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**Greystones Community National School**

**Data Protection and Record-keeping Policy**

**Introduction:**

The purpose of the policy is to identify the Records required to be retained by the school and to ensure confidentiality and manageable procedures in relation to access to such records by parents, staff and other stake holders.

**Rationale:**

* A policy on data protection and record keeping is necessary to ensure that the school has proper procedures in place in relation to accountability and transparency
* It is good practice to record pupil progress so as to identify learning needs
* A policy must be put in place to ensure a school complies with legislation such as;
  + Education Act 1998
  + Education Welfare Act 2000
  + Data Protection Act 2003
  + Freedom of Information Act 1997
  + The National Strategy to improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People 2011 – 2020

**Relationship to School Ethos:**

Greystones Community National School promotes openness and co-operation between staff, parents and pupils as a means towards providing the caring environment through which a child can develop and grow to his full potential.

**Details of arrangements in place to ensure compliance with the**

**eight rules of data protection**

The policy will be implemented so as to ensure that all personal data records held by the school are obtained, processed, used and retained in accordance with the following eight rules of data protection (based on the Data Protection Acts):

1. Obtain and process information fairly
2. Keep it only for one or more specified, explicit and lawful purposes
3. Use and disclose it only in ways compatible with these purposes
4. Keep it safe and secure
5. Keep it accurate, complete and up-to-date
6. Ensure that it is adequate, relevant and not excessive
7. Retain it for no longer than is necessary for the purpose or purposes
8. Give a copy of his/her personal data to that individual on request.

**Aims/Objectives:**

* To ensure the school complies with legislative requirements
* To clarify the types of records maintained and the procedures relating to making them available to the relevant bodies
* To put in place a proper recording and reporting framework on the educational progress of pupils
* To establish clear guidelines on making these records available to parents and past pupils who are over 18
* To stipulate the length of time records and reports will be retained.

**Guidelines:**

The Principal assumes the function of data controller and supervises the application of the Data Protection Act within the school. The data under the control of the Principal comes under the following headings.

1. **Personal Data:**

This data relates to personal details of the students such as name, address, date of birth, gender, family status, parents’ place of employment, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, medical details, dietary information, PPSN, home telephone and mobile contact details. It also includes the names of students’ parents/guardians. This information is included in the School Enrolment Form. These forms are kept in the Secretary’s Office. Information such as name, address, contact numbers and registration numbers on pupils are stored in both hard and soft copy format.

**Student Records:**

Student records outlined below are held by each class teacher and also in the Secretary’s Office.

Such student records contain:

* Personal details of the student
* School report cards
* Attendance Records
* Records of students who have been granted exemption for the study of Irish.
* Teacher-designed tests.  Each class teacher designs his/her own test template
* Individual Education Plans, Individual Pupil Learning Plans and records of meetings with the stakeholders regarding these plans
* Learning Support/Resource Data such as records of permissions/refusals to allow children access to LS/RT services in the school
* Portfolios of student work e.g. Projects/Art and achievements on diagnostic tests.

The following records are stored securely in the Principal’s Office

* Psychological Assessments
* Assessment results carried out by professionals to assist teaching and learning (e.g. results of psychiatric reports; occupational therapy reports; speech and language assessments; etc).
* Standardised Test Results
* Screening Tests such as M.I.S.T., N.R.I.T., PSAK, YARC, Dyslexia Screening Tests etc.
* Diagnostic Tests Reports
* Individual Education Plans, Individual Pupil Learning Plans and records of meetings with the stakeholders regarding these plans.
* Child Protection concerns and HSE referrals
* Minutes of HSE Child Protection Conferences.
* Details of behavioural incidents or accidents.

1. **Administrative Data:**

* Attendance Reports, Roll Book, Registers; Class files; Pupil Profile files; Enrolment applications; baptismal certificate copy (where applicable); birth certificate copy, passport copy if necessary.
* Correspondence between parents and teachers.
* Accident Report Book detailing injury and treatment applied
* Administration of Medicines Indemnity Forms
* Late arrivals record book
* Records of books rented under book-rental scheme and books borrowed from school library
* Pupil behavior records and Records of allegations/ incidents of bullying and alleged bullying;(manually recorded notes), (kept in Principal’s Office)
* Records kept in line with Children First Procedures (Child Protection) (kept in Principal’s Office)

**School Management records*:***

These include:

* Minutes of Management meetings and correspondence which may include references to particular individuals.
* Minutes, reports and correspondence relating to the School Management are kept in the Principal’s office. Child Protection matters reported to the School Manager will not identify a pupil by name except in exceptional circumstances.

**Access to Records:**

The following will have access where relevant and appropriate to the data listed above where pupils are identified by name:

* Parents/Guardians
* Past Pupils over 18
* Health Service Executive staff
* National Educational Psychological Service
* National Education Welfare Board
* Occupational Therapists or Speech Therapists working with pupils
* Designated School Personnel
* Department of Education and Skills (where necessary)
* First and Second level schools (where relevant)
* Greystones Community National School Manager

With the exception of child protection-related data which is governed by “Children’s First Guidelines and Procedures 2011”, data on attendance, (governed by NEWB) and data regarding achievements in literacy and numeracy, (governed by National Strategy for literacy and numeracy), parental authorisation must be provided by parents in the event of data being transferred to outside agencies.  Outside agencies requesting access to records must do so in writing.  Parents/Guardians of current pupils can make such a request in writing. Past pupils and parents of past pupils seeking data must do so in writing.

The Annual School Report format and its communication to parents are outlined clearly in our schools Assessment and Records Policy.  A standardised school report form is used, which is issued by post in June to all parents along with results of standardised testing of pupils from 1st to 6th classes.

