From their 13th birthday, access to a child’s online record is switched off and neither the child nor the parents can access these services.

Although someone with parental responsibility can seek access to a child’s medical records, if there is information given by the child or young person in confidence this would not normally be disclosed without their consent. In giving those with parental responsibility access to their children’s records there is a risk that we could breech the confidentiality of the child.

Children vary in the age at which they are able to make an independent and informed decision about who should have access to their record.

For this reason, we have adopted the policy that parents of children aged 13 year or more cannot have online access to their child’s records, nor allow children in this age group to access these services for themselves.

13-15 years (Proxy Access in exceptional circumstances)

The practice recognizes that in exceptional circumstances it may be a requirement for a parent/carer to have proxy access to a child’s record after the age of 13 years up to 16 years.

Each case will be assessed on an individual basis by a GP who will decide if proxy is to be authorized.

If proxy access is granted it will be for standard online access only – access to appointments and repeat prescriptions, as soon as the application has been processed and identification verified.

On the young person’s 16th birthday the clinical system will switch off all the remaining proxy access except where the young person is competent and has given explicit consent to the access.