



Mayesbrook Park School

Alternative Provision for young people in Barking and Dagenham

INFORMATION SHARING POLICY

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INFORMATION SHARING POLICY

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Approving Committee:	Governing Body and Staffing Committee	
Date Ratified:		
Reference Number:		
Name/Department of Originator/ Author:	Yvonne Rogers Data Protection Officer	
Name/Title of Responsible/ Committee/Individual:	Cathy Stygal (Headteacher) and Robert Turner (Chair)	
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Version	Date	Control Reason
Version 1	12/09/2018	New Policy
Version 2	01/08/2019	Annual Review Amendments to: S 4 Link amended
Version 3	26/08/2020	Policy review Amendments to: S9 added – Links with other policies
Version 4	15/08/2022	Policy review. Amendments to: GDPR 2016/679 to UK GDPR
Version 5	01/08/2025	Policy Review. Amendments to Sections: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8

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INFORMATION SHARING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Sharing information across professional boundaries enables effective coordination, enhances service delivery, and supports the welfare of children and young people. It is therefore essential that the School adopts a joint, structured approach to ensure that information is shared in a way that is effective, lawful, and secure.

However, information sharing carries risks that must be carefully managed. The School must ensure that any sharing of personal data is conducted fairly, lawfully, and in compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), and the Information Commissioner's Data Sharing Code of Practice. The School is also mindful of emerging requirements under the Data Use and Access Act 2025 (DUAA).

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy sets out the overarching framework for the lawful and secure sharing of personal data between the School and external organisations whether public, private, or voluntary sector as well as internally.

It applies to all personal data about individuals (including pupils, parents/carers, staff, and governors) that may be shared for educational, safeguarding, operational, or legal purposes.

The policy applies to all individuals working for or on behalf of the School, including employees, contractors, agency staff, consultants, volunteers, and governors when acting in their official capacity.

3. WHAT IS INFORMATION SHARING?

Information sharing refers to the disclosure or exchange of personal data between the School and external organisations, or the sharing of information internally.

Information sharing can take the form of:

- A reciprocal exchange of information
- The School providing data to one or more external parties;
- Several organisations pooling and accessing data collectively;
- Departments within the School sharing data with one another;
- Exceptional, one-off disclosures of information in unexpected or in emergency situations

AI providers are treated as data processors when personal data is processed on the School's behalf. The School will ensure that contracts with AI service providers include appropriate data protection terms in accordance with Article 28 UK GDPR, and that the provider does not use the data for training or profiling without explicit agreement.

4. DECIDING TO SHARE PERSONAL DATA

Personal data sharing must not be shared unless there is a clear, lawful and justifiable basis for doing so. This means that:-

- The objective of sharing must be specific and proportionate
- A legal basis must be identified under the UK GDPR
- Individuals should be informed, unless an exemption applies
- An Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) should be in place unless sharing is a one-off or an emergency.
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The sharing of personal data must always be compliant with the UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act 2018 and in line with the Information Commissioner [Data Sharing Code of Practice](#)

Personal data may be shared without an individual's knowledge where permitted by law, such as:-

- The prevention or detection of crime
- The apprehension or prosecution of offenders; or
- The assessment or collection of tax or duty

5. BENEFITS OF INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT

Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) provide a clear structure and shared understanding for how personal data will be shared between parties. The benefits include:

- **Promoting effective information sharing:** ISAs remove common barriers by setting agreed standards and procedures.
- **Supporting compliance and public trust:** Signatories confirm they will comply with relevant legislation and safeguards, enhancing accountability and transparency.
- **Reducing duplication:** Standardised guidance and templates avoid repeated drafting of similar agreements.
- **Clarifying roles and responsibilities:** ISAs set out exactly what data will be shared, the legal basis, how it will be protected, and the process for doing so.
- **Minimising risk:** Following agreed processes reduces the likelihood of unlawful, inappropriate, or insecure data sharing.

- **Providing evidence of decision-making:** ISAs formalise the justification and legal grounds for sharing data, reducing the School's risk of regulatory action.

6. DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (DPIA)

A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) must be considered before entering into any new information sharing arrangement, particularly where the sharing is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

DPIAs support the School identify and mitigating data privacy risks before data sharing begins. The School's Data Protection Officer (DPO) must be consulted in advance of any planned data sharing, especially where the sharing is regular, large-scale or involves sensitive data.

DPIAs should accompany any proposed Information Sharing Agreement or other significant data sharing initiative.

7. PROCESS

The School DPO should be consulted before any new, regular or high-risk data sharing takes place.

Where an Information Sharing Agreement (ISA) is required, it must:

- Clearly set out the lawful basis for sharing
- Be agreed by all parties involved
- Be reviewed regularly
- Be approved and recorded by the School's DPO

All information sharing agreements must be stored centrally and made available for audit or inspection. A summary may be provided to the public on request.

8. POLICY REVIEW

The Data Protection Officer is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy. In addition, changes to legislation, national guidance, codes of practice or commissioner advice may trigger interim reviews.

9. LINKS WITH OTHER POLICIES

This Information Sharing policy is linked to the School:

- Data Protection Policy
- Freedom of information Policy
- Security Incident and Data Breach Policy
- CCTV Policy
- Data Protection Impact Assessment Policy
- Information Security Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- UK GDPR Privacy Notices

The Information Commissioner also provides a free helpdesk that can be used by anyone and a website containing a large range of resources and guidance on all aspects of Information Law for use by organisations and the public. See www.ico.org.uk

Appendix 1

RESTRICTED

NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO UNAUTHORISED PERSONNEL

REQUEST FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Data Protection implications must be considered before information is disclosed or transferred and all requests for information must be documented.

TO:	For the attention of:
FROM:	(organisation requesting information)
<u>Details of Information Required</u>	
Name of person(s):	Date of Birth:
Any previous/alias names:	
Current address:	
Postcode:	
Consent from the individual concerned has been obtained: ☐ Yes ☐ No	
The information required and why:	
The legal gateways that you are requesting this information that apply:-	
I confirm that the personal or sensitive personal information is required for the following purpose and will NOT be disseminated to any other third party	
Failure to provide the information will result in:	
Person requesting information: (This is the named individual requesting the information who has the responsibility for using the information received in accordance with the Information Sharing Agreement)	
Print Name:	Role/Position:

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix 2

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT

To enable the exchange of information between attendees at this meeting to be carried out in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the common law duty of confidentiality, all attendees are asked to agree to the following. This agreement will be recorded in the minutes.

1. Information can be exchanged within this meeting for the purpose of identifying any action that can be taken by any of the agencies or departments attending this meeting to resolve the problem under discussion.
2. A disclosure of information outside the meeting, beyond that agreed at the meeting will be considered a breach of the subjects' confidentiality and a breach of the confidentiality of the agencies involved.
3. All documents exchanged should be marked 'Restricted – not to be disclosed without consent'. All minutes, documents and notes of disclosed information should be kept in a secure location to prevent unauthorised access.
4. If further action is identified, the agency(ies) who will proceed with this action(s) should then make formal requests to any other agencies holding such personal information as may be required to progress this action quoting their legal basis for requesting such information. Information exchanged during the course of this meeting must not be used for such action.
5. If the consent to disclose is felt to be urgent, permission should be sought from the Chair of the meeting and a decision will be made on the lawfulness of the disclosure such as the prevention or detection of crime, apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or where it is required to prevent injury or damage to the health of any person.

This confidentiality agreement is in relation to the _____ meeting(s)

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Representing (School/Organisation): _____

MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET

MEETING: _____

DATE: _____

The persons listed below agree that any information received during the course of this meeting will remain confidential at all times. Persons named below are prohibited from disclosing/using any information received/obtained without the authority of the appropriate Data Controller. Any processing of data without the appropriate authority is an offence under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

ORGANISATION	NAME	ROLE	SIGNATURE