

Data Protection & Confidentiality Policy

EYFS: 3.69, 3.70

At Harwich Connexions Noah's Nursery 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 locked cabinets in line with data protection registration and any information shared with the staff team is done on a 'need to know' basis and treated in confidence. This policy will work alongside the Privacy Notice to ensure compliance under General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)).

Legal requirements

- We follow the legal requirements set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2017 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) 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:

- Storing confidential records in a locked filing cabinet or on the office computers with files that are password protected
- Ensuring staff, student and volunteer inductions include an awareness of the importance of confidentiality and 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 this information 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 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 staff, students 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 any concerns/evidence relating to a child's personal safety are kept in a secure, confidential file 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.

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 not share your data with a third party unless we have received your consent first, ie funding forms, two year checks or safeguarding purposes or anything else we deem necessary within the nursery or use your data for other purposes other than the requirements.
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).

Staff and volunteer information

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

Harwich Connexion's Noah's Nursery is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) is: ZA052276 (expiry date: 05.05.2019). This certificate is displayed in our nursery reception.

Confidentiality Statement

*It is a legal requirement for Harwich Connexions Noah's Nursery to hold information about all the children and families using the nursery as well as the staff working here. This information will remain confidential and only be used to enhance the welfare of your child. Any accidents or incidents will be discussed with parents/carers and recorded. Information about your child will be shared between practitioners in the setting on a need to know basis. There are record keeping systems in place that meet legal requirements; means of storing and sharing that information take place within the framework of the Data Protection Act & GDPR (2018) and the Human Rights Act (1998). **Written consent will be sought from parents before information is shared with external agencies unless a child is considered at risk when our safeguarding children policy will be followed.***

For further information please read our safeguarding policy

A Parent Information folder containing the safeguarding children policy and much more can be found in the blue folder situated in the nursery hallway along with a book of leavers comments, a parents information folder and a guide to the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). If you can't find it or would like more information - please ask 😊

| This policy was re-adopted | Signed on behalf of the nursery | Date for review |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>31st January 2017</i> | <i>Z.O</i> | <i>31st January 2018</i> |
| <i>8th May 2018</i> | <i>Z.O</i> | <i>8th May 2019</i> |
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