



*“Striving for Excellence
Opportunity and Success for All”*

Confidentiality Policy & Confidentiality Agreements

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Aim

To ensure that confidentiality and Data Protection Compliance are a natural part of good practice. To provide all staff, governors and others in school clear, unambiguous guidance as to their legal and professional roles. To make certain that the procedures throughout the school can be easily understood by pupils, parents/carers and staff.

Rationale

Schools hold a lot of confidential information about children, staff and sometimes parents and carers. Whilst it is important that we continue to develop positive ways to use that information, we all recognise that it is our responsibility to use, hold and safeguard information received.

The school is mindful that it is placed in a position of trust by all stakeholders and there is a general expectation that a professional approach will be used in all matters of confidentiality. Our obligation to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018, the GDPR and other legislation and statutory guidance underpins our management of data.

Objectives:

- To provide consistent messages in school about handling information about children and adults once it has been received.
- To foster an ethos of trust within the school.
- To ensure that staff, governors, volunteers, students and parents are aware of the school's Confidentiality Policy and procedures.
- To reassure students that their best interests will be maintained.
- To encourage students to talk to their parents and carers.
- To ensure that students and parents/carers know that school staff cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- To ensure that if there are child protection issues then the correct procedure is followed.
- To ensure that confidentiality is a whole school issue and that everyone understands their personal responsibilities.

Guidelines

- All information about individuals is private and should only be shared with those staff that have a need to know.
- All social services, medical and personal information about a student should be held in a safe and secure place which cannot be accessed by individuals other than necessary school staff.
- The school continues to actively promote a positive ethos and respect for the Individual.
- The Safeguarding Policy will be applied and monitored by appropriate school personnel.
- All students and adults have a right to the same level of confidentiality irrespective of gender, race, religion, medical concerns, and special educational needs.

Day to Day Practice

Confidentiality is a whole school issue. Even when sensitive information appears to be widely known it should not be assumed by those immediately involved that it is appropriate to discuss or share this information further.

Health professionals have their own code of practice dealing with confidentiality. Staff should be aware of children with medical needs and any relevant information should be accessible to staff who need it, but not on general view to others.

Information about students will be shared with parents and carers but only about their child. **Parents should not have access to any other students' books, marks and progress grades at any time, especially at parents evening.**

All personal information about students including social services records should be regarded as confidential. It should be clearly understood by those who have access to it, and whether those concerned have access to all or only some of the information.

Information regarding health reports such as speech therapy, medical reports, SEN reports, SEN minutes of meetings and social services minutes of meetings and reports will be circulated in envelopes/files and once read should be returned for secure filing.

In all other notes, briefing sheets etc. a student should not be able to be identified. Addresses and telephone numbers of parents and students will not be passed on except in exceptional circumstances, or to a receiving school.

Staff should exercise prudence and consider the dignity of individuals during conversations on the school site, for example in the staff room, particularly if non-members of staff are present and in the presence of students.

Non-members of staff, for example, students and voluntary helpers, will be asked to follow the principles of the confidentiality policy and sign a confidentiality agreement.

Governors/Trustees

Governors/Trustees need to be mindful that from time to time issues are discussed or brought to their attention about staff and students. All such papers should be marked as confidential and should be copied onto different coloured paper.

These confidential papers should be destroyed after use.

Governors/Trustees must observe complete confidentiality when asked to do so by the governing body, especially in relation to matters concerning individual staff, students or parents.

Governors/Trustees will sign a confidentiality agreement annually.

Although decisions reached during governors' meetings are normally made public through the minutes or otherwise, the discussions on which decisions are based should be regarded as confidential.

Governors/Trustees should exercise the highest degree of prudence when discussion of potentially contentious issues arises outside the governing body.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed as part of the schools monitoring cycle.

Conclusion

Redmoor Academy has a duty of care and responsibility towards students, parents/carers and staff. It also needs to work with a range of outside agencies and share information on a professional basis. The care and safety of the individual is the key issue behind this document.



