

## **10.3 Children's records**

### **Policy statement**

*We have record keeping systems in place that meet legal requirements; this means we use to store and share that information takes place within the framework of the Data Protection Act (1998) and the Human Rights Act (1998).*

*This policy and procedure should be read alongside our Confidentiality and Client 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.*
- *These are usually kept in the computer/storage cupboard and can be accessed and contributed to, by our 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,
- Early Support – including any additional focussed intervention provided by our setting (e.g. support for behaviour, language or development that needs an Individual Education 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, a Statement of Special Educational Need and any information regarding a Looked After Child.
- Correspondence and Reports – including a copy of the child's 2 Year Old Progress Check (as applicable), all letters and emails to and from other agencies and any confidential reports from other agencies.
- These confidential records are stored in a lockable cupboard, which is always locked when not in use.
- 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 our manager.
- 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 ensure that children's personal files are not handed over to anyone else to look at.
- Parents have access, in accordance with our 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.
- Our staff will not discuss personal information given by parents with other members of staff, except where it affects planning for the child's needs. Our 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 our 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.
- Where there were s.47 child protection investigations, we 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**

- *Data Protection Act (1998)*
- *Human Rights Act (1998)*

This policy was adopted by	Whimble Preschool
On	<hr/> 12/9/19
Date to be reviewed	<hr/> 12/3/21
Signed on behalf of the provider	<hr/>
Name of signatory	<hr/> Joe Pearce
Role of signatory	<hr/> Chairperson