data may require special protection measures.

Changes to use or new uses of personal data require consultation with the Data Protection Officer. Their advice must be recorded and if dissented from, the dissent and alternate action taken recorded.

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4 Data protection principles

4.1 The UK GDPR includes principles which must be adhered to whenever personal data is processed. Processing includes obtaining, recording, using, holding, disclosing and deleting personal data.

4.2 All personnel processing personal information in the course of their business functionality must ensure they adhere to the principles in the UK GDPR Article 5 which require that:

1. Personal data shall be:

(a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject **('lawfulness, fairness and transparency');**

(b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes; further processing for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall, in accordance with Article 89(1), not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes **('purpose limitation');**

(c) adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed **('data minimisation');**

(d) accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purposes for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay **('accuracy');**

(e) kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed; personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes in accordance with Article 89(1) subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisational measures required by this Regulation in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of the data subject **('storage limitation').** [Note that there are additional requirements on location of storage and processing elsewhere in the laws]**;**

(f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures ('**integrity and confidentiality').**

2.The controller shall be responsible for, and be able to demonstrate compliance. **('accountability').**

Further information on the principles can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website www.ico.org.uk

5 The Information Commissioner's Office, ICO

5.1 The Information Commissioner administers data protection in the UK. The role and duties of the Commissioner include:

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- ensuring compliance with the law
- ensuring that individuals rights to privacy are respected
- ensuring that individuals have access to data held about themselves
- establishing and maintaining a Register of data users and making it publicly available
- investigating complaints, serving notices on registered data users who are contravening the principles of the legislation, and where appropriate prosecute offenders.

5.2 The law gives the Information Commissioner wide powers to ensure compliance, including warrants to search and seize documents and equipment.

6 Access and use of personal data

6.1 This policy applies to everyone that has access to personal data, and includes any third party or individual who conducts work on behalf of the School or who has access to personal data for which the School is responsible and who will be required contractually or otherwise to comply with this policy.

6.2 Deliberate unauthorised access to, copying, disclosure, destruction or alteration of or interference with any computer equipment or data is strictly forbidden and may constitute a criminal and/or a disciplinary offence.

6.3 It is an offence for any person to knowingly or recklessly obtain, procure or disclose personal data, without the permission of the data controller (the School) subject to certain exceptions.

6.4 It is also an offence for someone to sell or offer to sell personal data.

6.5 All data subjects are entitled to:

- Know what information the School holds and processes about them and why it is held
- Know who can gain access to it, who it is shared with and where it is stored
- How to keep this data up-to-date
- Know what action the School takes to comply with its obligations

6.6 All data subjects may request erasure of data which they feel is no longer relevant (all requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.)

6.7 The School will ensure that compliance with this Policy is monitored and the School is able to evidence that it is complying with its legal responsibilities.

7 School commitment

7.1 To achieve the overall aim of the Data Protection Policy the School will:

- Provide adequate resources to support an effective corporate approach to Data Protection.

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- Respect the confidentiality of all personal information irrespective of source.
- Publicise the School's commitment to Data Protection on the school's website
- Compile and maintain appropriate procedures and codes of practice.
- Promote general awareness and provide specific training, advice and guidance to its workforce at all levels and.
- Monitor and review compliance with legislation and introduce changes to policies and procedures where necessary.

8 Roles and responsibilities

8.1 The **Data Subjects** are individuals who are deemed as an 'identified or identifiable natural person' about whom the school retains information.

8.2 Ultimate accountability for all decisions made relating to Data Protection lies with the **Board of Governors**.

8.3 The **Board of Governors** are responsible for ensuring that sufficient resources are provided to support the requirements of this policy as well as making strategic level decisions which impact on how the School carries out its obligations under the legislation. The School Business Manager is responsible for monitoring compliance within the school setting and taking any necessary corrective action.

8.4 The **Board of Governors** monitors, oversees, reports and makes recommendations to the School Business Manager on all strategic level Data Protection Act (DPA) issues.

