

Cookie Policy and Consent Mechanism

Version 1.0 — 01 May 2026

1. Purpose of This Policy

This Cookie Policy explains how SBK Teaching Standards uses cookies and similar technologies on its website. It outlines:

- What cookies are used
- Why they are used
- How long they are stored
- How users can manage their preferences
- How consent is recorded and withdrawn

This policy supports compliance with the **UK GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018**, and **ICO guidance**.

2. What Are Cookies?

Cookies are small text files stored on a user's device when visiting a website. They help website's function, improve performance, and provide analytics insights.

Cookies used by SBK Teaching Standards fall into the following categories:

- **Strictly Necessary Cookies**
- **Analytics Cookies**
- **Functional Cookies**

No marketing or advertising cookies are used.

3. Cookies Used on This Website

3.1 Strictly Necessary Cookies

These cookies are essential for the website to function and cannot be switched off.

Cookie Type	Purpose	Provider	Retention
Framer platform cookies	Enable website hosting, navigation, and security	Framer	Session
Microsoft Forms cookies	Enable course registration forms to function	Microsoft	Session

3.2 Analytics Cookies

Used to understand how visitors use the website and improve user experience.

Cookie Type	Purpose	Provider	Retention
Google Analytics cookies	Track website usage, page views, and performance	Google	2 years

Analytics cookies are **not loaded until the user gives consent**.

3.3 Functional Cookies

Used to enable embedded content and improve usability.

Cookie Type	Purpose	Provider	Retention
YouTube embedded video cookies	Allow video playback and performance optimisation	Google/YouTube	Varies by provider
Facebook embed cookies	Display embedded Facebook content	Meta	Varies by provider
Instagram embed cookies	Display embedded Instagram content	Meta	Varies by provider

Functional cookies are **non-essential** and require consent before loading.

4. Cookie Retention Periods

SBK Teaching Standards uses the following retention periods:

- **Essential cookies:** Session only
- **Analytics cookies: 2 years**
- **Functional cookies:** As defined by the third-party provider

No marketing cookies are used.

5. Cookie Consent Mechanism

5.1 Consent Banner (Full GDPR-Compliant)

When a user first visits the website, a banner will appear with the following options:

- **Accept all cookies**
- **Reject all non-essential cookies**
- **Manage preferences**

No non-essential cookies (analytics or functional) will load until the user gives explicit consent.

5.2 Consent Logging

SBK Teaching Standards will:

- Record the user's consent choice
- Store the consent record securely
- Retain the consent record for **12 months**
- Re-prompt users after 12 months or if cookies change

5.3 Withdrawing Consent

Users can withdraw consent at any time by:

- Selecting "Manage Preferences" in the cookie banner (re-shown on request)
- Clearing cookies in their browser
- Contacting SBK Teaching Standards via email

Because you chose **not** to have a separate Cookie Settings page, withdrawal is handled through the banner and browser settings.

6. Third-Party Cookies

Some cookies are set by third-party providers when their content is embedded on the website:

- Google (YouTube, Analytics)
- Meta (Facebook, Instagram)
- Microsoft (Forms)
- Framer (hosting platform)

These providers may set their own cookies and have their own privacy policies. SBK Teaching Standards does not control third-party cookie behaviour.

7. Managing Cookies in Your Browser

Users can block or delete cookies through their browser settings. Instructions are available for:

- Chrome
- Edge
- Firefox
- Safari

Blocking essential cookies may affect website functionality.

8. Links to Related Policies

This Cookie Policy should be read alongside:

- **Online Safety and Learner Conduct Policy**
- **Data Protection Policy and Information Security Policy**
- **Service Level and Support Policy**
- **Terms and Conditions of Service**

9. Contact Information

For questions about this Cookie Policy:

Email: SBK-teaching-standards@outlook.com

Website: Hosted via Framer

Domain: GoDaddy