

Scoil Tír Eiltín

Uimhir Rolla 13286S

Established 1887

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Data Protection/Record Retention Policy

Introduction

This policy was recently formulated by Staff and Board of Management of Tirelton National School following an In-service training day with Teresa Piggot of the SDPS in Spring 2008. 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 and 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, Section 9g requiring a school to provide access to records to students over 18/parents
 - Education Welfare Act - requiring a school to report school attendance and transfer of pupils

Relationship to School Ethos

Tirelton 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 full potential.

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 pupils 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.

Personal Data

This data relates to personal details of the students such as name, address, date of birth, gender, ethnic origin, nationality, religious belief, medical details, dietary information, PPSN. It does not include parents and guardians details. These are kept in the Administration Office.

Student Records

Student records are held in the administration office. Student records may contain:

- Personal details of the student
- School report cards
- Psychological Assessments (if any)
- Standardised Test Results
- Attendance Records
- Screening Test such as MIST. and NRIT
- Data Protection
- Teacher - designed tests. Each class teacher designs his/her own test template
- Diagnostic Tests Reports
- Individual Education Plans
- Learning Support/Resource Data such as records of refusals to allow children access to LS/RT services in the school
- Portfolios of student work e.g. Art

Administrative Data

- Attendance Reports, Roll Book, Registers
- Accident Report Book
- Administration of Medicines Indemnity Form

Access to Records

The following will have access where relevant and appropriate to the data listed above;

- Parents/Guardians
- Past Pupils over 18
- Health Service Executive
- Designated School Personnel
- Department of Education and Science
- First and Second level schools **but only with written permission from the parents/guardians**

A parental authorisation form must be completed by parents in the event of data being transferred to outside agencies such as health professionals etc. Outside agencies requesting access to records must do so in writing giving seven days notice. Parents/Guardians can make such a request either by phone or in writing.

A standardised school report form is used which is issued by post in the last week in June/first two weeks in July

Storage

Records are kept for a minimum of 7 years. Standardised tests booklets may be shredded after one year but the raw score, STENs and percentiles are kept on record until past pupils reach adulthood.

As children pass to second level their personal records are stored for a period of time (7 yrs minimum). All completed school roll books are stored in a similar location. Access to these stored files is restricted to authorised personnel only. For computerised records, systems are password protected.

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. Individual teachers will design, administer and record all in-class testing. The Principal will ensure records are maintained and stored, particularly the records of students transferring to another school.

Implementation Data

This new policy is effective from January 2009 All records held from before that date will continue to be maintained in the school.

Review/Ratification/Communication

This policy was reviewed, updated and communicated in January 2009. It will be reviewed at the end of the school year 2009/2010 and amended if necessary.

References:

Solas (CPSMA) May-June 2001
Education Act 1998
Education Welfare Act 2000
Data Protection Act 2003
Freedom of Information Act