



## Title

### Data Protection Policy of Naiscoil Íde (“the Policy”)

#### Introductory Statement

Naiscoil Íde’s (“**the School**”) Data Protection Policy applies to the personal data held by the School, which is protected by the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

**The Policy** applies to all school staff (“**the Staff**”), the schools’ board of management (“**the Board**”), parents/guardians, the school’s students (“**the Students**”) and others (including prospective or potential students and their parents/guardians and applicants for staff positions within the school) insofar as the measures under the policy relate to them. Data will be stored securely, so that confidential information is protected in compliance with relevant legislation. This policy sets out the manner in which personal data and sensitive personal data will be protected by the school.

The School operates a “Privacy by Design” method in relation to Data Protection. This means we plan carefully when gathering personal data so that we build in the data protection principles as integral elements of all data operations in advance. We audit the personal data we hold in order to

1. Be able to provide access to individuals to their data
2. Ensure it is securely held
3. Document our data protection procedures
4. Enhance accountability and transparency

#### Data Protection Principles

The School BOM is a *data controller of personal data* relating to its past, present and future staff, students, parents/guardians and other members of the school community. As such, the School is obliged to comply with the principles of data protection set out in the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018 and GDPR, which can be summarised as follows:

- **Obtain and process *Personal Data* fairly:** Information on Students is gathered with the help of parents/guardians and Staff. Information is also transferred from their previous schools. In relation to information the school holds on other individuals (members of staff, individuals applying for positions within the School, parents/guardians of students etc.), the information is generally furnished by the individuals themselves with full and informed consent and compiled during the course of their employment or contact with the School. All such data is treated in accordance with the Data Protection Acts and the terms of this Data Protection Policy. The information will be obtained and processed fairly.
- **Consent:** where consent is the basis for the provision of personal data, (e.g. data required to join sports team/ after-school activity or any other optional school activity) the consent must be freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of the data subject’s wishes. The School will require a clear, affirmative action e.g. ticking of a box / signing a document to indicate consent. Consent can be withdrawn by data subjects in these situations.
- **Keep it only for one or more specified and explicit lawful purposes:** The BOM will inform individuals of the reasons they collect their data and will inform individuals of the uses to which their data will be put. All information is kept with the best interest of the individual in mind at all times.

- **Process it only in ways compatible with the purposes for which it was given initially:** Data relating to individuals will only be processed in a manner consistent with the purposes for which it was gathered. Information will only be disclosed on a “need to know” basis, and access to it will be strictly controlled.
- **Keep *Personal Data* safe and secure:** Only those with a genuine reason for doing so may gain access to the information. Personal Data is securely stored under lock and key in the case of manual records and protected with firewall software and password protection in the case of electronically stored data. Portable devices storing personal data (such as laptops) may be encrypted and password protected.
- **Keep *Personal Data* accurate, complete and up-to-date:** Students, parents/guardians, and/or staff should inform the School of any change which the School should make to their personal data and/or sensitive personal data to ensure that the individual’s data is accurate, complete and up-to-date. Records must not be altered or destroyed without proper authorisation. If alteration/correction is required, then a note of the fact of such authorisation and the alteration(s) to be made to any original record/documentation should be dated and signed by the person making that change.
- **Ensure that it is adequate, relevant and not excessive:** Only the necessary amount of information required to provide an adequate service will be gathered and stored.
- **Retain it no longer than is necessary for the specified purpose or purposes for which it was given:** As a general rule, the information will be kept for the duration of the individual’s time in the school. Thereafter, the school will comply with DES guidelines on the storage of Personal Data and Sensitive Personal Data relating to a student. In the case of members of staff, the school will comply with both DES guidelines and the requirements of the Revenue Commissioners with regard to the retention of records relating to employees. The school may also retain the data relating to an individual for a longer length of time for the purposes of complying with relevant provisions of law and or/defending a claim under employment legislation and/or contract and/or civil law. See School Record Retention Table.
- **Provide a copy of their *personal data* to any individual, on request:** Individuals have a right to know what personal data/sensitive personal data is held about them, by whom, and the purpose for which it is held.