8.5 The **School Business Manager** (SBM) has the role of handling requests for data (SARs, FOIs, etc.) and complaints about the school's use of data. The School Business Manager will also maintain and provide reporting to Board of Governors on these issues.

8.6 The **Data Protection Officer** (DPO) will provide advice and guidance in conjunction with Legal Services on legal compliance and best practice. Advice of the DPO must be sought for all new or changed data uses; this advice must be formally recorded and if not followed, this fact must also be recorded. The DPO acts as the liaison between the ICO and the School, and as a point of contact for the public. The DPO also acts as independent reviewer/advisor on complaints and provides a lead for raising awareness of Data Protection issues.

See Appendix 1 for contact details of the Enfield DPO.

8.7 **Data Owners** are the central contact to compliance. Dataset Owners will also help the School Business Manager process requests and have a responsibility to ensure that data stored on systems is captured, stored, processed, accessed and deleted in line with the law and the School's Retention schedule. They are additionally responsible for ensuring that the recording of all statutory requirements are kept up to date, and reviewed at least annually. Data owners for Russet House School are; School Business Manager, Office Manager and Admin Officer.

8.8 The **Head Teacher** is directly responsible for compliance with the Act within the school and ensuring adherence by their staff.

8.9 **All School employees** and personnel working with personal data have a

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responsibility to ensure that they have sufficient awareness of the data protection law so that they are able to comply with the requirements of the law.

9 Responsibilities of Schools Workforce

9.1 The processing of personal data is to be compliant with legal, industry, regulatory and business requirements; it is the responsibility of school workforce to be aware of and conversant with these requirements for the processing and management of personal data in an appropriate manner.

9.2 Some data supplied by others will have handling requirements beyond the School's normal criteria. Staff involved must be made aware of this by the School Business Manager and are then responsible for handling it correctly.

9.3 The following minimum requirements are applied to everyone who comes into contact with personal data:

- School workforce are to ensure that personal data is to be processed accurately
- When not required for immediate use personal data is to be secured from unauthorised viewing and access
- Personal data must not be sent to/from personal (non-work) email accounts
- Personal information can only be distributed externally if it is:
    - Being sent to someone with an appropriate data sharing or processing agreement with the school, a legal right to access and a need to know basis
    - sent via secure, encrypted e-mail or otherwise securely distributed via an approved method, as agreed with the DPO.
- Computer systems that process, access or store such data are to have password-protected screen locks activated when the device is inactive or left unattended for a period of time, and all data should be encrypted at rest.
- The carrying of personal information that is special category, sensitive or confidential in nature, outside school environments, should be avoided wherever possible. If this is unavoidable, then encryption of the device and device management by School is recommended. Paper-based documents holding personal, confidential or sensitive information must be concealed from public view during transit and held securely when stored.
- When no longer required to be retained, all personal data is to be disposed of securely, i.e. by secure shredding or via another secure waste disposal method.
- Personal data must not be stored on removable media devices unless the school management has provided explicit management approval, the device has been approved and provided by the school and appropriate encryption controls have been implemented. Such data is to be removed from the removable media as soon as practically possible.

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- The discussion of personal data with unauthorised persons either inside or outside the School, is expressly prohibited. This also includes, but is not limited to, telephone calls, email, social networking sites, blogs, forums, instant messaging services, chat rooms, etc.

- Staff are required to complete the Data Privacy and Information Security training (or equivalent) on joining the organisation or when scheduled by the DPO. This should be completed on an annual basis and when required thereafter.

10 Data Controller

10.1 In accordance with the DPA, School as a corporate body is the Data Controller and is therefore ultimately responsible for the implementation of this policy.

10.2 The School will also appoint designated Data Owners who are responsible for the day-to-day management of the data within their business areas of responsibility to ensure that compliance with law and documentation of personal data use is maintained.

