



Confidentiality Policy

Date: May 2024

Review date: May 2025

Approved by the Advisory Board: May 2024

Linked with other policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Safeguarding Policy incorporating Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Relationship and Sex Education Policy
- Drugs Policy
- Safe Administration of Medicines Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Complaint Policy

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Day".

Version Control

Version	Date of review/change(s)	Page and paragraphs affected	Summary of update
1	May 2022		New policy
	Dec 2022	P9 appendix 2	Signature page added (to be signed by staff member and retained on staff file)
2	May 2023	P5 paragraph 7	[School] "nurse" changed to "nursing team"
		P7 paragraph 13	Removed (re. policy review – this is stated on the cover page)
3	May 2024	P4	Gemma Montgomery added as DSL
		P4 point 3.4	Information Governance replaced with Data Protection
		P5 point 7.2	'The school nursing team' replaced with 'Health Professionals'
		P7 10.3	Added re. Confidentiality Agreements for visitors and professionals, with corresponding appendices 3 and 4

Purpose and Aims

All Saints School understands that the safety, wellbeing and protection of students is of paramount importance. With this in mind, all students must be able to expect certain levels of trust when sharing personal information with school staff.

Students need to know that they can seek help from the school in a safe and confidential manner.

This policy guides school staff, volunteers, parents and carers and visitors on the policy and procedures surrounding confidentiality.

Staff members adopt a supportive and accepting attitude towards students as part of their general responsibility for pastoral care. It is our hope that students and parents/carers feel free to discuss any concerns and worries they have, that may affect educational progress with members of the school team.

The Student Confidentiality Policy aims to:

- Promote a supportive and accepting ethos within the school.
- Safeguard the wellbeing of students.
- Build trust between students and staff.
- Empower students to exercise control over their situation and voice their concerns.
- Prevent the school dealing with each disclosure in isolation.
- Ensure that everyone in the school community knows that total confidentiality can never be guaranteed.
- Ensure that everyone in the school community knows the limits of confidentiality that can be offered within school so that they can make informed decisions about the most appropriate course of action. This may be linked to health, sex and relationship advice, safeguarding or any other personal issue that they wish to discuss.

1. Legal framework

1. This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Education Act 2011
- The General Data Protection Regulation
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000

1.2. This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the following school policies and practices:

- Data Protection Policy
- Safeguarding Policy incorporating Child Protection
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- SRE Policy
- Drugs Policy
- Safe Administration of Medicines Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Complaints Policy

2. Definitions

- 2.1. For the purpose of this policy, 'confidentiality' is an understanding that any information shared with someone in trust will only be passed on to a third party with the prior agreement of the person disclosing it.
- 2.2. For the purpose of this policy, 'disclosure' is the sharing of any private information, but which is not solely in relation to child protection issues.
- 2.3. Disclosure of the contents of a conversation may be discussed with professional colleagues, but the confider is not identified except in pre-determined circumstances.
- 2.4. The Designated Safeguarding Leads are the designated staff members responsible for ensuring the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is implemented by the entire school community, which ensures the wellbeing and protection of students.
- 2.5. At All Saints School, Ms Samantha Dangerfield, Miss Karla King, Ms Jo Paffett, Mrs Karen Berryman and Mrs Gemma Montgomery are the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs).

3. Policy application

- 3.1. This policy deals with personal information that may be divulged during the course of a school day. It is not meant to deal with certain extreme situations where there is an urgent need for the disclosure of information to relevant bodies.
- 3.2. In extreme situations, such as medical emergencies, staff members will pass on information as necessary for the wellbeing of the student.
- 3.3. All information about an individual student is private and will only be shared with staff members who have a legitimate need to know.
- 3.4. All data is processed and held in line with the school's Data Protection Policy.
- 3.5. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for referring the student's confidential information to any multi-agency support services.
- 3.6. Staff members may not pass on confidential information unless they believe a child protection referral to the police or social services is necessary and the Designated Safeguarding Lead does not agree.

4. Limits of confidentiality

- 4.1. In practice, there are few situations where absolute confidentiality can be offered. The school aims to strike a balance between confidentiality and trust, and ensuring the safety, wellbeing and protection of its students.
- 4.2. In almost all cases of disclosure, limited confidentiality is on offer.
- 4.3. The professional judgement of a teacher, counsellor or health professional is vital when considering whether to inform a student that a disclosure may be made in confidence, and whether such confidence could remain having heard the information.