## Scope

**Purpose of the Policy:** The Data Protection legislation applies to the keeping and processing of *Personal Data*. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school to meet its statutory obligations, to explain those obligations to School staff, and to inform staff, students and their parents/guardians how their data will be treated.

The Policy applies to all school staff, the Board of Management, parents/guardians, students and others (including prospective or potential students and their parents/guardians, and applicants for staff positions within the school) insofar as the school handles or processes their *Personal Data* in the course of their dealings with the school.

## Definition of Data Protection Terms

In order to properly understand the school’s obligations, there are some key terms which should be understood by all relevant school staff:

***Personal Data*** means data relating to a living individual who is or can be identified either from the data or from the data in conjunction with other information that is in, or is likely to come into, the possession of the Data Controller i.e. the school.

***Data Controller*** is the Board of Management of the School

***Data Subject*** is an individual who is the subject of personal data

***Data Processing*** – performing any operation or set of operations on data, including:

- Obtaining, recording or keeping the data,
- Collecting, organising, storing, altering or adapting the data

- Retrieving, consulting or using the data
- Disclosing the data by transmitting, dissemination or otherwise making it available
- Aligning, combining blocking, erasing or destroying the data

**Data Processor-** a person who processes personal information on behalf of a data controller, but **does not include an employee of a data controller** who processes such data in the course of their employment, for example, this might mean an employee of an organisation to which the data controller out-sources work. The Data Protection legislation places responsibilities on such entities in relation to their processing of the data (Aladdin).

**Special categories of Personal Data** refers to *Personal Data* regarding a person's

- racial or ethnic origin
- political opinions or religious or philosophical beliefs
- membership of a trade union
- physical or mental health
- sexual life and sexual orientation
- genetic and biometric data
- criminal convictions or alleged commission of any offence

**Personal Data Breach-** a breach of security leading to the accidental or unlawful destruction, loss alteration, unauthorised disclosure of, or access to personal data transmitted, stored or otherwise processed. This means any compromise or loss of personal data, no matter how or where it occurs

#### **Rationale**

In addition to its legal obligations under the broad remit of educational legislation, the school has a legal responsibility to comply with the Data Protection Acts, 1988 and 2018 and the GDPR.

This policy explains what sort of data is collected, why it is collected, for how long it will be stored and with whom it will be shared. The school takes its responsibilities under data protection law very seriously and wishes to put in place safe practices to safeguard individual's personal data. It is also recognised that recording factual information accurately and storing it safely facilitates an evaluation of the information, enabling the principal and board of management to make decisions in respect of the efficient running of the School. The efficient handling of data is also essential to ensure that there is consistency and continuity where there are changes of personnel within the school and Board of Management.

#### **Other Legal Obligations**

Implementation of this policy takes into account the school's other legal obligations and responsibilities. Some of these are directly relevant to data protection. **For example:**

- Under Section 9(g) of the Education Act, 1998, the parents of a student, or a student who has reached the age of 18 years, must be given access to records kept by the school relating to the progress of the student in their education
- Under Section 20 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, the school must maintain a register of all students attending the School
- Under section 20(5) of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, a principal is obliged to notify certain information relating to the child's attendance in school and other matters relating to the child's educational progress to the principal of another school to which a student is transferring
- Under Section 21 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, the school must record the attendance or non-attendance of students registered at the school on each school day
- Under Section 28 of the Education (Welfare) Act, 2000, the School may supply *Personal Data* kept by it to certain prescribed bodies (the Department of Education and Skills, Tusla, the National Council for Special Education, other schools, other centres of education) provided the School is satisfied that it will be used for a "relevant purpose" (which includes recording a person's educational or training history or monitoring their educational or

training progress; or for carrying out research into examinations, participation in education and the general effectiveness of education or training)

- Under Section 14 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act, 2004, the school is required to furnish to the National Council for Special Education (and its employees, which would include Special Educational Needs Organisers (“SENOs”)) such information as the Council may from time to time reasonably request
- The Freedom of Information Act 1997 provides a qualified right to access to information held by public bodies which does not necessarily have to be “personal data” as with data protection legislation. While schools are not currently subject to freedom of information legislation, if a school has furnished information to a body covered by the Freedom of Information Act (such as the Department of Education and Skills, etc.) these records could be disclosed if a request is made to that body
- Under Section 26(4) of the Health Act, 1947 a School shall cause all reasonable facilities (including facilities for obtaining names and addresses of pupils attending the school) to be given to a health authority who has served a notice on it of medical inspection, e.g. a dental inspection
- Under *Children First Act 2015* mandated persons have responsibilities to report child welfare concerns to TUSLA - Child and Family Agency (or in the event of an emergency and the unavailability of TUSLA, to An Garda Síochána).

