

Halfway Nursery Infant School



Data Protection Policy

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Signed (Headteacher)	
Signed (Chair of Governors)	
Minute Number	

HALFWAY NURSERY INFANT SCHOOL

Data Protection Policy

The Data Protection Act 1998 is the law that protects personal privacy and upholds individual's rights. It applies to anyone who handles or has access to people's personal data.

This policy is intended to ensure that personal information is dealt with properly and securely and in accordance with the Data Protection Act. It will apply to information regardless of the way it is used, recorded and stored and whether it is held in paper files or electronically.

1. Scope of the Policy

Personal information is any information that relates to a living individual who can be identified from the information. This includes any expression of opinion about an individual and intentions towards an individual. It also applies to personal data held visually in photographs or video clips (including CCTV) or as sound recordings.

The School collects a large amount of personal data every year including: staff records, names and addresses of those requesting prospectuses, examination marks, references, fee collection as well as the many different types of research data used by the School. In addition, it may be required by law to collect and use certain types of information to comply with statutory obligations of Local Authorities (LAs), government agencies and other bodies.

2. The Eight Principles

The Act is based on eight data protection principles, or rules for 'good information handling'.

1. Data must be processed fairly and lawfully.
2. Personal data shall be obtained only for one or more specific and lawful purposes.
3. Personal data shall be adequate, relevant and not excessive in relation to the purpose(s) for which they are processed.
4. Personal data shall be accurate and where necessary kept up to date.
5. Personal data processed for any purpose(s) shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for that purpose.
6. Personal data shall be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects under the 1998 Data Protection Act.
7. Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.
8. Personal data shall not be transferred to a country outside the EEA, unless that country or territory ensures an adequate level of protection for the rights and freedoms of data subjects in relation to the processing of personal data.

3. Responsibilities

3.1 The school must:

- Manage and process personal data properly
- Protect the individuals right to privacy
- Provide an individual with access to all personal data held on them.

3.2 The school has a legal responsibility to comply with the Act. The school, as a corporate body, is named as the Data Controller under the Act.

Data Controllers are people or organisations who hold and use personal information. They decide how and why the information is used and have a responsibility to establish workplace practices and policies that are in line with the Act.

3.3 The school is required to 'notify' the Information Commissioner of the processing of personal data. This information will be included in a public register which is available on the Information Commissioner's website at the following link :

http://www.ico.gov.uk/what_we_cover/promoting_data_privacy/keeping_the_register.aspx

3.4 Every member of staff that holds personal information has to comply with the Act when managing that information.

3.5 The school is committed to maintaining the eight principles at all times. This means that the school will:

- inform Data Subjects why they need their personal information, how they will use it and with whom it may be shared. This is known as a Privacy Notice.
- check the quality and accuracy of the information held
- apply the records management policies and procedures to ensure that information is not held longer than is necessary
- ensure that when information is authorised for disposal it is done appropriately
- ensure appropriate security measures are in place to safeguard personal information whether that is held in paper files or on a computer system
- only share personal information with others when it is necessary and legally appropriate to do so
- set out clear procedures for responding to requests for access to personal information known as subject access in the Data Protection Act
- train all staff so that they are aware of their responsibilities and of the schools relevant policies and procedures

Data and Computer Security

Halfway Nursery Infant School undertakes to ensure security of personal data by the following general methods (precise details cannot, of course, be revealed):

Physical Security

Appropriate building security measures are in place, such as alarms, window bars, deadlocks and computer hardware cable locks. Only authorised persons are allowed in the computer room. Disks, tapes and printouts are locked away securely when not in use. Visitors to the school are required to sign in and out, to wear identification badges whilst in the school and are, where appropriate, accompanied.

Logical Security

Security software is installed on all computers and memory drives containing personal data. Only authorised users are allowed access to the computer files and password changes are regularly undertaken. Computer files are backed up (ie security copies are taken) regularly.

Procedural Security

In order to be given authorised access to the computer, staff will have to undergo enhanced CRB checks and understand our confidentiality policy. All staff are trained in their Data Protection obligations and their knowledge updated as necessary. Computer printouts as well as source documents are shredded before disposal.

Any queries or concerns about security of data in the school should in the first instance be referred to Steve Varnam, Headteacher.

Individual members of staff can be personally liable in law under the terms of the Data Protection Acts. They may also be subject to claims for damages from persons who believe that they have been harmed as a result of inaccuracy, unauthorised use or disclosure of their data. A deliberate breach of this Data Protection Policy will be treated as disciplinary matter, and serious breaches could lead to dismissal.

This policy will be updated as necessary to reflect best practice or amendments made to the Data Protection Act 1998.

Please follow this link to the ICO's website (www.ico.gov.uk) which provides further detailed guidance on a range of topics including individuals' rights, exemptions from the Act, dealing with subject access requests, how to handle requests from third parties for personal data to be disclosed etc. In particular, you may find it helpful to read the Guide to Data Protection which is available from the website.

ACCESS TO PERSONAL DATA REQUEST

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998 Section 7.

Enquirer's Surname.....Enquirer's ForeNames.....

Enquirer's Address

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Enquirer's Postcode

Telephone Number

Are you the person who is the subject of the records you are enquiring about YES / NO
(i.e. the "Data Subject")?

If NO,

Do you have parental responsibility for a child who is the "Data Subject" of the YES / NO
records you are enquiring about?

If YES,

Name of child or children about whose personal data records you are enquiring

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Description of Concern / Area of Concern

Description of Information or Topic(s) Requested (In your own words)

Additional information.

Please despatch Reply to: *(if different from enquirer's details as stated on this form)*

Name

Address

Postcode

DATA SUBJECT DECLARATION

I request that the School search its records based on the information supplied above under Section 7 (1) of the Data Protection Act 1998 and provide a description of the personal data found from the information described in the details outlined above relating to me (or my child/children) being processed by the School.

I agree that the reply period will commence when I have supplied sufficient information to enable the School to perform the search.

I consent to the reply being disclosed and sent to me at my stated address (or to the Despatch Name and Address above who I have authorised to receive such information).

Signature of "Data Subject" (or Subject's Parent)

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Name of "Data Subject" (or Subject's Parent) (PRINTED).....

Dated

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