5. Classroom confidentiality

- 5.1. It is made clear to students that the classroom is not a place to disclose confidential, personal information.
- 5.2. Students are made aware that a staff member is always available to talk to them in private when needed.
- 5.3. If a visitor to the classroom is contributing to the lesson, they will work within the same boundaries of confidentiality as the teacher.

6. One-to-one disclosures

- 6.1. Staff members will make it clear to students that they may have to pass on some information if they believe the student is at risk and that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Staff members must also make it clear at the beginning of any conversation such as this that there are limits to the degree of confidentiality they can offer and total confidentiality can never be offered or guaranteed.
- 6.2. When concerns for a student come to the attention of staff, e.g. through observation of behaviour, injuries or disclosure (however insignificant these might appear), the member of staff always discusses the issue with the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
- 6.3. In accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, more serious concerns, such as those involving potential abuse, are immediately reported to ensure that any intervention necessary to protect the student is accessed as early as possible. Such incidents should also be logged on CPOMS, as early as possible.
- 6.4. The student will be informed when and why confidence has to be broken, who will be told and what the possible next steps will be.

7. Disclosures to health professionals

- 7.1. Health professionals may give confidential advice and information to students, provided the information is in regards to the student's wellbeing, and they are competent to do so and follow the correct procedures.
- 7.2. Health Professionals skilled in discussing issues and possible actions with young people. On a need-to-know basis, they may share information with appropriate staff to enable improved support for students.
- 7.3. The school will always endeavour to encourage the student to discuss any issues with their parents if they feel it is in the best interests of the student to do so.

8. Breaking confidentiality

- 8.1. When confidentiality must be broken because a student may be at risk of harm, in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy incorporating Child Protection policy, the school will ensure the following:
- Students are told when the information has been passed on
 - Students are kept informed about what will be done with the information
 - To alleviate their fears about everyone knowing, students are told exactly who their information has been passed on to
 - It will always be stressed to the student that the school will always have the best interests of the student at the heart of any decision making.
- 8.2. The Headteacher is to be informed of any child protection concerns.
- 8.3. Staff members are contractually obliged to immediately inform the DSLs or the Headteacher.
- 8.4. Staff members are not obliged to inform the police on most matters relating to illegal activity, such as illegal drugs or assaults; instead, these are assessed on a case-by-case basis with the support of the senior leadership team.
- 8.5. Staff members are not permitted to pass on personal information about students indiscriminately.

9. Guidance for teaching staff

- 9.1. The safety and protection of the student is the paramount consideration in all confidentiality decisions.
- 9.2. Staff members are not obliged to break confidentiality unless there is a child protection concern or they believe that a child is at risk of harm.
- 9.3. Staff members are encouraged to share their concerns about students in a professional and supportive way.
- 9.4. In extreme cases, staff in breach of this policy may face disciplinary action, if it is deemed that confidential information was passed on to a third party without reasonable cause.
- 9.5. The following principles are adhered to when supporting students:
- Personal matters are discussed at an appropriate time and place
 - Students with concerns are spoken to in confidence as soon as possible
 - Where there are child protection concerns, the student is always spoken to in confidence before the end of the school day
 - Students are told, prior to disclosures, that a staff member cannot guarantee confidentiality if they think a student is being hurt by others, hurt themselves, or hurt someone else
 - Students are not interrogated or asked leading questions
 - Students are not placed in the position of having to repeat the disclosure to several people
 - Students will be informed before any information is shared
 - The school will keep a written record of any conversations on CPOMS.
 - Where appropriate, students are told to confide in their parents/carers

- 9.6. Staff members may find themselves dealing with highly personal issues and potentially upsetting disclosures. With this mind, staff members are encouraged to seek help from a Designated Safeguarding Lead if they are unsure about how to respond to a situation.
- 9.7. The school has access to several external agencies that specialise in providing advice and support. Students will be made aware of specialist services that are available to them.

10. External visitors

- 10.1. All external visitors are made aware of the Confidentiality Policy and work within its limits when interacting with students.
- 10.2. Healthcare professionals work within their codes of confidentiality when delivering their services within the school.
- 10.3 All visitors to the school, whether on 'one-off' visits or as a regular visiting professional, are required to read and sign a Confidentiality Agreement (see appendices 3 and 4) as appropriate.