GDPR Statement

Redmoor Academy are obliged to comply with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and Data Protection requirements.

During your visit(s) at Redmoor Academy, you may be given access to personal and in some cases sensitive information regarding individuals, to allow you to fulfil your role.

It is essential that you comply with GDPR legislation and that any physical information shared with you is kept secure and returned to Redmoor Academy upon completion of your task. Any verbal information shared with you is also governed by GDPR legislation and therefore should only be used for its appropriate purpose.



**Redmoor Academy
Governor Confidentiality Agreement**

First of all, thank you for volunteering to be a Governor of this school.

Your help and support in this role is greatly appreciated. In this role, you are supporting the life of this school. This role carries certain responsibilities on your part including the requirement to be confidential about school matters. By signing this agreement, you agree to uphold Redmoor Academy's Confidentiality Policy.

This means you will not share student/staff information with anyone other than those who are directly involved.

Examples of confidential information are (but not limited to):

- Information about staff and students.
- Information about actions of the Governing Body that are not published in Governing Body minutes.
- Information accessed by 'privilege' e.g. notices on staff noticeboard.
- Information about future school plans/actions that have not been disclosed to parents.

I understand that I may have access to confidential information and that it is my responsibility to maintain the integrity of this information and to keep it private. I further understand that disclosure of confidential information may result in termination of my membership of the Governing Body.

If I breach confidentiality I understand that I may be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 and could face external sanctions.

Name of Governor	
Signature of Governor	
Date	
School Representative	
Signature of School Representative	
Date	



**Redmoor Academy
Volunteer Confidentiality Agreement**

First of all, thank you for volunteering to support Redmoor Academy. Your help and support in this role is greatly appreciated. In this role, you are supporting the life of this school. This role carries certain responsibilities on your part including the requirement to be confidential about school matters.

By signing this agreement, you agree to uphold Redmoor Academy's Confidentiality Policy.

This means you will not share student/staff information with anyone that breaches confidentiality.

Examples of confidential information are (but are not limited to):

- Information about staff, students, and events that occur in school.

For example, a parent who knows you are a volunteer at the school may ask you how their child is getting on (e.g. academically/behaviour concerns). To prevent any misunderstanding, it would be better to advise the parent to speak to the class teacher.

- Information accessed by 'privilege' e.g. notices on staff noticeboards/conversations.
- If you see something in school that concerns you, please discuss the matter with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)

I understand that I may have access to confidential information and that it is my responsibility to maintain the integrity of this information and to keep it private. I further understand that disclosure of confidential information may result in me no longer being required to be a volunteer.

If I breach confidentiality I understand that I may be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 and could face external sanctions.

Name of Helper	
Signature of Helper	
Date	
School Representative	
Signature of School Representative	
Date	



**Redmoor Academy
Student/Work Experience Confidentiality Agreement**

Please read Redmoor Academy's Confidentiality Policy.

This work placement/experience carries certain responsibilities on your part including the requirement to be confidential about school matters.

By signing this agreement, you agree to uphold Redmoor Academy's Confidentiality Policy. This means you will not share student/staff information with anyone that breaches confidentiality.

Examples of confidential information are (but are not limited to):

- Information about staff, students, and events that occur in school.
- Information accessed by 'privilege' e.g. notices on staff noticeboards/conversations.
- If you see something in school that concerns you, please discuss the matter with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
- You must never use information about individual children outside the school without parental permission (photographs/names).

I understand that I may have access to confidential information and that it is my responsibility to maintain the integrity of this information and to keep it private. I further understand that disclosure of confidential information may result in me no longer being able to complete my placement as a student and that this breach may be reported to those who arranged the placement or my course leader.

If I breach confidentiality, I understand that I may be in breach of the Data Protection Act 2018 and could face external sanctions.

Name of Student	
Signature of Governor	
Date	
School Representative	
Signature of School Representative	
Date	