

General Welfare Requirement: Documentation

Providers must maintain records, policies and procedures required for the safe and efficient management of the settings and to meet the needs of the children.

Record keeping

5.8 Version control

Scope of procedure

Version control is part of the process for managing the drafting and finalisation of documents. It involves including information on either the cover page or the final page and in the footers of documents such as dates, version numbers and a list of substantial amendments.

The benefits of using version control on documents, such as St Joseph's Pre-school's policies and procedures (NB: not limited to this), is that it allows the setting to:

- track changes made to documents over time, making it easier to see what has been updated and when – improving accountability and ensuring no one acts on outdate information [*version histories*];
 - for example when compliance to legal and/or regulatory requirements are required;
- maintain consistency across key documents for the setting;
- versioning allows the Pre-school to reference specific versions of policies and procedures when needed, which can be useful in audits or when addressing questions or disputes. Providing transparency for regulators and stakeholders [*audit trails*].

Introduction

When drafting a new document (or updating an existing one) version control clearly identifies the development of the document. It allows easy identification, for example, of the first draft which was submitted to a committee for comment; the draft which was generated as a result of those comments; the versions which went back and forward for comment; and then the final version which was agreed and signed off.

Applicable Documentation

Version control applies primarily to all policies and procedures produced by St Joseph's Pre-School, but is encouraged to be used for other formal documents.

The first page of this document shows the document control format that must be used. It is recommended that footers of every document for St Joseph's Pre-School includes the following information [font: Arial 8]

Page (number) of (numbers)

name of document, (version number, date ratified (or amended), title (ie. Chair, Treasurer or Cttee Mbr), (initials of ratifier (or person making the change) – in brackets))

Applying version control

Font size and style, and margins

All policy and procedure documents must be written in Arial 12. Acceptable variations include:

- Document title/header: Arial 14 **bold**
- Document footer: Arial 8

Document margins (under page layout in Word) are as follows:

- Top: 2.0 cm
- Bottom: 1.8 cm
- Left margin: 2.0 cm
- Right margin: 1.8cm
- Footer remains at 1.25 cm

Version table (at end of document) is written in Arial

- Four column table
- Column headers: Arial 11 **bold**
- Table contents: Arial 11

Version numbers

The author of the document includes the current version number in the footer of the document on every page.

First draft version:

- Named as version “0-1” (no full stops in electronic file names);
- Subsequent draft versions 0-2, 0-3, 0-4 etc.

Further Final/Approved Documents

- Version number is increased by “1-0”, eg. 1-0, 2-0, 3-0 etc;
- For example: amendments to final 1-0 are 1-1, 1-2, 1-3 and as approved becomes 2-0.

Document dates

The author of the document includes the date the document is created or revised into the footer of the document on every page in the format DD/MM/YYYY.

Document author

The author of the document/the individual making amendments includes their initials in the footer.

Ratification by Committee

All policies and procedures that have been reviewed and/or updated must have their version number amended and submitted to the allocated Committee Member who is on “Ratification duty” on behalf of the Committee.

Once the document has been ratified after any queries have been sent to the Treasury Administrator for rectification and the document corrected (where applicable). The Treasury Administrator will then ensure that the document is ready for publication/circulation – following the relevant process document.

A list of ratified documents is circulated to Committee Members prior to the half-termly Committee Meeting. Once ratified and formally noted in the minutes, Committee Members and staff are obliged to read the amended document. A pdf version of the ratified document (where applicable) is uploaded onto the Pre-school's section of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's website (www.st-josephs-nympsfield.com). The Lead Practitioner and Treasury Administrator have joint responsibility for this.

Committee Members, parents/carers etc can access the latest versions of these documents from the website.

Associated Policies and Procedures

- All policies and procedures adhere to this procedure.

Version Number	Author	Purpose of change	Date
1.0	K Coupe	Need to formally version control policies/procedures	19 Sept 2018
2.0	K Coupe	Reviewed updated as follows: • "Ratification" section rewritten; • inclusion of "Associated Policies & Procedures" section as per Safeguarding Audit section 175/157	30 Nov 2022 Committee Member (L Finn)
3.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated. Section on version numbers amended to be simpler	7 June 2024 Committee Member (L Finn-Powers)
4.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated. • minor changes; • an explanation why version control is important; • details of font and style for version table	29 Jan 2026 Committee Member (L Finn-Powers)