



Data Protection Policy

Statement of Intent

As a preschool we are required to collect personal information for employees, trustees, children, parents, and visitors. It is also necessary to process information so that staff can be recruited and paid, activities organised and legal obligations to funding bodies fulfilled. We intend to meet all the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018 when collecting, storing, and destroying personal data.

To comply with the law, information must be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed to any other person unlawfully. In summary personal data must be:

- obtained and processed fairly and lawfully;
- obtained for a specified and lawful purpose and not processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose; adequate, relevant, and not excessive for that purpose;
- accurate and kept up to date;
- not kept for longer than is necessary;
- processed in accordance with the data subject's rights;
- kept safe from unauthorised access, accidental loss, or destruction;
- not be transferred to a country outside the European Economic Area, unless that country has equivalent levels of protection for personal data.

All preschool staff and volunteers who process or use any personal information must ensure that they follow these principles at all times. In order to ensure that this happens, the preschool has adopted this Data Protection Policy. Prior permission will be obtained to hold personal details on children, families or staff.

The Data Controller and the Designated Data Controllers

Noah's Ark @ CRBC as a registered charity is the Data Controller under the Act, and the organisation is therefore ultimately responsible for implementation. However, the Designated Data Controller will deal with day to day matters. The preschool's Designated Data Controller is:

Sophie Turner

Notification of Data Held and Processed

All employees, trustees, parents, visitors, and other members of the public have the right to:

- know what information the preschool holds and processes about them and why;
- know how to gain access to it;
- know how to keep it up to date;
- know what the preschool is doing to comply with its obligations under the Act.

Personal Information

Personal Information is defined as any details relating to a living, identifiable individual. Within the preschool this relates to employees; attending children and their families; trustees; professional visitors; volunteers/students and some members of the public e.g. job applicants. We need to ensure that the information gained from each individual is kept securely and to the appropriate level of confidentiality.

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The personal information collected from individuals could include:

- Their name
- Address
- Email address
- Telephone numbers - including those of emergency contacts
- Date of birth
- Medical information
- National Insurance number
- DBS numbers
- Observations of children's progress (learning diaries)
- Children's reports from preschool or from outside professionals.
- Photographs
- Family medical history when necessary

Noah's Ark Preschool will store personal information to comply with the statutory framework (EYFS 2017); to deliver services to our families e.g. to access government funding to employ suitable people for our setting.

Processing of Personal Information

All staff and volunteers who process or use any Personal Information are responsible for ensuring that:

- Any Personal Information which they hold is kept securely;
- Personal Information is not disclosed either orally or in writing or otherwise to any unauthorised third party.

Staff and volunteers should note that unauthorised disclosure will usually be a disciplinary matter and may be considered gross misconduct in some cases.

Personal Information will be:

- kept in a locked filing cabinet, a locked cupboard or in our office which is locked when not in use.
- password protected if it is computerised.
- kept on a storage device which is itself kept securely.

Conversations and Meetings

Information of a personal or confidential nature should not be discussed in a public area, in front of anyone that is not an employee of the preschool. Preschool employees should be aware of confidentiality at all times when discussions are taking place, either distancing themselves from the conversation if it does not concern them or ensuring that their discussion is not overheard by others. All staff should respect the confidential nature of any information inadvertently overheard.

When meetings are being recorded it is important that only relevant information is written down. This must be carried out using the correct forms provided by the preschool, notes must be written legibly and coherently. The written notes are then to be stored in a locked cupboard and disposed of (shredded) in a timely manner once the child/family have left the setting (3 years unless of a child protection nature).

Collecting Information

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Whenever information is collected about people, they should be informed why the information is being collected, who will be able to access it and to what purposes it will be put. The individual concerned must agree that he or she understands and gives permission for the declared processing to take place, or it must be necessary for the legitimate business of the preschool.

Sensitive Information

Sensitive information is defined by the Act as that relating to ethnicity, political opinions, religious beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health, sex life, criminal proceedings or convictions. The person about whom this data is being kept must give express consent to the processing of such data, except where the data processing is required by law for employment purposes or to protect the vital interests of the person or a third party.

Disposal of Confidential Material

Sensitive material should be shredded as soon as it is no longer needed; following retention guidelines and statutory requirements.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff are responsible for checking that any information that they provide to the preschool in connection with their employment is accurate and up to date. Staff have the right to access any personal data that is being kept about them, either on computer or in manual filing systems. Staff should be aware of and follow this policy and seek further guidance where necessary.

Staff will not store personal child data at home. From time to time it may be necessary for staff members to take information home to update learning diaries or prepare for meetings / home visits. On these occasions, staff will use a memory stick provided by Noah's Ark and staff take care to ensure that it is stored in such a way that confidentiality is respected. The information on memory sticks is deleted as soon as no longer needed. Files will always be password protected.

Sharing data between staff members/outside agencies is sometimes necessary. Password-protected file sharing will be used for sensitive data.

Staff will not discuss individual children, other than for purposes of planning and reviewing as part of their role within the setting with anyone other than the parent/carers of that child without their permission.

Trustees

The trustees do not generally access personal data at home. The Company Secretary will ensure that confidential data relating to children or staff at the preschool is not recorded in minutes of trustees' meetings. Trustees will not discuss confidential matters concerning the preschool with others.

In the unlikely event that there is a need to communicate personal data it will be:

- kept securely in a cupboard or filing cabinet.
- password protected when held on a computer, memory stick or file storage device
- kept confidential and only disclosed/discussed with other trustees or staff.
- returned to the preschool when no longer required. Data held on computers or storage devices will be deleted

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Duty to Disclose Information

There is a legal duty to disclose certain information, namely, information about: Child abuse/safeguarding children/prevent duty. We may be required to share this information with a new setting, social services (First response), OFSTED LADO or to the police.

Any concerns/evidence/records relating to a child's personal welfare or an allegation against staff will be recorded and kept in a confidential file and will not be shared within the setting except with necessary staff, parents or Trustees.

Parents will be informed that this data is being held/shared unless staff feel that sharing this information with the parents could put the child at significant risk of harm.

Retention of Data

The preschool takes care to only store personal information that is absolutely necessary.

Personal information is kept for the period of time requested following guidelines from BAND. These retention periods are either recommended or statutory.

Stored information is filed in filing boxes and kept in the preschool office which is locked when not in use. Once the retention period has lapsed, the information is destroyed.

Prepared by Kathy Kilgour on 30 January 2020

Adopted by the trustees on (date).....31/01/2020.....

Signed.....Helen Wislon.....date.....

Signed.....Jane Smith.....date.....