 Squirrels Pre-School Rugby Ltd

 c/o Paddox Primary School

 Fareham Avenue

 Rugby

 Warwickshire

 CV22 5HS

 01788 576167

 Preschool.s@welearn365.com

[www.squirrelspreschoolrugbyco.uk](http://www.squirrelspreschoolrugbyco.uk)

**Data Protection Policy**

**Statement of Intent**

Squirrels Preschool is required to collect personal information for its employees, directors, children, parents and visitors. It is also necessary to process information so that staff can be recruited and paid, activities organized and legal obligations to funding bodies upheld. We intend to meet all the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 when collecting, storing, and destroying personal data.

To comply with the law, information must be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed to any other person unlawfully. To do this, Squirrels Pre-school Rugby Ltd must comply with the Data Protection Principles which are set out in the Data Protection Act 2018. In summary these state that personal data must be:

* Obtained and processed fairly and lawfully.
* Obtained for a specified and lawful purpose and not processed in any manner incompatible with that purpose; adequate, relevant, and not excessive for that purpose.
* accurate and kept up to date.
* not kept for longer than is necessary.
* processed in accordance with the data subject’s rights.
* kept safe from unauthorised access, accidental loss, or destruction.
* not be transferred to a country outside the European Economic area, unless that country has equivalent levels of protection for personal data.

All Squirrels Pre-school staff, Directors and volunteers who process or use personal information must ensure that they follow these principles at all times. In order to ensure that this happens, Squirrels Pre-school has adopted this Data Protection Policy.

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**Notification of Data Held and Processed**

All employees, directors, parents, visitors and other members of the public have right to:

* know what information Squirrels Pre-school holds and processes about them and why;
* know how to gain access to it;
* know how to keep it up to date;
* know what Squirrels Pre-school is doing to comply with its obligations under the Act.

**The Data Controller and the Designated Data Lead**

Squirrels Pre-school is the Data Controller under the Act, and the orgainisation is therefore ultimately responsible for implementation. However, the Designated Data Leads will deal with day to day matters, these are **Sian Barnes (Director)** and **Kay Clements (Manager).**

**Personal Information**

Personal information is defined as any details relating to a living, identifiable individual. Within Squirrels Pre-school this relates to employees; attending children and their families; trustees; professional visitors; and some members of the public e.g. job applicants. We need to ensure that the information gained from each individual is kept securely and to the appropriate level of confidentiality.

The personal information collected from individuals could include:

* Their name
* Address
* Email address
* Telephone numbers – including those of emergency contacts
* Date of Birth
* Medical information
* National Insurance number
* DBS numbers
* Observations of children’s progress (learning journeys)

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(Children’s reports, pre-school or from outside professionals)

* Photographs
* Family medical history when necessary

Squirrels Pre-school store personal information to comply with the statutory framework (EYFS 2024); to deliver services to our families e.g. government funding and to employ suitable people for our setting.

**Processing of Personal Information**

All staff and volunteers who process or use any personal information are responsible for ensuring that;

* Any personal information which they hold is kept securely;
* Personal information is not disclosed either orally or in writing or otherwise to any unauthorised third party.

Staff and volunteers should note that unauthorised disclosure will usually be a disciplinary matter and may be considered gross misconduct in some cases.

Personal information should be:

* Kept in a locked filing cabinet; or
* In a locked cupboard; or
* If it is computerised, be password protected;
* Kept on a storage device which is itself kept securely

**Conversations and Meetings**

Information of a personal or confidential nature should not be discussed in a public area, in front of anyone who is not an employee, Director or volunteer of the pre-school. Pre-school employees, Directors, volunteers should be aware of confidentiality at all times when discussions are taking place, either distancing themselves from the conversation if it does not concern them, or, ensuring that their discussion is not overheard by others. All staff should respect the confidential nature of any information inadvertently overheard.

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When meetings are being recorded it is important that only relevant information is written down, notes must be written legibly and coherently. The written notes are then to be stored in a locked cupboard and disposed of (shredded) in a timely manner, following early years alliance retention guidance, once the child/family have left the setting.

**Collecting Information**

Whenever information is collected about people, they should be informed why the information is being collected, who will be able to access it and to what purpose it will be put.

The individual concerned must agree that they understand and give permission for the declared processing to take place, or it must be necessary for the legitimate business of the pre-school.

**Sensitive Information**

Sensitive information is defined by the act, as that relating to ethnicity, political opinions, religious beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health, sex life, criminal proceedings or convictions. The person about whom this data is being kept must give express consent to the processing of such data, except where the data processing is required by law for employment purposes or to protect the vital interests of the person or a third party.

**Disposal of Confidential Material**

Sensitive material should be shredded as soon as it is no longer needed; following retention guidelines and statutory requirements. Particular care should be taken to delete information from the tablets or the computer hard drive if they are to be disposed of.

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**Staff Responsibilities**

All staff are responsible for checking that any information that they provide to Squirrels Pre-School in connection with their employment is accurate and up to date. Staff have the right to access any personal data that is being kept about them, either on the computer or in manual filing systems. Staff should be aware of and follow this policy and seek further guidance where necessary.

**Duty to Disclose Information**

There is a legal duty to disclose certain information, namely, information about; child abuse, which will be disclosed to Social Services, or Drug Trafficking, money laundering or acts of terrorism or treason, which will be disclosed to the Police**.**

**Retention of Data**

Squirrels Pre-school takes care to only store personal information that is absolutely necessary. Personal information is kept for the period of time requested following guidelines from the Pre-School Learning Alliance, these retention periods are either recommended or statutory. Stored information is filed and locked in the Pre-school store room. Once the retention period has lapsed, the information is destroyed.

For retention periods please see the attached guidance.

This policy was agreed by the Board of Directors of squirrels Pre-School Rugby Ltd on:…………23rd September 2024…………………………………………………………………………

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors:…………………………………………..

Signed by the Manager……………………………………………………………………

Date of Policy Review:………………………April 2025………………………………………………………

Signed copy held in setting