#### **Relationship to characteristic spirit of the School (School’s mission/vision/aims)**

Naíscoil Íde seeks to

- enable each student to develop their full potential
- provide a safe and secure environment for learning
- promote respect for the diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.

We aim to achieve these goals while respecting the privacy and data protection rights of students, staff, parents/guardians and others who interact with us. The school wishes to achieve these aims/missions while fully respecting individuals’ rights to privacy and rights under the Data Protection legislation.

#### **Personal Data**

The *Personal Data* records held by the school **may** include:

##### **1. Staff records:**

- (a) **Categories of staff data:** As well as existing members of staff (and former members of staff), these records may also relate to applicants applying for positions within the school, trainee teachers and teachers under probation. These staff records may include:
- Name, address and contact details, PPS number
  - Name and contact details of next-of-kin in case of emergency
  - Original records of application and appointment to promotion posts
  - Details of approved absences (career breaks, parental leave, study leave etc.)
  - Details of work record (qualifications, classes taught, subjects etc.)
  - Details of any accidents/injuries sustained on school property or in connection with the staff member carrying out their school duties
  - Records of any reports the school (or its employees) have made in respect of the staff member to State departments and/or other agencies under Children First Act 2015
- (b) **Purposes:** Staff records are kept for the purposes of:
- The management and administration of school business (now and in the future)
  - To facilitate the payment of staff, and calculate other benefits/ entitlements (including reckonable service for the purpose of calculation of pension payments, entitlements and/or redundancy payments where relevant)
  - To facilitate pension payments in the future
  - Human resources management

- Recording promotions made (documentation relating to promotions applied for) and changes in responsibilities etc.
- To enable the school to comply with its obligations as an employer including the preservation of a safe, efficient working and teaching environment (including complying with its responsibilities under the Safety, Health and Welfare At Work Act. 2005)
- To enable the school to comply with requirements set down by the Department of Education and Skills, the Revenue Commissioners, the National Council for Special Education, TUSLA, the HSE, and any other governmental, statutory and/or regulatory departments and/or agencies
- And for compliance with legislation relevant to the school.

(c) **Location and Security procedures of The School:**

- Manual records are kept in a secure, locked filing cabinet in a locked administration office accessible to personnel who are authorised to use the data. Employees are required to maintain the confidentiality of any data to which they have access.
- Digital records are stored on password-protected computers with adequate encryption and firewall software in a locked office. The school has a burglar alarm activated during out-of-school hours.
- **Security:** manual record in a filing system under lock and computer records password protected.

**2. Student records:**

(a) **Categories of student data:** These may include:

- Information which may be sought and recorded at enrolment and may be collated and compiled during the course of the student's time in the school. These records may include:
  - Name, address and contact details, PPS number
  - Date and place of birth
  - Names and addresses of parents/guardians and their contact details (including any special arrangements with regard to guardianship, custody or access)
  - Religious belief
  - Racial or ethnic origin
  - Membership of the Traveller community, where relevant
  - Whether they (or their parents) are medical card holders
  - Whether English is the student's first language and/or whether the student requires English language support
  - Any relevant special conditions (e.g. special educational needs, health issues etc.) which may apply
- Information on previous academic record (including reports, references, assessments and other records from any previous school(s) attended by the student
- Psychological, psychiatric and/or medical assessments
- Attendance records
- Photographs and recorded images of students (including at school events and noting achievements) are managed in line with the accompanying policy on school photography
- Academic record – subjects studied, class assignments, examination results as recorded on official School reports
- Records of significant achievements
- Whether the student is exempt from studying Irish
- Records of disciplinary issues/investigations and/or sanctions imposed
- Other records e.g. records of any serious injuries/accidents etc. (Note: it is advisable to inform parents that a particular incident is being recorded).
- Records of any reports the school (or its employees) have made in respect of the student to State departments and/or other agencies under mandatory reporting legislation and/or other agencies under Children First Act 2015.