11 Data Protection Officer (DPO)

11.1 The DPO is responsible for fulfilling the role as documented in the data protection law.

11.2 The DPO must be involved, properly and in a timely manner, in all issues which relate to the protection of personal data.

11.3 The opinion of the DPO must always be given due weight. In case of disagreement, the reasons for not following the DPO's advice must be recorded and formally communicated.

11.4 The DPO must be promptly consulted once a data breach or another incident has occurred or is suspected.

11.5 The DPO will keep the School Business Manager informed of data protection issues pertaining to the School, including any changes in legislation that might impact business processes.

12 Data Owner

12.1 Data Owners will work to facilitate the daily activities and management responsibilities under the law.

12.2 Data Owners must inform the DPO of any proposed new or changed uses of personal information within their business unit before any change in process or additional information collection is authorised.

12.3 Data Owners must regularly review the content and use(s) of personal information, and confirm to the DPO that the information held is complaint with current law.

12.4 Data Owners must ensure that members of school workforce and contractors are conversant with their responsibilities under the law, and that they know the procedures to follow when handling, releasing and disposing of information.

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12.5 Data Owners (along with the School Business Manager) are responsible to ensure that SARs and other requests for information are processed within the required time limits.

12.6 Data Owners will assist the DPO with the collation of materials in response to any access request or complaint received.

13 Training and awareness

13.1 **All School workforce** have a responsibility to ensure that they and the staff they manage have undertaken the Data Privacy and Information Security training and have sufficient awareness of the law, so that they are able to comply with the requirements.

13.2 It is mandatory that all School workforce that have access to personal data or to the network to undertake the Data Privacy and Information Security training. New entrants will be expected to undertake and successfully complete the module as part of the induction process. Established staff will be expected to undertake or attend face-to-face or online training and then complete refresher training as directed.

13.3 Managers should encourage and make time for their staff to attend any further Data Privacy and Information Security training or awareness opportunities that may arise.

13.4 Failure to complete the courses within the prescribed period, could result in disciplinary action proceedings.

13.5 A record must be kept by the school of training so that compliance can be evidenced.

14 Collection of Data

14.1 The School collects and records personal data from various sources, including that obtained or provided by the data subjects themselves.

14.2 In some instances, data may be collected indirectly through monitoring devices, including but not limited to: door access control systems, CCTV, personal recording devices and physical security logs or electronic monitoring systems. For further detail refer to School's Information Security Policy.

15 Accuracy and relevance

15.1 It is the responsibility of those who receive personal information to ensure so far as possible, that it is accurate and up to date. Personal information should be checked at regular intervals, to ensure that it is still accurate.

15.2 If the information is found to be inaccurate, steps must be taken to rectify it. Individuals who input or update information must also ensure that it is adequate, relevant, unambiguous and professionally worded. Data subjects have a right to access personal data held about them and have inaccuracies corrected.

16 Rights to access, correct and remove information

16.1 Data subjects have the right to access any personal information (data) about them that is held.

16.2 Data subjects also have the right to have data about themselves corrected or erased

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subject to certain conditions.

16.3 The School aims to comply with requests as quickly as possible but will ensure that it is provided within one calendar month unless there is a good reason for any delay. In such cases the reason for a delay will be explained in writing to the person making the request.

17 Fair and Lawful Processing

17.1 When the School processes personal data, it must have a legal basis for doing so or a freely given, positive consent. The law provides a list of conditions to ensure that personal information is processed fairly and lawfully:

- Personal data is only processed where it is justified, and this is transparent to the data subject.
- Information on the processing is easily accessible and easy to understand, in clear and plain language.
- That data subjects are aware of risks, rules, safeguards and rights in respect of processing and how to exercise their rights.
- That the minimum amount of personal data is kept, and for as short a period as possible.
- That special category personal data is processed only where necessary and justified, and with permission for this from the ICO unless a legal basis for processing is used.

