KerioConnect®

USE CASE

Student data belongs to your school, not your email provider

On-premises email for schools, academy trusts, and multi-site educational organizations



At a glance:

- Student data stays on your infrastructure, with no US cloud in the supply chain
- Multi-domain trust management from one console
- KCSIE audit logs under direct school control
- Full Outlook for staff, webmail for students
- Budget that works within education funding

The question your DPO is already being asked

Schools do not have complicated email requirements. Students who are provided school accounts need managed, monitored access separated from staff systems. The technical bar is low.

The complication is accountability. Education is one of the few sectors where data subjects are routinely minors. Under UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018, and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 (which received Royal Assent in June 2025 and adds new obligations on subject access requests and automated processing), schools remain the data controller for every system handling student personal data.

When a school deploys Google Workspace for Education or Microsoft 365 (both free at the basic tier), student data is processed by a US-headquartered company on infrastructure subject to the **US CLOUD Act**. US federal authorities can compel access to that data regardless of which data center it sits in, without notifying the school. For the school's DPO or data protection lead, this creates an ongoing compliance question that free licensing does not answer: can the school demonstrate that processing student personal data through a US-cloud platform meets its accountability obligations under the applicable regulation?

Many schools have assessed that question and concluded their cloud platform is manageable. For those where the assessment has reached a different conclusion, there is a straightforward alternative.

What GFI KerioConnect® provides for education

GFI KerioConnect® runs on your own server: physical or virtualized, in your school building or your trust's data center. Student data lives where you put it. No US-headquartered platform operator. No CLOUD Act exposure. No third-party DPA required for the email platform itself.

Multi-domain for academy trusts: A single GFI KerioConnect® deployment supports every school in your trust. Each school gets its own email domain, its own policies, and its own branding, all managed from one administration console. Staff provisioning is automatic via Active Directory integration. New staff get email accounts automatically. Leavers are deprovisioned in the same step. GFI KerioConnect® can be extended via its rich REST API for any school integration, for example to MIS systems.

Staff and student separation built in:

Population	Configuration
Teaching and support staff	Full email, calendar, shared resources — Outlook via KOFF, ActiveSync on mobile, or GFI KerioConnect® Client (included, no extra license cost)
Senior students (Year 9+)	Webmail access, outbound restricted to institutional domain, no mobile sync
Junior students / where email is provided	Webmail only, outbound to internal addresses only, monitored
Trust leadership and admin	Full access, shared calendars, delegation, public folders

Students use GFI KerioConnect®'s built-in webmail: a modern, responsive interface accessible from any browser on any device, with no software to install and no client license required.

Audit logs your safeguarding lead can actually access: GFI KerioConnect® stores nine log types locally (mail transaction logs, authentication events, configuration changes) under your direct control. When a safeguarding concern requires review of email correspondence, your designated safeguarding lead or DPO accesses the logs directly without requesting an export from a third-party provider.

Regulatory framework

GFI KerioConnect® does not make an institution compliant: compliance is an organizational obligation. What it provides is the technical infrastructure that makes compliance straightforward to demonstrate.

Regulation	Jurisdiction	Relevant Requirement	How GFI KerioConnect® Helps
UK GDPR / DPA 2018 / DUA 2025	UK	Lawful processing; accountability; data subject rights; SAR timelines	On-premises — no third-country transfer; full audit logs under institution's control
KCSIE	England & Wales	Safeguarding processes; monitoring capability where required	Mail logs locally stored; accessible to designated safeguarding lead on demand
GDPR Article 8	EU	Additional requirements for children's personal data	On-premises eliminates cloud consent complexity for minors' data
FERPA	US	Educational records protected; third-party access restricted	On-premises — no third-party processor for email records

This document describes technical controls and architectural benefits. It does not constitute legal advice. Institutions should consult their DPO and legal counsel for their specific obligations.

Practical advantages for education IT:

- No hidden client costs. GFI KerioConnect® Client is included: staff without Office licenses get a full desktop email client at no extra charge.
- Webmail students can actually use. Built-in, browser-based, any device, with no software, no license, suitable as the complete student access solution.
- MIS integration built in. The REST API connects GFI KerioConnect® to your management information system for automated student account lifecycle management, with no manual provisioning each year.

Ready to get started?

Talk to GFI at sales@gfi.com | Find a partner

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