# ChatData Data Standards

At ChatData, we have a few guidelines, policies and standards that we apply to our data projects.

## Databases

We use relational databases as our main data storage platform.  The data manipulation language is SQL, and our production databases are PostgreSQL.

For ad-hoc data analytics, the preferred approach is not having access to the production PostgreSQL database due to security and privacy concerns.  In these cases, analysts should work on local copies of the data in SQLite, which is bundled with Python and is a lightweight relational database that uses SQL as its data manipulation language.

## Data Privacy

Employees should always be aware of the appropriate security procedures for any work they do. We have our own data systems security procedures, and there is also government legislation such as GDPR to consider. The principles of [privacy by design](#) should apply to everything we do. It ensures that data privacy is considered at the design stage of any IT system or data project.  Our main concern is that any data that can identify an individual is handled appropriately.