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17.2 Individuals that supply the School with personal information are provided with a 'Privacy Notice' (or online privacy statement) at time of data collection, repeated at time of SAR, which communicates the following:

- Purposes, categories, recipients (esp. outside country)
- Period of storage
- Existence of the right to request rectification, erasure and to object to processing
- Right to complain to supervisory authority and contact
- Information on communication and source

18 Data quality and accuracy

18.1 The school will need to conduct reasonable periodic checks to ensure that the data that they hold is accurate and up-to-date, conducting any corrections when necessary if information is incorrect.

19 Data Sharing and Processing

19.1 All use of information must be covered by clear, agreed contracts or deeds.

19.2 A 'Data Sharing Agreement' is required if the information supplied is being used to fulfil requirements of the recipient or if the school is jointly managing information with another body.

19.3 A 'Data Processing Agreement' is required if the information supplied is being used under the instruction of the school. This is the normal situation with on- line services and most suppliers to the school. This must fulfil the requirements of Article 28 of the UK GDPR.

19.4 Where the other party uses the personal information for its own purposes (Data Sharing):

- The agreement or contract will clearly describe the purposes for which the information may be used and any limitations or restrictions on the use of that information
- The other party is to provide an undertaking or provide other evidence of its commitment to process the information in a manner that will not contravene the law

19.5 Where the processing of personal information with a third party is required by law, procedures are to ensure that the protocols and controls for the sharing of the data are documented, regularly reviewed and verified.

19.6 Requests for personal information from the Police or other enforcement agencies can be considered where the purpose is legitimate e.g. safeguarding, the prevention or detection of a crime and or the collection of taxes. It should be noted however that the School is generally under no obligation to provide information. Before providing the information, the requesting agency must provide a sufficient explanation of why the information is necessary to the extent that not providing it may prejudice an investigation. This is to satisfy the relevant information holder that the disclosure is necessary. The request must be authorised by a

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senior officer from the requesting agency (Police Inspector, Qualified Social Worker or equivalent). If the information is to be disclosed, the disclosure must be authorised by the School Business Manager (or a member of the Senior Leadership Team) and a note for the record should be made of the details about the disclosure with an explanation of why the disclosure is appropriate.

20 Data retention and disposal

20.1 The School must ensure that personal information is not kept for any longer than is necessary; this is to adhere to any legal, regulatory or specific business justification.

20.2 The School will retain some forms of information longer than others, but all decisions are to be based upon business requirements; details can be found in the Record Retention Schedule.

20.3 Data relating to our stakeholders/employees is only to be retained for as long as a legal, regulatory or business justification remains.

20.4 When disposing of information, equipment or media, the School's confidential waste disposal policy and procedures should be adhered to.

20.5 The retention criteria must be imposed on third parties with whom data is shared.

21 Transfer outside of the UK

21.1 To ensure an adequate level of protection is applied to personal information transferred or processed outside the UK contracts are to include conditions relating to the specific requirements for the protection of the information.

21.2 The School is responsible for ensuring that 'due diligence' is conducted on the other party, and that adequate and appropriate controls and safeguards are applied for the transfer of the personal information.

21.3 Companies outside the UK are to be required to apply the same controls and requirements as applied within the UK unless they can demonstrate other adequate procedures are implemented to protect the personal information as part of the 'due diligence' process. Periodic reviews of the same are to be conducted to ensure adherence is maintained.

21.4 Specific issues with cloud processing should be recorded by the school and the cloud policy and procedures should be followed.

21.5 Data received by School from third parties may have specific storage and use rules that may further restrict where it can be stored or processed (e.g. Health data cannot be stored outside England & Wales).

22 Website data: cookies

The school must ensure that they notify individuals (users) who access their website, about the presence of any cookies that collect anonymous information about their computers

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and other information about visits to the Websites, such as:

- The IP address
- Geographical location
- Browser type
- Referral source
- Length of visit
- Number of pages viewed.

The school must make individuals aware how the information may be used i.e. for administration purposed for the site or to improve the website's usability and the fact that the information may be recorded by a third party on the schools behalf.

