

# Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy and Procedure

EYFS: 3.69-3.72, 3.80

At **Day Care at Saint Martin's** we recognise that we hold sensitive/confidential information about children and their families and the staff we employ. This information is used to meet children's needs, for registers, invoices, and emergency contacts. We store all records in a locked cabinet in the office or on secure servers and computers, with files that are password protected in line with data protection principles. Any information shared with nursery staff is done on a 'need to know' basis and information shared must be treated in confidence. This policy works alongside the **Privacy Notice** to ensure compliance under General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

## Legal requirements

- We follow the legal requirements set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021 and accompanying regulations about the information we must hold about registered children and their families and the staff working at the nursery
- We follow the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR), Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with regard to the storage of data and access to it.

## Procedures

It is our intention to respect the privacy of children and their families, and we do so by:

- Ensuring Confidential information will not be left on desks, computer screens, or common areas. Confidential data must be stored under lock and key (or key card/keypad), with the key, key card, or code secured.
- Storing confidential records in a locked filing cabinet in the office or on secure servers and computers with files that are password protected.
- Ensuring staff, student (apprentice) and volunteer inductions include an awareness of the importance of the need to protect the privacy of the children in their care as well as the legal requirements that exist to ensure that information relating to the child is handled in a way that ensures confidentiality. This includes ensuring that information about the child and family is not shared outside of the nursery other than with relevant professionals who need to know that information. It is not shared with friends and family, discussions on the bus or at the local bar. If staff breach any confidentiality provisions, this may result in disciplinary action and, in serious cases, dismissal. Students on placement in the nursery are advised of our confidentiality policy and required to respect it.
- Ensuring that all staff, volunteers, and students are aware that information about children and families is confidential and only for use within the nursery and to support the child's best interests with parental permission.
- Ensuring that parents have access to files and records of their own children but not to those of any other child, other than where relevant professionals such as

the police or Local Authority children's social care team decide this is not in the child's best interest

- Ensuring all staff are aware that this information is confidential and only for use within the nursery setting. If any of this information is requested for whatever reason, the parent's permission will always be sought other than in the safeguarding circumstances above.
- Ensuring staff do not discuss personal information given by parents with other members of staff, except where it affects planning for the child's needs.
- Ensuring confidential information is not verbally discussed in public places, or where the discussion can be overheard by third parties (e.g. in a pub).
- Ensuring staff, students (apprentices) and volunteers are aware of and follow our **social networking policy** in relation to confidentiality.
- Ensuring issues concerning the employment of staff remain confidential to the people directly involved with making personnel decisions.
- Ensuring confidential information will not be shared or disclosed in any manner or on any media to persons not authorised to receive it.
- Ensuring any concerns/evidence relating to a child's personal safety are kept in a secure, confidential file which is kept in the office in a locked filing cabinet and are shared with as few people as possible on a 'need-to-know' basis. If, however, a child is considered at risk, our safeguarding/child protection policy will override confidentiality.
- Ensuring confidential information is not transferred in any insecure manner.
- Confidential information will be destroyed when no longer required in-line with prescribed data protection rules and guidelines.

All the undertakings above are subject to the paramount commitment of the nursery, which is to the safety and well-being of the child.

### **General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) compliance**

In order to meet our requirements under GDPR we will also undertake the following:

1. We will ensure our **terms & conditions, privacy and consent notices** are easily accessed/made available in accurate and easy to understand language.
2. We will use your data to ensure the safe, operational and regulatory requirements of running our Nursery, these include for Safeguarding purposes, contact list for emergencies, Invoicing, sharing information, we will only contact you in relation to the safe, operational and regulatory requirements of running our Nursery. We will not share or use your data for other purposes. Further detail can be found in our **GDPR policy** and **Privacy policy**.
3. Everyone in our nursery understands that people have the right to access their records or have their records amended or deleted (subject to other laws and regulations).
4. We will ensure staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR. This includes:

- Being confident of the processing conditions which allow them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information, which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as ‘special category personal data.’
- Understanding that ‘safeguarding of children and individuals at risk’ is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent where there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner, but it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk.

### Staff and volunteer information

- All information and records relating to staff and volunteers will be kept confidentially in a locked cabinet in the office.
- Individual staff may request to see their own personal file at any time.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
13/09/2021	Sarah Beattie	13/09/2022