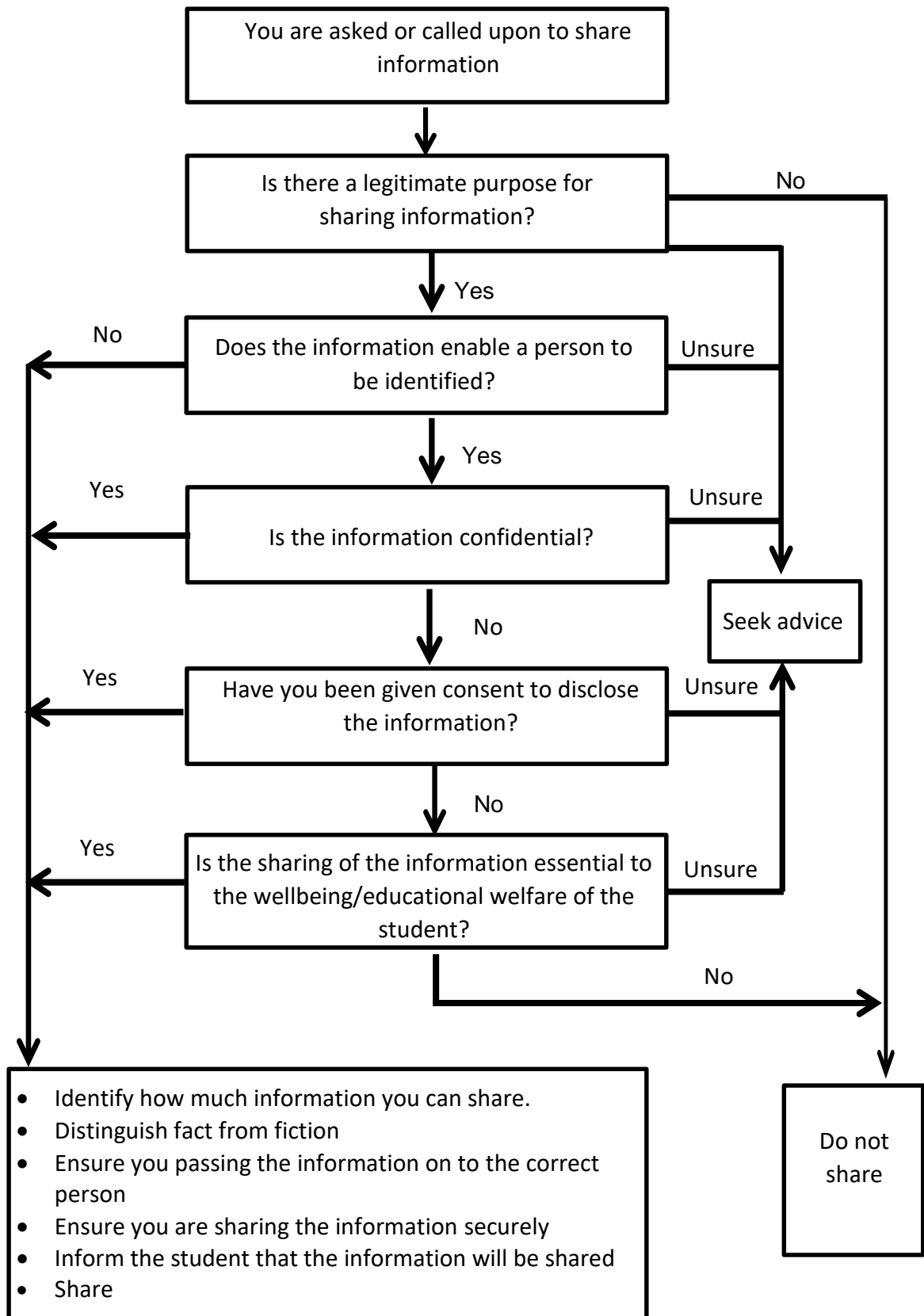
11. Informing parents/carers

- 11.1. The school works with parents/carers to create a partnership of trust. It endeavours to inform parents/carers of their child's progress and behaviour.
- 11.2. When a student discusses a personal matter with a staff member, they are encouraged to share the information with their parents/carers, unless there is an identifiable child protection risk associated.
- 11.3. Where a staff member believes a child protection risk is posed in regards to the family of the student, following a disclosure, the staff member will immediately contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

12. Dissemination

- 12.1. All parents/carers are made aware of the school's Student Confidentiality Policy and are informed that a copy can be viewed at the school office and on the school website.
- 12.2. Parents/carers are made aware that the school cannot offer complete confidentiality if they deem a student is at risk from harm.

