



RAINBOW PRE-SCHOOL

Established 1979

Registered Charity No: 1026005

BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

2 Dukes Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 2PT

Telephone 020 8883 4010

Data protection and confidentiality

Policy statement

We recognise that we hold sensitive and confidential information about children and their families. This information is used to meet children's needs, for registers, invoices and emergency contacts. We store all records in a locked cabinet or on the office computer with files that are password protected in line with data protection principles. Any information shared with the staff team is done on a 'need to know' basis and treated in confidence. This policy works alongside the GDPR privacy notice to ensure compliance under General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018.

Legal requirements

- We follow the legal requirements set out in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and accompanying regulations about the information we must hold about registered children and their families and the staff working at the preschool.
- We follow the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with regard to the storage of data and access to it.

Principles of data protection: lawful processing of data

Personal data shall be:

- a) processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject*
- b) collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is not compatible for these purposes*
- c) adequate, relevant and necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed*
- d) accurate, and where necessary, kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that are inaccurate, having regard to the purpose for which they are processed, are erased or rectified without delay*
- e) kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed*
- f) processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisational measures ("integrity and confidentiality") Article 5 of the General Data Protection Regulations (2018)*

Educators should process data, record and share information in line with the principles above.

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 computer with files that are password protected.
- Ensuring staff, student and volunteer inductions include an awareness of the importance of the need to protect the privacy of the children in their care as well as the legal requirements that exist to ensure that information relating to the child is handled in a way that ensures confidentiality. This includes ensuring that information about the child and family is not shared outside of the preschool other than with relevant professionals who need to know that information. It is not shared with friends and family, or part of any social discussions outside of the preschool. If staff breach any confidentiality provisions, this may result in disciplinary action and, in serious cases, dismissal. Students on placement in the preschool are advised of our Data protection and confidentiality policy and required to respect it.
- Ensuring that all staff, volunteers and students are aware that information about children and families is confidential and only for use within the preschool 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 preschool setting. If any of this information is requested for whatever reason, the parents' permission will always be sought other than in the safeguarding instances 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 or 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 children and child protection policy will override confidentiality.

All the undertakings above are subject to the paramount commitment of the preschool, 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:

- We will ensure our terms and conditions; privacy and consent notices are easily accessed and made available in accurate and easy to understand language

- We will use personal data to ensure the safe, operational and regulatory requirements of running our preschool. We will only make contact in relation to the safe, operational and regulatory requirements of running our preschool. We will not share or use personal data for other purposes. Further detail can be found in the GDPR privacy notice.
- Everyone in our preschool understands that people have the right to access their records or have their records amended or deleted (subject to other laws and regulations).
- We will ensure staff have due regard to the relevant data protection principles, which allow them to share (and withhold) personal information, as provided for in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR. This includes:
 - Being confident of the processing conditions which allow them to store and share information for safeguarding purposes, including information which is sensitive and personal, and should be treated as 'special category personal data'
 - Understanding that 'safeguarding of children and individuals at risk' is a processing condition that allows practitioners to share special category personal data. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent where there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child in a timely manner, but it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk.

General safeguarding recording principles

- It is vital that all relevant interactions linked to safeguarding children's and individual's welfare are accurately recorded.
- All recordings should be made as soon as possible after the event.
- Recording should be to a good standard and clear enough to enable someone other than the person who wrote it, to fully understand what is being described.
- Recording can potentially be viewed by a parent/carer, Ofsted inspector, childminder agency, by the successors of the educators who record, and may be used in a Family Court as relevant evidence to decide whether a child should remain with their biological parents or be removed to live somewhere else. Recording needs to be fair and accurate, non-judgemental in tone, descriptive, relevant, and should clearly show what action has been taken to safeguard a child and reflect decision-making relating to safeguarding.
- Recording should be complete, it should show what the outcome has been, what happened to referrals, why decisions were made to share or not share information, and it should contain summaries and minutes of relevant multi-agency meetings and multi-agency communication.
- If injuries or other safeguarding concerns are being described the description must be clear and accurate and should give specific details of the injury observed and where it is located.

The principles of GDPR and effective safeguarding recording practice are upheld in our preschool

- Recording is factual and non-judgemental.
- The procedure for retaining and archiving personal data and the retention schedule and subsequent destruction of data is adhered to.
- Parents/carers and children where appropriate are made aware of what will be recorded and in what circumstances information is shared, prior to their child starting at the preschool. Parents/carers are issued with the Privacy notice and should give signed, informed consent to recording and information sharing prior to their child attending the preschool. If a parent/carer would not expect their information to be shared in any given situation, normally, they should be asked for consent prior to sharing.
- There are circumstances where information is shared without consent to safeguard children, but in summary, information can be shared without consent if an educator is unable to gain consent, cannot be expected to gain consent, or gaining consent places a child at risk.
- Records can be accessed by, and information may be shared with local authority professionals. If there are significant safeguarding or welfare concerns, information may also be shared with a family proceedings Court or the police. Educators are aware of information sharing processes and all families should give informed consent to the way the preschool will use, store, and share information.
- Recording should be completed as soon as possible and within 5 working days as a maximum for safeguarding recording timescales.
- If a child attends more than one setting, a two-way flow of information is established between the parents/carers, and other providers. Where appropriate, comments from others (as above) are incorporated into the child's records.

Staff and volunteer information

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