



# Data Protection Policy

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## Aims

The Root Of It needs to keep certain information on children and young people, and their families, to carry out its day to day operations, to meet its objectives and to comply with legal obligations.

The organisation is committed to ensuring any personal data will be dealt with in line with the Data Protection Act 1998. To comply with the law, personal information will be collected and used fairly, stored safely and not disclosed to any other person unlawfully.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone handling personal data is fully aware of the requirements and acts in accordance with data protection procedures. This document also highlights key data protection procedures within the organisation.

This policy covers staff, sub-contractors and volunteers.

## Definitions

In line with the Data Protection Act 1998 principles, The Root Of It will ensure that personal data will:

- Be obtained fairly and lawfully and shall not be processed unless certain conditions are met
- Be obtained for a specific and lawful purpose
- Be adequate, relevant but not excessive
- Be accurate and kept up to date
- Not be held longer than necessary
- Be processed in accordance with the rights of data subjects
- Be subject to appropriate security measures
- Not to be transferred outside the European Economic Area (EEA)

The definition of 'Processing' is obtaining, using, holding, amending, disclosing, destroying and deleting personal data. This includes some paper based personal data as well as that kept on computer.

The Personal Data Guardianship Code suggests five key principles of good data governance on which best practice is based. The organisation will seek to abide by this code in relation to all the personal data it processes, i.e.

- **Accountability:** those handling personal data follow publicised data principles to help gain public trust and safeguard personal data.
- **Visibility:** Data subjects should have access to the information about themselves that an organisation holds. This includes the right to have incorrect personal data corrected and to know who has had access to this data.
- **Consent:** The collection and use of personal data must be fair and lawful and in accordance with the DPA's eight data protection principles. Personal data should only be used for the purposes

agreed by the data subject. If personal data is to be shared with a third party or used for another purpose, the data subject's consent should be explicitly obtained.

- **Access:** Everyone should have the right to know the roles and groups of people within an organisation who have access to their personal data and who has used this data.
- **Stewardship:** Those collecting personal data have a duty of care to protect this data throughout the data life span.

## Notification

The needs we have for processing personal data are recorded on the public register maintained by the Information Commissioner. We notify and renew our notification on an annual basis as the law requires.

If there are any interim changes, these will be notified to the Information Commissioner within 28 days.

The name of the Data Controller within our organisation as specified in our notification to the Information Commissioner is Richard Curtis.

## Responsibilities

All staff who process personal information must ensure they not only understand but also act in line with this policy and the data protection principles.

Breach of this policy or unauthorised disclosure may result in disciplinary or legal action being taken.

## Implementation

To meet our responsibilities all staff will:

- Ensure any personal data is collected in a fair and lawful way;
- Explain why it is needed at the start;
- Ensure that only the minimum amount of information needed is collected and used;
- Ensure the information used is up to date and accurate;
- Review the length of time information is held;
- Ensure it is kept safely;
- Ensure the rights people have in relation to their personal data can be exercised

We will ensure that:

- Everyone managing and handling personal information will be given this policy and trained to handle the data.
- Anyone wanting to make enquiries about handling personal information, whether a member of staff, volunteer or service user, knows what to do;
- Any disclosure of personal data will be in line with our procedures.

Queries about handling personal information will be dealt with swiftly and politely.

## Gathering and checking information

Before personal information is collected, we will consider if it needs to be collected and for what purpose. We will inform schools and families whose information is gathered. We will ensure that these records are

kept up to date. Personal sensitive information will not be used apart from the exact purpose for which permission was given.

## Subject Access Requests

Anyone whose personal information we process has the right to know:

- What information we hold and process on them
- How to gain access to this information
- How to keep it up to date
- What we are doing to comply with the Act.

They also have the right to prevent processing of their personal data in some circumstances and the right to correct, rectify, block or erase information regarded as wrong.

Individuals have a right under the Act to access certain personal data being kept about them on computer and certain files. Any person wishing to exercise this right should apply in writing to Richard Curtis, The Root Of It, 3 Merridale Road, Southampton, SO19 7AB.

We may make a charge of £15 on each occasion access is requested.

Queries about handling personal information will be dealt with swiftly and politely.

We will aim to comply with requests for access to personal information as soon as possible, but will ensure it is provided within the 40 days required by the Act from receiving the written request and relevant fee.

## Review

This policy will be reviewed biannually.

## Declaration (for signature by The Root of It employees, sub-contractors and volunteers).

I confirm I have read and understood The Root Of It's Data Protection Policy and will act in accordance with it.

Signature:

Print name:

Date:

Please return this form to [info@rootofit.com](mailto:info@rootofit.com)