Children’s records

Policy statement

We have record keeping systems in place that meet legal requirements; the means we use to store and share that information takes place within the framework of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018) and the Human Rights Act (1998). This policy and procedure should be read alongside our Privacy Notice, Confidentiality and Access to Records Policy and our Information Sharing Policy.

Procedures

If a child attends another setting, we establish a regular two-way flow of appropriate information with parents and other providers. Where appropriate, we will incorporate comments from other providers, as well as parents and/or carers into the child’s records.

We keep two kinds of records on children attending our setting:

*Developmental records*

* These include observations of children in the setting, photographs, video clips and samples of their work and summary developmental reports.
* Information from parents/ other settings regarding children’s starting points
* 2 year old checks
* These are usually kept in the looked storage cupboard and can be accessed, and contributed to, by staff, the child and the child’s parents.

*Personal records*

These may include the following (as applicable):

* Personal details – including the child’s registration form and any consent forms.
* Child’s development, health and well-being – including a summary only of the child’s EYFS profile report, a record of discussions about every day matters about the child’s development, health and well-being with the parent.
* Early Support (SEN file)– including any additional focussed intervention provided by our setting (e.g. support for behaviour, language or development that needs an SEN action plan) and records of any meetings held.
* Welfare and child protection concerns – including records of all welfare and protection concerns, and our resulting action, meetings and telephone conversations about the child, an Education, Health and Care Plan and any information regarding a Looked After Child.
* Correspondence and Reports –all letters and emails to and from other agencies and any confidential reports from other agencies.
* These confidential records are stored in a lockable file or cabinet, which is always locked when not in use and which is kept in a secure locked office.
* We read any correspondence in relation to a child, note any actions and file it immediately
* We ensure that access to children’s files is restricted to those authorised to see them and make entries in them, this being our manager, deputy or designated person for child protection, the child’s key person, or other staff as authorised by ourselves.
* We may be required to hand children’s personal files to Ofsted as part of an inspection or investigation process; or to local authority staff conducting a S11 audit, as long as authorisation is seen. We will ensure that children’s personal files are not handed over to anyone else to look at.
* Parents have access, in accordance with our Privacy Notice, Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy, to the files and records of their own children, but do not have access to information about any other child.
* Staff will not discuss personal information given by parents with other members of staff, except where it affects planning for the child's needs. The staff induction programme includes an awareness of the importance of confidentiality in the role of the key person.
* We retain children’s records for three years after they have left the setting; except records that relate to an accident or child protection matter, which are kept until a child reaches the age of 21 years or 24 years respectively. These are kept in a secure place.

## *Archiving children’s files*

* When a child leaves the setting, we remove all paper documents from the child’s personal file and place them in a robust envelope, with the child’s name and date of birth on the front and the date they left. We seal this and place it in an archive box, stored in a safe place for three years. After three years it is destroyed.
* If data is kept electronically it is encrypted and stored as above.
* Where there were s.47 child protection investigations, I mark the envelope with a star and archive it for 25 years.
* We store financial information according to our finance procedures.

## *Other records*

* We keep a daily record of the names of the children we are caring for, their hours of attendance and the names of their key person.
* Students on Pre-school Learning Alliance or other recognised qualifications and training, when they are observing in the setting, are advised of our Confidentiality and Client Access to Records Policy and are required to respect it.

Legal framework

* General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018)
* Human Rights Act (1998)

Further guidance

* Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (2015)

| This policy was adopted by | South Milford Pre-school |  |
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| On | July 2023 |  |
| Reviewed  Date to be reviewed | July 2024 |  |
| Signed on behalf of the provider | M Riches / T Saunders | |
| Name of signatory | Mel Riches / Trudy Saunders | |
| Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) | Owner/ manager | |