1. **Staff Data**

Staff records include name, address, contact details, payroll number, PPSN, qualifications, records of interview procedures, results of interview process, Interview board recommendations to School Management, contracts, pension details, references, curriculum vitae, job applications, attendance records, Teaching Council registration Garda Clearance, Statutory Declaration where necessary, Medical Fitness to Teach. Access is restricted to the Principal and Secretary. Records are destroyed by way of shredding when no longer required.

These records are kept in the Principal’s office. Attendance details are recorded on the OLCS system, are password protected and are accessed by the Secretary, the Principal and the School Manager if necessary.

1. **Students’ Attendance Records:**

Pupils’ attendance will be recorded and stored on the Aladdin software administration system. This system is password protected and is accessed by the Secretary and the Principal. Teachers can access their own class records in any given year. These class records are password protected.

1. **Student Records:**

Student records maintained under the Data Protection Policy will include:

1. ***School Report Booklets***. An annual progress report is issued to each child’s parent/guardian at the end of the school year. A copy of this report is available on request to a parent who resides at a different address. These booklets are securely stored in the Main School Office.
2. ***Psychological Assessments***. Reports issued following psychological assessment are securely stored in the Principal’s Office. Reports issued following other assessments such as Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language, Medical etc are also stored in the Principal’s Office.
3. ***Standardised Test Results***. Standardised Tests in English and Mathematics are administered in May to all classes from First Class to Sixth Class. Class Record Sheets are securely stored by the Class Teacher and Literacy Support Teacher. The Principal will also retain a copy of class record sheets. Standardised Test results are included in the Annual Summer Report to be completed at the end of the school year and stored in the Secretary’s Office. Test Booklets are stored by the Literacy Support Teacher for one school year after which they are shredded.
4. ***Screening Tests***. The MIST (Middle Infant Screening Test) Assessment is administered to all Senior Infant children in February/March of each year. Class record sheets are securely stored by the class teacher and the Principal. MIST Test Results are included in the Annual Summer Report to be completed at the end of the school year and stored in the Main School Office.
5. ***Teacher – designed tests***. Results of teacher designed tests are securely stored by the teacher.
6. ***Diagnostic Test Reports***. Diagnostic tests are administered by the Learning Support Teachers, Resource Teachers. Results from these assessments are securely stored by the relevant teachers and details are also included in records kept by the Principal.
7. ***Special Educational Needs***. Classroom Support Plans, School Support Plans and Individual Education Plans will be completed by relevant teachers for children with Special Educational Needs. Copies will be securely stored by teachers, relevant Support Teachers and a copy included in the Principal’s records.
8. ***Learning Support/Resource Data*** such as records of consent/refusal to allow diagnostic testing or access to Learning Support Teacher/Resource Teacher services in the school. These records are securely stored by the relevant teacher.
9. ***Class Records.*** Class records are updated regularly. Class record sheets are stored securely in class folders in teachers’ classrooms.
10. ***Portfolios*** of student work e.g. Art, Written work are stored securely by the Class Teacher.
11. ***Attendance Records.*** Roll Books are maintained by the Class Teacher. Attendance details are included in school’s computerized data management system (Aladdin). Computerised records are securely stored in a password protected folder.
12. ***Record of child’s breaches of Code of Behaviour.*** Incidents of misbehavior in the playground are recorded in the Yard Book and stored in the Principal’s office. Each Class Teacher keeps a record of classroom incidents. The Principal maintains a record of incidents brought to his attention. Incidents of serious misbehavior as outlined in the Code of Behaviour are recorded and duplicated with a copy retained by the Class Teacher and the Principal.
13. ***Records of serious injuries/accidents.*** The accident Report Book is securely stored in the Principal’s office. The teacher in charge records details of accidents and injuries sustained and action taken. Such records are signed by the Principal.
14. ***Indemnity Form for Administration of Medicine.*** These forms are retained in the Principal’s office.
15. ***Certificates of Exemption from the Study of Irish.*** Copies of certificates are securely stored by the Principal.

**Storage:**

Records are securely stored in the locked secure metal storage shed. Records are stored until pupils reach the age of 21 years. In the case of children with Special Educational Needs, records are stored until they reach the age of 24 years.

All completed school Roll Books, Registers and Leabhar Tinrimh are stored in same location together with Accident Report Books and Incident/Bullying Report Books.

Access to these stored files is restricted to authorised personnel only. For computerised records, systems are password protected.

**Access to Pupil Records:**

A parent may apply for access to their records until the child reaches the age of 18 years. A past pupil may apply for access to their own records from the age of 18 years to 21 years.

A written application will be required, accompanied by a form of identification and Birth Certificate. Records will be provided within 21 days.

**Transfer of Student Records:**

A parental authorisation form must be completed by parents in the event of data being transferred to outside agencies, including other Primary Schools and Secondary Schools. When a pupil transfers to another Primary School the new school will notify the original school and the original school will transfer records of attendance and educational progress to them. A standard School Report Form is used for this purpose.

**Success Criteria:**

* Compliance with Data Protection Act and Statute of Limitations Act
* Easy access to records
* Framework in place for ease of compilation and reporting
* Manageable storage of records

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

The school staff, under the direction of the Principal will implement and monitor this policy. The Principal will ensure that records are maintained and securely stored.

**Review/Ratification/Communication:**

*This policy was ratified by the School Manager on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It will be subject to review as the need arises.*

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Ms. Patricia O’Brien, School Manager

**References:**

1. *Solas (CPSMA) May-June 2001*
2. *Education Act 1998*
3. *Education Welfare Act 2000*
4. *Data Protection Act 2003*
5. *Freedom of Information Act 1997*
6. *Literacy and Numeracy Strategy 2011*