(b) **Purposes:** The purposes for keeping student records are:

- To enable each student to develop to their full potential
- To comply with legislative or administrative requirements
- To ensure that eligible students can benefit from the relevant additional teaching or financial supports
- To support the provision of religious instruction

- to enable parents/guardians to be contacted in the case of emergency or in the case of school closure, or to inform parents of their child's educational progress or to inform parents of school events etc.
- to meet the educational, social, physical and emotional requirements of the student
- photographs and recorded images of students are taken to celebrate school achievements, compile yearbooks, establish a school website, record school events, and to keep a record of the history of the school. Such records are taken in accordance with the "School Photography Policy" and "School Website Privacy Statement"
- to ensure that the student meets the school's admission criteria
- to ensure that students meet the minimum age requirements for attendance at Primary School
- to ensure that any student seeking an exemption from Irish meets the criteria in order to obtain such an exemption from the authorities
- to furnish documentation/ information about the student to the Department of Education and Skills, the National Council for Special Education, TUSLA, and other Schools etc. in compliance with law and directions issued by government departments

(c) **Location and Security Procedures:** as above

### **3. Board of management records:**

(a) **Categories of Board of Management data:**

- Name, address and contact details of each member of the board of management (including former members of the board of management)
- Records in relation to appointments to the Board
- Minutes of Board of Management meetings and correspondence to the Board, which may include references to particular individuals.

(b) **Purposes:** To enable the Board of Management to operate in accordance with the Education Act 1998 and other applicable legislation and to maintain a record of board appointments and decisions.

(c) **Location:** In a secure, locked filing cabinet and that only personnel who are authorised to use the data can access it. Employees are required to maintain the confidentiality of any data to which they have access.

(d) **Location and Security Procedures:** as above

### **4. Other Records: Creditors**

a) **Categories of Board of Management data:**

The school may hold some or all of the following information about creditors (some of whom are self-employed individuals);

- Name
- Address
- Contact details
- PPS number
- Tax details
- Bank details and
- Amount paid

b) **Purposes: The purposes for keeping creditor records are:**

Schools are entitled to avail of the scheme of tax relief for donations of money they receive. To claim the relief, the donor must complete a certificate (CHY2) and forward it to the school to allow it to claim the grossed up amount of tax associated with the donation. The information requested on the appropriate certificate is the parents' name, address PPS number, tax rate, telephone number, signature and the gross amount of the donation. This is retained by the School in the event of audit by the Revenue commissioners.

c) **Location and Security Procedures:** as above

### **CCTV images/recordings**

- a) **Categories:** CCTV is installed in The School, externally i.e. perimeter walls/fencing/doors and internally as detailed in the CCTV Policy. These CCTV systems may record images of staff, students and members of the public who visit the premises.
- b) **Purposes:** Safety and security of staff, students and visitors and to safeguard school property and equipment.
- c) **Security:** Access to images/recordings is restricted to the principal and secretary. Recordings are retained for 28 days, except if required for the investigation of an incident. Images/recordings may be viewed or made available to An Garda Síochána pursuant to Data Protection Acts legislation.

### **Examination results**

- a) **Category:** The school will hold data comprising examination results in respect of its students. These include class, continuous assessment results screening and standardised tests results.
- b) **Purposes:** The main purpose for which these examination results and other records are held is to monitor a student's progress and to provide a sound basis for advising them and their parents or guardians. The data may also be aggregated for statistical/reporting purposes. The data may be transferred to the Department of Education and Skills, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and other schools to which pupils move.
- c) **Location and Security Procedures:** as above

