



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

We recognise that parents have a right to know that the information they share with us will be regarded as confidential, as well as to be informed about the circumstances when, and the reasons why, we are obliged to share information.

We record and share information about children and their families (data subjects) in line with the six principles of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) (2018) which are further explained in our Privacy Notice that is given to parents at the point of registration. The six principles state that personal data must be:

1. Processed fairly, lawfully and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.
2. Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed for other purposes incompatible with those purposes.
3. Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which data is processed.
4. Accurate and where necessary, kept up to date.
5. Kept in a form that permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed.
6. Processed in a way that ensures appropriate security of the personal data including protection against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures

We are obliged to share confidential information without authorisation from the person who provided it, or to whom it related, if it is in the public interest.

That is when:

- It is to prevent a crime from being committed or to intervene where one may have been, or to prevent harm to a child or adult; or
- Not sharing it could be worse than the outcome of having shared it.
- Where there is evidence that the child is suffering, or at risk of suffering, significant harm.
- Where there is reasonable cause to believe that a child may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm.
- To prevent significant harm arising to children or adults, including the prevention, detection and prosecution of serious crime.

The decision will never be made by one individual but in consultation with the Pre-school Manager, and Chair of the committee.



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

We do share information about the children's progress and development with other settings they may currently attend or will attend in the future i.e. A new preschool or school. We will also share information with multi-Agencies as required, this may be a health visitor, speech and language or SENDCO.

Parent/carer(s) are asked to give written consent to sharing child development summaries, this is found in our **DECLARATION** in our registration pack.

Our procedure is based on the GDPR principles as listed above and the seven golden rules for sharing information in the Information sharing Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. We also follow the guidance on information sharing from the Local Safeguarding Children Board:

- 1. Remember that the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 and human rights law are not barriers to justified information sharing as per the Children Act 1989 but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately.*

Our policy and procedures on Information Sharing provide guidance to appropriate sharing of information [both within the setting, as well as] with external agencies.

- 2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their consent, unless it is unsafe or if we have a legal obligation to do so. A Privacy Notice is given to parents at the point of registration to explain this further.*

In our setting we ensure parents:

- Receive a copy of our Privacy Notice and information about our Information Sharing Policy when starting their child in the setting and that they sign our Registration Form to say that they understand the circumstances in which information may be shared without their consent. This will only be when it is a matter of safeguarding a child or vulnerable adult;



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

- Have information about our Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy; and have information about the other circumstances when information will be shared with external agencies, for example, with regard to any special needs the child may have or transition to school.

3. Seek advice from other practitioners if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible.

- Our staff discuss concerns about a child routinely in supervision and any actions are recorded in their personal files.
- Our Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy sets out the duty of all members of our staff to refer concerns to our manager or deputy, as designated person, who will contact children's social care for advice where they have doubts or are unsure.
- Our Managers and Committee seek advice if they need to share information without consent to disclose.

4. Share with informed consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is good reason to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be certain of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared.

- We base decisions to share information without consent on judgements about the facts of the case and whether there is a legal obligation.
- Our guidelines for consent are part of this procedure.
- Our Managers and Committee are conversant with this and are able to advise staff accordingly.



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

5. *Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions.*

In our setting we:

- Record concerns and discuss these with our designated person and/or designated officer from the management team for child protection matters;
- Record decisions made and the reasons why information will be shared and to whom; and
- Follow the procedures for reporting concerns and record keeping as set out in our Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy.

6. *Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.*

- Our Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy and Children's Records Policy set out how and where information should be recorded and what information should be shared with another agency when making a referral.

7. *Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.*

- Where information is shared, we record the reasons for doing so in the child's file; where it is decided that information is not to be shared that is recorded too



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

Consent

When parents choose our setting for their child, they will share information about themselves and their families. This information is regarded as confidential and a personal file for the child is created (this is kept in a locked cupboard). Parents have a right to be informed that we will seek their consent to share information in most cases, as well as the kinds of circumstances when we may not seek their consent or may override their refusal to give consent. We inform them as follows:

- Our policies and procedures set out our responsibility regarding gaining consent to share information and when it may not be sought or overridden.
- We may cover this verbally when the child starts or include this in our prospectus.
- Parents sign our Registration Form at registration to confirm that they understand this.
- We ask parents to give written consent to share information about any additional needs their child may have.
- We give parents copies of the forms they sign.
- We consider the following questions when we assess the need to share:
 - Is there a legitimate purpose to us sharing the information?
 - Does the information enable the person to be identified?
 - Is the information confidential?
 - If the information is confidential, do we have consent to share?
 - Is there a statutory duty or court order requiring us to share the information?
 - If consent is refused, or there are good reasons for us not to seek consent, is there sufficient public interest for [us/me] to share information?
 - If the decision is to share, are we sharing the right information in the right way?
 - Have we properly recorded our decision?

Consent must be freely given and *informed* - that is the person giving consent needs to understand why information will be shared, what will be shared, who will see



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

information, the purpose of sharing it and the implications for them of sharing that information as detailed in the Privacy Notice.

- Consent may be *explicit*, verbally but preferably in writing, or *implicit*, implied if the context is such that sharing information is an intrinsic part of our service or it has been explained and agreed at the outset.
- Consent can be withdrawn at any time.
- We explain our Information Sharing Policy to parents.

Separated parents

- Consent to share need only be sought from one parent. Where parents are separated, this would normally be the parent with whom the child resides. Where there is a dispute, we will consider this carefully.
- Where the child is looked after, we may also need to consult the Local Authority, as 'corporate parent' before information is shared.

All the undertakings above are subject to our paramount commitment, which is to the safety and well-being of the child. Please also see our Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy.

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 (HM Government 2015)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused: Advice for practitioners (HM Government 2015)
- Working together to safeguard children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children (HM Government 2015)



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

We work in partnership with local and national agencies to promote the well-being of all children. We will never share your data with any organisation to use for their own purposes.

Procedures

- We work in partnership, or in tandem, with local and national agencies to promote the well-being of children.
- We have procedures in place for the sharing of information about children and families with other agencies. These are set out in our Privacy Notice, Information Sharing Policy, Safeguarding Children and Child Protection Policy and the Supporting Children Additional Needs
- Information shared by other agencies with us is regarded as third-party information. This is also kept in confidence and not shared without consent from that agency.
- When working in partnership with staff from other agencies, we make those individuals welcome in our setting and respect their professional roles.
- We follow the protocols for working with agencies, for example on child protection.
- We ensure that staff from other agencies do not have unsupervised access to the child they are visiting in the setting and do not have access to any other child(ren) during their visit.
- Our staff do not casually share information or seek informal advice about any named child/family.
- When necessary, we consult with and signpost to local and national agencies who offer a wealth of advice and information that help us to develop our understanding of the issues facing us and who can provide support and information for parents. For example, ethnic/cultural organisations, drug/alcohol agencies, welfare rights advisors or organisations promoting childcare and education, or adult education.



INFORMATION SHARING & WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES Policy

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Stondon Stompers Management Committee

Held on _____

Date to be reviewed: September 2023

Name of signatory: Hayley Law (Digital Signature)

Role of signatory: Chairperson