Appendix 1- Staff Information Sharing Flowchart



Appendix two – Signature page



I

have read, understood and agree to adhere to the All Saints School

Confidentiality Policy

signed.....

date:.....



Confidentiality Agreement

This Confidentiality Agreement (“Agreement”) shall be completed by all visitors to All Saints School.

We warmly welcome visitors to All Saints School and ask that you respect the privacy and security of our students and staff.

All visitors to school are expected to abide by UK GDPR, Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and our relevant school policies (available on our website). Special consideration should be given to the following:

- Data Protection Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Privacy Notice for Visitors
- Safeguarding including Child Protection

Agreement Statements – please tick your agreement and sign below:

- Any observations, incidents, or conversations taking place during my time in school will be kept confidential.
- I understand that it is everyone’s responsibility to support the safeguarding of students and staff. If I have any Child Protection or Safeguarding concerns, or if I am asked to do something, or see something I consider not best practice, I will report this to the Headteacher or one of the school’s Designated Safeguarding Leads.
- I will not take photographs or videos whilst on site or share any information about the school or members of its community, including verbally, electronically, or via social media that I gain as a result of my visit in any way, or on any platform.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Organisation (if applicable) _____ Date / Time: _____

Registered address: All Saints School (Lessingham) Limited. Company no: 10323174
Rookery Farm, Reynolds Lane, Potter Heigham, Great Yarmouth NR29 5LY



Confidentiality Agreement

This Confidentiality Agreement (“Agreement”) shall be completed by all visitors, volunteers or contractors working for or on behalf of All Saints School.

As a visiting professional / contractor to **All Saints School** you may be given access to school devices or networks in order to aid the provision of your services or your support to pupils and staff of the school. You are required to sign this document prior to accessing the school systems.

All visitors to school are expected to abide by relevant school policies. Special consideration should be given to the following:

- Data Protection Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Privacy Notice for Visitors

Agreement Statements – please tick your agreement before signing the form:

- Any observations, incidents, or conversations taking place during my time in school will be kept confidential.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to support the safeguarding of students and other staff. If I have any Child Protection or Safeguarding concerns, or if I am asked to do something, or see something I consider not best practice, I will report this to the Headteacher or one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.
- I will not take photographs or videos whilst on site, unless the intent has been communicated to senior leaders and the purpose has been deemed appropriate and prior permission has been granted. (e.g. to take photos of equipment or buildings)**
- I will not share any information about the school or members of its community, including verbally, electronically, or via social media that I gain as a result of my visit in any way, or on any platform.**
- I understand the importance of upholding my online reputation, my professional reputation, and that of the school, and I will do nothing to impair either. I will conduct myself in a professional manner, including professional dress and using appropriate language at all times.

- I will never attempt to arrange any meeting, including tutoring session, without the full prior knowledge and approval of the school. I will not contact or attempt to contact any pupil in any way other than school-approved and school-monitored ways.
- I will not store school-related data on personal devices, storage, or cloud platforms.
- I will not access, attempt to access, store, or share any data which I do not have express permission for.
- I understand that school systems and users are protected by security, monitoring, and filtering services, and that my use of school devices and systems can be monitored/captured/viewed by the relevant authorised staff members.
- When using school-owned devices, networks, cloud platforms or other technology, I will use them exclusively for the purposes to which they have been assigned to me, and not for any personal use. I will not attempt to bypass security or monitoring, and will look after devices I have been given authorised use of.
- When using my own devices on school premises or accessing school systems / platforms, I will ensure I take appropriate steps to safeguard and secure my device.
- USB sticks / pen drives are not authorised for use of school devices (eg. PC, laptop)
- I will report any suspected security incidents, notifications, or security alerts from antivirus systems, firewalls, or malware protection, promptly, to **Mr Mark Pinsent, IT Manager**
- I understand that breach of this agreement may lead to appropriate immediate termination of any contracts and, when necessary, referral to other relevant authorities.**
I have read, understood, and agree to the conditions of the acceptable use agreement for IT and the Internet of [insert school name].

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Organisation: _____ Date / Time: _____

I approve this user to be allocated credentials for school systems for the purpose of:

Signature: _____ Name: _____

Role: _____ Date: _____

Registered address: All Saints School (Lessingham) Limited. Company no: 10323174
Rookery Farm, Reynolds Lane, Potter Heigham, Great Yarmouth NR29 5LY