

4.3 Children's records policy

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 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 stored on tapestry the online learning journal and can be accessed, and contributed to, by the key person, the child, and the child's parents. Development reports are kept in a file in the office.

Personal records

These may include the following (as applicable):

- Personal details – including the child's registration form and any consent forms.
- Contractual matters – including a copy of the signed terms and conditions, the child's days and times of attendance, a record of the child's fees, any fee reminders, or records of disputes about fees.
- Child's development, health, and well-being – including a summary only of the child's EYFS progress, a record of discussions about everyday matters about the child's development health and well-being with the parent.
- Early Support – 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 – including a copy of the child's 2-Year-Old Progress Check, all letters, and emails to and from other agencies and any confidential reports from other agencies.
- 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 an audit if 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 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.

- 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 an archive box, stored in a safe place (i.e. a locked cabinet) 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, we mark the envelope with a star and archive it for 25 years.

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 Early Years Educator 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

Perins Pre-school

On

25th April 2024

Date to be reviewed

25th April 2025

Signed on behalf of the provider

Michelle Osman

Name of signatory

Michelle Osman

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Pre-School Manager