23 Violations

23.1 Unauthorised disclosure of personal data is a disciplinary matter that may be considered a gross misconduct and could lead to termination of employment.

23.2 In the case of third parties unauthorised disclosure could lead to termination of the contractual relationship and in certain circumstances this could give rise to legal proceedings.

23.3 Any failure to follow this Policy must be treated as an incident and investigated in accordance with the Security Incident Reporting Procedure.

24 Supporting Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and procedures:

- Staff Acceptable Use Policy
- Subject Access Policy and Procedure
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025)

Appendix 1: Personal data breach procedure

On finding or causing a breach, or potential breach, the staff member, Governor or data processor must immediately notify both the Data Protection Officer (DPO) by email at Schools.Data.Protection.Officer@enfield.gov.uk and the School Business Manager by email at finance@russethouseschool.enfield.sch.uk

The DPO will investigate the report, and determine whether a breach has occurred. To decide, the DPO will consider whether personal data has been accidentally or unlawfully:

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- Lost
- Stolen
- Destroyed
- Altered
- Disclosed or made available where it should not have been
- Made available to unauthorised people
- Made unavailable, with a significant negative effect on individuals

Staff and Governors will cooperate with the investigation (including allowing access to information and responding to questions). The investigation will not be treated as a disciplinary investigation. If a breach has occurred or it is considered to be likely that is the case, the DPO will alert the Headteacher and the chair of Governors.

The DPO will make all reasonable efforts to contain and minimise the impact of the breach. Relevant staff members or data processors should help the DPO with this where necessary, and the DPO should take external advice when required (e.g. from IT providers). (See the actions relevant to specific data types at the end of this procedure). The DPO will assess the potential consequences, based on how serious they are, and how likely they are to happen before and after the implementation of steps to mitigate the consequences. The DPO will work out whether the breach must be reported to the ICO and the individuals affected using the ICO's self-assessment tool. The DPO will document the decision (either way), in case it is challenged at a later date by the ICO or an individual affected by the breach. Documented decisions are stored on the school's data breach log.

Where the ICO must be notified, the DPO will do this via the 'report a breach' page of the ICO website, or through its breach report line (0303 123 1113), within 72 hours of the school's awareness of the breach.

As required, the DPO will set out:

- A description of the nature of the personal data breach including, where possible; The categories and approximate number of individuals concerned, the categories and approximate number of personal data records concerned and the name and contact details of the DPO.
- A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach.
- A description of the measures that have been, or will be, taken to deal with the breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned.

If all the above details are not yet known, the DPO will report as much as they can within 72 hours of the school's awareness of the breach. The report will explain that there is a delay, the reasons why, and when the DPO expects to have further information.

The DPO will submit the remaining information as soon as possible. Where the school is required to communicate with individuals whose personal data has been breached, the DPO will tell them in writing.

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This notification will set out:

- A description, in clear and plain language, of the nature of the personal data breach.
- The name and contact details of the DPO.
- A description of the likely consequences of the personal data breach.
- A description of the measures that have been, or will be, taken to deal with the data breach and mitigate any possible adverse effects on the individual(s) concerned.
- Any clear and specific advice on how the individuals can protect themselves, and what the school is willing to do to help them.

The DPO will consider, in light of the investigation and any engagement with affected individuals, whether to notify any relevant third parties who can help mitigate the loss to individuals – for example, the police, insurers, banks or credit card companies.

The DPO will document each breach, irrespective of whether it is reported to the ICO.

For each breach, this record will include the:

- Facts, including the cause
- Effects
- Action taken to contain it and make sure it does not happen again (such as establishing more robust processes or providing further training for individuals)

Records of all breaches will be stored in the school's data breach register. The DPO, Headteacher and SBM will meet to review what happened and how it can be prevented from happening again. This meeting will happen as soon as reasonably possible.

Approved by:	Russet House School Full Governing Body	**Date:** 27.11.25
Last reviewed on:	27.11.25	
Next review due by:	27.11.27	

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