



Confidentiality Policy

Date written / reviewed	January 2024
Date of next review	January 2027
Headteacher	<i>R Swaby</i>
Chair of Governors	<i>M Hopkins</i>

This policy links and should be read in conjunction with the school's Safeguarding, Child Protection and Incident policies.

Rationale

Delph Primary School seeks to put the child at the heart of the learning process and to provide a safe and secure learning environment. It seeks to implement the underlying principles that 'every child matters' and to address the issues, which may arise about confidentiality. We are committed to developing creative and positive ways for the child's voice to be heard whilst recognising the responsibility to use, hold and safeguard information received. Sharing information unnecessarily is an erosion of trust. The school is mindful that it is placed in a position of trust by all stakeholders and there is a general expectation that a professional approach will be used in all matters of confidentiality.

Aim and Objectives:

To protect the child at all times and to give all staff involved clear, unambiguous guidance as to their legal and professional roles and to ensure good practice throughout the school which is understood by pupils, parents/carers and staff.

- To provide consistent messages in school about handling information about children once it has been received.
- To foster an ethos of trust within the school.
- To ensure that staff, parents and pupils are aware of the school's confidentiality, policy and procedures.
- To reassure pupils that their best interests will be maintained.
- To encourage children to talk to their parents and carers.
- To ensure that pupils and parents/carers know that school staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- To ensure that there is equality of provision and access for all including rigorous monitoring of cultural, gender and SEND.
- To ensure that if there are child protection issues then the correct procedure is followed.
- To ensure that confidentiality is a whole school issue and that in lessons ground rules are set for the protection of all.
- To understand that health professionals are bound by a different code of conduct.
- To ensure that parents have a right of access to any records the school may hold on their child but not to any other child that they do not have parental responsibility for.

Guidelines:

1. All information about individual children is private and should only be shared with those staff that have a need to know.

2. All social services, medical and personal information about a child should be held in a safe and secure place which cannot be accessed by individuals other than school staff. CPOMs is used to record/store information and this is password protected with access permissions set by the Headteacher.

3. The school actively promotes a positive ethos and respect for the individual by:

- a) The Headteacher, as the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), receiving regular training.
- b) Having clear guidance for the handling of child protection incidents and all staff having regular training on child protection issues.
- c) Having clear guidance for procedures if a member of staff is accused of abuse.
- d) Staff being aware that effective sex and relationship education which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in a relationship, can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue.
- e) Staff being aware of the need to handle all issues about different types of families in a sensitive manner.
- f) Any intolerance about gender, faith, race, culture or sexuality is unacceptable and should follow the school's discipline policy.
- g) Information collected for one purpose should not be used for another.

4. Parents/carers and children need to be aware that the school cannot guarantee total confidentiality and the school has a duty to report child protection issues.

5. The school prides itself on good communication with parents and carers and staff are always available to talk to both children and parents/carers about issues that are causing concern. The school encourages children to talk to parents/carers about issues causing them concern and may in some cases support the children to talk to their parents.

6. Parents/carers and children should feel reassured that only in exceptional circumstances will confidentiality be broken.

7. All children have a right to the same level of confidentiality irrespective of gender, race, religion, medical concerns and special educational needs. A lot of data is generated in schools by these categories but individual children should not be able to be identified.

8. Child protection procedures are understood by staff and training is undertaken at regular intervals for all staff.

9. Confidentiality is a whole school issue. Clear ground rules must be set for any classroom work such as circle time and other PSHE Education sessions dealing with sensitive issues such as sex and relationships and drugs. School recognises the need to be proactive so children feel supported but information is not unnecessarily revealed in a public arena. Even when sensitive information appears to be widely known it should not be assumed by those immediately involved that it is appropriate to discuss or share this information further.

10. Health professionals have their own code of practice for dealing with confidentiality. Staff should be aware of children with medical needs and the class information sheets should be accessible to staff who need that information but not on general view to other parents/carers and children.

11. Photographs of children should not be used without parents/carers' permission, including in the press and on the school website. At no time should the child's name be used with a photograph so that they can be identified. During public school events, the school provides guidance to parents about the responsible use of cameras and video recording. Parents are allowed to take photographs and / or video footage of school related events, however, where photographs/ footage includes pictures of other people's children, these should not be publicly shared or distributed on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

12. Information about children will be shared with parents but only about their child. Parents should not have access to any other child's books, marks and progress grades at any time especially at parents' evening. However, parents should be aware that information about their child will be shared with the receiving school when they change school.

13. All personal information about children including social services' records should be regarded as confidential. It should be clearly understood by those who have access to it, and whether those concerned have access to all, or only some of the information. Information regarding health reports such as speech therapy, medical reports, SEN reports, SEN minutes of meetings and social services' minutes of meetings and reports will be circulated in envelopes and once read should be returned for secure filing. Logs of administration of medication to children should be kept secure and each child should have their own individual log. In all other notes, briefing sheets etc., a child should not be able to be identified. Addresses and telephone numbers of parents and children will not be passed on except in exceptional circumstances or to a receiving school.

14. Governors need to be mindful that from time to time issues are discussed or brought to their attention about staff and children. All such papers should be marked as confidential and should be copied onto different coloured paper. These confidential papers should be destroyed. Governors must observe complete confidentiality when asked to do so by the governing body, especially in relation to matters concerning individual staff, pupils or parents. Although decisions reached at governors' meetings are normally made public, the discussions on which decisions are based should be regarded as confidential. Governors should exercise the highest degree of prudence when discussion of potentially contentious issues arises outside the governing body.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's monitoring cycle. The Headteacher has responsibility for monitoring this policy.

Conclusion

Delph Primary School has a duty of care and responsibility towards pupils, parents/carers and staff. It also needs to work with a range of outside agencies and share information on a professional basis. The care and safety of the individual is the key issue behind this document.

Data Protection Statement

The procedures and practice created by this policy have been reviewed in the light of our Data Protection Policy. All data will be handled in accordance with the school's Data Protection Policy.

Data Audit for the Confidentiality Policy					
What?	Probable Content	Why?	Who?	Where?	When?
Range of personal data relating to pupils/staff	Name D.O.B. SEND Data Pupil Assessment Safeguarding incidents	Ensure pupils/staff are kept safe and supported effectively and according to need	DSLs / Staff 'need to know basis'	SIMS CPOMS SEND records	Held on File throughout a child's time at school
This Policy has Few / No Data Compliance Requirements		This Policy has A Moderate Level of Data Compliance Requirements		This Policy has a High Level of Data Compliance Requirements	
				✓	