### **Pupil Online Database**

- (a) **Categories:** Parents/guardians are asked to provide the school with certain information so that the School can make returns to the Department of Education and Skills ("DES") The Returns contains individualised data (such as an individual student's PPS number) which acts as an "identifier" for the DES to validate the data that belongs to a recognised student. The database will also contain, on an optional basis, information on the pupil's religion and on their ethnic or cultural background. The data base will allow the Department to evaluate progress of pupils at primary level, validate school enrolment returns for grant payment and teacher allocation purposes, and will complement the post-primary pupil database already in operation. A full outline of all of the data requested, the reasons for collection it and how the data will be use, accessed, stored, shared and retained is available on the POD section of the DES.
- (b) **Purposes:** The school asks parents/guardians and students to complete POD Returns for the purposes of complying with DES requirements to determine staffing and resource allocations and to facilitate the orderly running of the school. The POD Returns are submitted to the DES electronically. The DES has their own policy governing the security of the data sent to them by all primary schools. The co-operation of each parents/guardians in completing the POD Return is greatly appreciated, as the school's aim is to ensure that each student is assisted in every way to ensure that s/he meets his/her full potential.
- (c) **Location and Security Procedures:** as above

<b>Links to other policies and to curriculum delivery</b>
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Our school policies need to be consistent with one another, within the framework of the overall School Plan. Relevant school policies already in place or being developed or reviewed, shall be examined with reference to the Data Protection Policy and any implications that it has for them shall be addressed.

The following policies may be among those considered:

- Child Protection Policy

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Admissions/Enrolment Policy
- CCTV Policy
- Substance Use Policy
- ICT Acceptable Usage Policy
- SPHE
- Assessment
- Special Educational Needs Policy
- Library Policy
- Critical incident policy
- Attendance policy

### **Processing in line with data subject's rights**

Data in this school will be processed in line with the data subjects' rights.

Data subjects have a right to:

- a. Request access to any data held about them by a data controller
- b. Prevent the processing of their data for direct-marketing purposes
- c. Ask to have inaccurate data amended
- d. Ask to have data erased once it is no longer necessary or irrelevant
- e. Know what personal data the school is keeping on them

### **Data Processors**

Where the school outsources to a data processor off-site, it is required by law to have a written contract in place (Written Third party service agreement). The School's third party agreement specifies the conditions under which the data may be processed, the security conditions attaching to the processing of the data and that the data must be deleted or returned upon completion or termination of the contract.

### **Personal data breaches**

All incidents in which personal data has been put at risk must be reported to the office of the Data Protection Commissioner within 72 hours. When the personal data breach is likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons, the Board of Management must communicate the personal data breach to the data subject without undue delay. If a data processor becomes aware of a personal data breach, it must bring this to the attention of the data controller (Board of Management) without undue delay.

### **Dealing with a data access request**

Individuals are entitled to a copy of their personal data on written request. Requests must be responded to within one month. An extension may be required e.g. over holiday periods. No fee may be charged except in exceptional circumstances where the requests are repetitive or manifestly unfounded or excessive. No personal data can be supplied relation to another individual part from the data subject.

### **Providing information over the phone**

An employee dealing with telephone enquiries should be careful about disclosing any personal information held by the school over the phone. In particular the employee should:

- Ask that the caller put their request in writing
- Refer the request to the principal for assistance in difficult situations.
- Not feel forced into disclosing personal information.

### **Implementation arrangements, roles and responsibilities**

The board of management is the data controller and the principal implements the Data Protection Policy, ensuring that staff who handle or have access to *Personal Data* are familiar with their data protection responsibilities.

The following personnel have responsibility for implementing the Data Protection Policy:



<b>Name</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Board of management:	Data Controller
Principal: Clare Ring:	Implementation of Policy
Staff:	Awareness of responsibilities

**Ratification & communication**

The Data Protection Policy was ratified by the board of management in March 2010 and reviewed and updated in May 2015 and September 2018. All teaching staff will be given a copy of the Data Protection Policy.

**Monitoring the implementation of the policy**

The implementation of the policy shall be monitored by the principal.

**Reviewing and evaluating the policy**

The policy was ratified in March 2010 and reviewed in May 2015, and 2018. On-going review and evaluation will take cognisance of changing information or guidelines (e.g. from the Data Protection Commissioner, Department of Education and Skills or Tulsa), legislation and feedback from parents/guardians, school staff and others. The policy will be revised as necessary in the light of such review and evaluation and within the framework of school planning, in 2023 or earlier if deemed necessary.

Signed:

*John Swords Chairperson Board of Management*

Date: .....