



Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

1. Background.

- 1.1 Dorking Nursery School and Children's Centre (*herein known as 'the centre'*) collects and uses personal information about staff, children, parents/carers and other individuals who come into contact with the centre. This information is gathered in order to enable it to provide education and other associated functions. In addition, there may be a legal requirement to collect and use information to ensure that the centre complies with its statutory obligations.
- 1.2 Schools and Centres have a duty to be registered, as Data Controllers, with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) detailing the information held and its use. These details are then available on the ICO's website. Schools and Centres also have a duty to issue a Fair Processing Notice to all children/parents and carers, this summarises the information held on pupils, why it is held and the other parties to whom it may be passed on.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with correctly and securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and other related legislation. It will apply to information regardless of the way it is collected, used, recorded, stored and destroyed, and irrespective of whether it is held in paper files or electronically.
- 2.2 All staff involved with the collection, processing and disclosure of personal data will be aware of their duties and responsibilities by adhering to these guidelines.
- 2.3 **Definition of Personal Information;** *Personal information or data is defined as data, which relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data, or other information held.*
- 2.4 **Data Protection Principles;** The Data Protection Act 1998 establishes eight enforceable principles that must be adhered to at all times:
- I. Personal data shall be processed fairly and lawfully;
 - II. Personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specified and lawful purposes and shall not be further processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose or purposes;
 - III. Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose for which it is processed;
 - IV. Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary, kept up to date;

- V. Personal data processed for any purpose shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose;
- VI. Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the Data Protection Act 1998;
- VII. Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data;
- VIII. Personal data shall not be transferred to a country or territory outside the European Economic Area, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of data protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.

3. General Statement

3.1 The centre is committed to maintaining the above principles at all times. Therefore the centre will:

- Inform individuals why the information is being collected when it is collected
- Inform individuals when their information is shared, and why and with whom it was shared
- Check the quality and the accuracy of the information it holds
- Ensure that information is not retained for longer than is necessary
- Ensure that when obsolete information is destroyed that it is done so appropriately and securely
- Ensure that clear and robust safeguards are in place to protect personal information from loss, theft and unauthorised disclosure, irrespective of the format in which it is recorded
- Share information with others only when it is legally appropriate to do so
- Set out procedures to ensure compliance with the duty to respond to requests for access to personal information, known as Subject Access Requests
- Ensure our staff are aware of and understand our policies and procedures

This policy will be reviewed as it is deemed appropriate, but no less frequently than every 2 years. The policy review will be undertaken by the Headteacher, or nominated representative.

4 Contacts

4.1 If you have any enquires in relation to this policy, please contact the Headeacher who will also act as the contact point for any subject access requests. 01306 882397

Approved by the Governing Body: September 2015

Review by: September 2017

Relevant for:-

Centre: Yes	Nursery: Yes	Parents: Yes
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Appendix 1

Procedures for responding to subject access requests made under the Data Protection Act 1998

1. Rights of access to information

1.1 There are two distinct rights of access to information held by centres about children and families.

- I. Under the Data Protection Act 1998 any individual has the right to make a request to access the personal information held about them.
- II. The right of those entitled to have access to curricular and educational records as defined within the Education Pupil Information (Wales) Regulations 2004.

1.2 These procedures relate to subject access requests made under the Data Protection Act 1998.

2 Actioning a subject access request

- I. Requests for information must be made in writing; which includes email, and be addressed to Donna Harwood-Duffy, Headteacher. If the initial request does not clearly identify the information required, then further enquiries will be made.
- II. The identity of the requestor must be established before the disclosure of any information, and checks should also be carried out regarding proof of relationship to the child. Evidence of identity can be established by requesting production of:
 - Passport
 - Driving licence
 - Utility bills with the current address
 - Birth / Marriage certificate
 - P45/P60
 - Credit Card or Mortgage statement

This list is not exhaustive.

3 Right of Access to information

3.1 Any individual has the right of access to information held about them. However with children, this is dependent upon their capacity to understand (normally age 12 or above) and the nature of the request.

4. Charges

4.1 The centre may make a charge for the provision of information, dependant upon the following:

- Should the information requested contain the educational record then the amount charged will be dependant upon the number of pages provided.
- Should the information requested be personal information that does not include any information contained within educational records centres can charge up to £10 to provide it.

4.2 If the information requested is only the educational record viewing will be free, but the Headteacher can make a charge not exceeding the cost of copying the information.

5 Response time to a Request

- 5.1 The response time for subject access requests, once officially received, is 40 days (not working or centre days but calendar days, irrespective of centre holiday periods). However the 40 days will not commence until after receipt of fees or clarification of information sought

6. Exemptions to disclosure

- 6.1 The Data Protection Act 1998 allows exemptions as to the provision of some information; therefore all information will be reviewed prior to disclosure.

- I. Any information which may cause serious harm to the physical or mental health or emotional condition of the child or another should not be disclosed, nor should information that would reveal that the child is at risk of abuse, or information relating to court proceedings.
- II. If there are concerns over the disclosure of information then additional advice should be sought.
- III. Third party information which has been provided by another, such as the Police, Local Authority, Health Care professional or another centre. Before disclosing third party information consent should normally be obtained. There is still a need to adhere to the 40-day statutory timescale.
- IV. Where redaction (information blacked out/removed) has taken place then a full copy of the information provided should be retained in order to establish, if a complaint is made, what was redacted and why.

7. Quality of explanation

- 7.1 Information disclosed should be clear, thus any codes or technical terms will need to be clarified and explained. If information contained within the disclosure is difficult to read or illegible, then it should be retyped. Information can be provided at the centre with a member of staff on hand to help and explain matters if requested, or provided at face-to-face handover. The views of the applicant should be taken into account when considering the method of delivery. If postal systems have to be used then registered/recorded mail must be used.

8. Complaints

- 8.1 Complaints about the above procedures should be made to the Chairperson of the Governing Body who will decide whether it is appropriate for the complaint to be dealt with in accordance with the centre's complaint procedure.
- 8.2 Where it is not appropriate for complaints to be dealt with through the centre's complaint procedure, they can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner. Contact details of both will be provided with the disclosure information.

9. Contacts

- 9.1 If you have any queries or concerns regarding these policies/procedures then please contact the Headteacher on 01306 882397
- 9.2 Further advice and information can be obtained from the Information Commissioner's Office, www.ico.gov.uk or telephone on 01625 545745