

PROTECT PLUS FOR HIGHER & FURTHER EDUCATION

Strengthen Compliance. Build Trust. Safeguard Data.

Higher and Further education environments are complex data ecosystems networks of academic, administrative, and digital systems supporting thousands of learners, staff, and partners. With this scale and interconnectedness comes significant challenge of protecting and securing personal data, demonstrating accountability, and maintaining the trust of students, staff, regulators, and funders.



Protect Plus for Higher & Further Education provides a clear, practical, and affordable way to demonstrate that your institution meets UK GDPR obligations with effective measures to provide demonstrable assurance.

Developed by *Twenty4 Consulting* and *Clark & Company* Information Governance Services, this tailored standard builds on the *ICO-approved LOCS:23 certification framework* and reflects the *realities of education – complex systems, distributed responsibility, and constrained resources*.



WHY PROTECT PLUS?

For HE and FE institutions, compliance isn't just about regulation it's about public confidence, student trust, and governance assurance.

Protect Plus gives you a practical, risk-based route to demonstrating all three.

The Key Benefits



Strengthen Accountability

Provide clear, auditable evidence of UK GDPR compliance for your Board, Audit & Risk Committee, and regulators and funders.



Support Good Governance

Define ownership and oversight across student, staff, and research data reinforcing transparency and trust.



Demonstrate Assurance to Stakeholders

Show funders, partners, and learners that your institution sees the strategic importance of robust data protection and security.



Cost-Effective and Scalable

A consultant-led, self-assessment model designed for institutions of any size or maturity.



Flexible Scope

Apply Protect Plus to a department, faculty, subsidiary, or institution-wide adapting to your risk profile and resources.



Built for the Education Sector

Reflects the realities of shared services, international students, research collaboration, and hybrid learning environments.



CERTIFICATION YOU CAN TRUST



Valid for 3 years from the date of certification



Certification Mark for institutional communications and websites



Listed in the Protect Plus public register for external assurance and visibility



HOW IT WORKS

We've designed the process to be efficient, transparent, and achievable — whether you're formalising an existing compliance framework or starting from scratch.



STEP 1 DISCOVERY CALL

A free 30-minute discussion to assess your current position, map key risks, and determine the right Protect Plus pathway for your organisation.



STEP 2 SELF-ASSESSMENT

Work through the Protect Plus framework at your own pace. Guidance and templates are aligned to higher and further education contexts — including research, student records, and HR systems.



STEP 3 VERIFICATION

We review your evidence and provide independent assurance before certification. This external validation builds confidence among senior stakeholders.



STEP 4 CERTIFICATION

Once verified, your institution receives the Protect Plus Certification Mark, valid for three years, and appears on the public Protect Plus register.



STEP 5 ONGOING SUPPORT

Access to updates, templates, and practical advice keeps your compliance live — not just a once-every-three-years exercise.

WHAT SECTOR LEADERS SAY



Protect Plus has given us a structure that works with our governance model rather than against it. It's helped us evidence UK-GDPR compliance to our Board in a way that's clear, risk-based, and affordable.

— Data Protection Officer, UK University



The framework is pragmatic and sector-aware. It's not about red tape — it's about confidence and accountability.

— Audit & Risk Committee Chair, FE College Group



READY TO BEGIN?

Book a no-obligation 30-minute consultation to see how **Protect Plus** for Higher & Further Education can help your institution achieve confidence, credibility, and compliance.



Visit
www.224certification.com/protectplus

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