



CCTV Policy

Reviewed: June 2021

Next Review: June 2026

CCTV POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of this Policy is to regulate the management, operation and use of the closed circuit television (CCTV) system at Oak Hill First School School.

The system comprises of 10 mini-dome cameras located on three sides of the school building. All cameras are controlled from the Office and the system can only be accessed by nominated Senior Leaders and Administrative staff. Two staff are to be present when reviewing any recorded footage. The school owns the CCTV system.

The Policy will be subject to review by the Governors. This Policy follows the Data Protection Act guidelines.

Objectives of the CCTV Policy

The objectives of the School's use of CCTV are:

- a) To increase personal safety of students, staff and visitors, and reduce the fear of crime
- b) To protect the school buildings and their assets
- c) To support the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime
- d) To assist in identifying, apprehending and potentially prosecuting offenders
- e) To protect members of the public and private property

Statement of intent

The CCTV Scheme has been registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 and will seek to comply with the requirements both of the Data Protection Act and the Commissioner's Code of Practice. The school will treat the system and all information, documents and recordings obtained and used as data protected by the Act.

Cameras will be used to monitor activities within the school grounds in the vicinity of the access gates to identify adverse activity actually occurring, anticipated or perceived, and for the purpose of securing the safety and well being of the schools students and staff, together with its visitors. Static cameras are positioned to ensure they do not focus on private homes, gardens and other areas of private property. At no time will a camera be directed to follow or track an individual as all the currently deployed cameras are fixed.

Materials or knowledge secured as a result of CCTV use will not be used for any commercial purpose. CDs will only be released for use in the investigation of a specific crime and with the written authority of the police. CDs will never be released to the media for purposes of entertainment.

The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that the CCTV Scheme will give maximum effectiveness and efficiency within available means, but it is not possible to guarantee that the system will cover or detect every single incident taking place in the areas of coverage.

Warning signs, as required by the Code of Practice of the Information Commissioner, have been placed at all access routes to areas covered by the school's CCTV system.

Operation of the system

The CCTV system will be administered and managed by the school in accordance with the values and objectives expressed in the code. The day to day management will be the delegated responsibility of the Head during the day, and the Caretaker out of hours and at weekends.

The CCTV system will operate 24 hours each day, every day of the year, recording all activity.

Control and Liaison

The system provider will periodically check and confirm the efficiency of the system and, in particular, that the equipment is properly recording and that cameras are functional. The school will

liaise with Avon Alarms regarding servicing and/or repairs and maintenance of the system.

Monitoring procedures

Camera surveillance may be maintained at all times and footage continuously recorded and held on system memory.

To maintain and preserve the integrity of any DVD/DVD/CD ROMs used to record events from the hard drive and the facility to use them in any future proceedings, the following procedures for their use and retention will be strictly adhered to:

(a) Each DVD/DVD/CD must be identified by a unique reference number.

(b) Before using, each DVD/DVD/CD must be cleared of any previous recording. (c) The person responsible for recording will register the date and time of the DVD/DVD/CD recording, including the DVD/DVD/CD reference number.

(d) A DVD/DVD/CD required for evidential purposes must be sealed, witnessed, signed by the member of staff responsible for the recording, dated and stored in the safe. If a DVD/DVD/CD is not copied for the police before it is sealed, a copy may be made at a later date providing that it is then resealed, witnessed, signed by the member of staff, dated and returned to the safe.

DVD/CDs may be viewed by the Police for the prevention and detection of crime. A record will be maintained of the release of DVD/CDs to the Police or other authorised applicants. A register will be maintained for this purpose.

Viewing of footage by the Police or any external individual must be recorded in writing and entered in the register. Requests by the Police can only be authorised under section 29 of the Data Protection Act 1998. Should a DVD/DVD/CD be required as evidence, a copy may be released to the Police under the procedures described in paragraph 6(d) of this Code. DVD/CDs will only be released to the Police on the clear understanding that the DVD/CD remains the property of the school, and both the DVD/CD and information contained on it are to be treated in accordance with this code. The school also retains the right to refuse permission for the Police to pass to any other person the DVD/CD or any part of the information contained thereon. On occasions when a Court requires the release of an original DVD/CD this will be produced from the safe, complete in its sealed bag.

The Police may require the school to retain any stored DVD/CDs for possible use as evidence in the future. Such DVD/CDs will be properly indexed and securely stored until the Police need them. Applications received from outside bodies (e.g. solicitors) to view or release footage stored on DVD/CD's will be referred to the Headteacher. In these circumstances DVD/CDs will normally be released where satisfactory documentary evidence is produced showing that they are required for legal proceedings, or in response to a Court Order. A fee may be charged in such circumstances, currently £10.

Breaches of the code (including breaches of security)

The Headteacher, or a senior leader acting on his behalf, will initially investigate any breach of the Code of Practice by school staff. Any serious breach of the Code of Practice will be subject to the terms of disciplinary procedures already in place.

Complaints

Any complaints about the schools' CCTV system should be addressed to the Headteacher. Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the ICO Code of Practice.

Access by the Data Subject

The Data Protection Act provides Data Subjects (individuals to whom "personal data" relate) with a right to data held about them, including those obtained by CCTV. Requests for Data Subject Access should be made through the Headteacher.

Public information

Copies of this policy will be available to the public from the school website or from the School Office.