CCTV Policy

FERNDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Version 5

Date of last review:	September 2022, 2024
Date of this review:	September 2025
Date of next review:	September 2027

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this Policy is to regulate the management, operation and use of the closed-circuit television (CCTV) system at Ferndale Primary School, hereafter referred to as 'the school'.

The CCTV system is owned by the school.

On a day-to-day basis, cameras are monitored by School Business Manager, Senior Administrative Officer and ICT Technician. Recorded images from any camera can only be accessed with express permission from either the 'Head Teacher;' or 'School Business Manager.

The systems will not be used for any other purpose other than those set out in this document without prior consultation with the Head Teacher, and where appropriate, notification to staff.

This Policy has been drafted in compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation, hereafter referred to as GDPR.

The ongoing suitability of the Schools CCTV Policy will be reviewed annually by the School Governing Body.

The system is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO)

2. Objectives of the CCTV Policy

This Policy covers the use of CCTV systems on the school site, which capture moving and still images of people who could be identified, for the following purposes;

- To protect school buildings, and their assets within
- To increase personal safety of those within, and visiting the school community
- To act as a deterrent for violent behaviour and damage to the school
- To support the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime.
- To assist in identifying, apprehending and disciplining offenders

This policy has been created with regard to the following statutory and non-statutory guidance:

- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) (2024) 'Video Surveillance (including guidance for organisations using CCTV)'
- Biometrics and Surveillance Camera commissioner (Gov) (2022) Update to Surveillance Camera Code of Practice - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The General Data Protection Regulation
- The Data Protection Act 2018
- The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- Human Rights Act 1998
- The Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Children Act 2004
- Human Rights Act 2018
- European Convention of Human Rights

This policy operates in connection with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Freedom of Information Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Privacy notices for Pupils, Parents and Carers
- Privacy Notice for School Staff
- Privacy Notice for Visitors and Contractors

3. Statement of Intent

The school will treat the system, and all information, documents and recordings obtained and used as data, which are protected by the GDPR, and will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the regulation.

Cameras will be used to monitor activities within allocated areas around school; to identify criminal activity occurring, anticipated or perceived, and in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the school community.

The school will only operate overt surveillance and will display signs in the areas of the school where this is in operation. Covert surveillance (i.e. which is intentionally not shared with the individuals being recorded) is not condoned by the school.

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

The CCTV system will not be trained on individuals unless an immediate response to an incident is required.

The CCTV system will not be trained on private vehicles or property outside the perimeter of the school.

4. The Data Protection Principles

Data collected from CCTV will be processed in accordance with the principles of the GDPR. As such, all data will be:

(a) Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals.

(b) Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.

(c) Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purpose(s) for which they are processed.

(d) Accurate and where necessary, kept up to date.

(e) Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the data is processed.

(f) Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing, and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical and organisational measures.

5. Operational Control & Protocols

Access to the CCTV system, software and data, will be strictly limited to authorised operators and is password protected.

The CCTV system will be in operation for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The system will not record audio.

The responsibility of the day-to-day leadership and management of the CCTV system is that of the Head Teachers.

The system will be managed by Schools Business Manager in accordance with the principles and objectives expressed in this Policy.

The day-to-day administration of the system will be the responsibility of School's Business Manager and Senior Administrative Officer during the day, out of hours and at weekends.

The CCTV system will be operated by motion sensors 24 hours a day every day of the year

The Operational Controller will check and confirm the efficiency of the system once per month and in particular, to confirm that the equipment is properly recording and that cameras are functional.

The System Administrator will ensure that **all** staff involved with the operation of the CCTV system are properly trained and fully understand their roles and responsibilities in respect of data protection e.g.:

- the user's security policy (procedures for access to recorded images;
- the user's disclosure policy;
- rights of individuals in relation to their recorded images.
- Training records will be maintained accordingly.

Access to the CCTV 'viewing monitors' will be limited to selected administrative staff together with those directly involved in the security of the school.

Staff, visitors and others entering areas with CCTV viewing monitors will be subject to particular arrangement as outlined below.

Authorised staff will satisfy themselves over the identity of visitors to the area and the purpose of their visit. Where any doubt exists, the CCTV monitors will be switched off for the duration of visit.

Operations of the equipment will be managed with the minimum of disruption. Casual observations will not be permitted.

If an emergency arises out of hours, permission will be obtained from The Head Teacher or Schools Business Manager to view or process recorded material.

Other operational functions will include maintaining recorded materials and hard disc space, filing and maintaining occurrence and system maintenance logs.

Incidents involving the Emergency Services will be notified to School Business Manager.

6. Monitoring Procedures

Camera surveillance may be maintained at all times.

Pictures will be continuously recorded or when activated by movement.

No covert monitoring will be undertaken until the circumstances have been considered by, and written authorisation obtained from The Head Teacher.

7. Recorded Material Procedures

In order to maintain and preserve the integrity of the recorded material used to record events from the CCTV system, 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 item of recorded material will be identified by a unique mark.

(b) The system will register the date and time of recorded material insert, including recorded material reference.

(c) Any recorded material required for evidential purposes must be sealed, witnessed, signed by the controller, dated and stored in a separate, secure recorded material store. If recorded material is not copied for the Police before it is sealed, a copy may be made at a later date, it will then be resealed, witnessed, signed by the Controller, dated and returned to the evidence material store.

(d) If the recorded material is archived the reference will be noted.

Recorded materials may be viewed by / released to third parties, only in the following prescribed circumstances, and then only to the extent required by law:

- The police, where any images recorded would assist in a specific criminal inquiry;
- Prosecution agencies, such as the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS);
- Relevant legal representatives such as lawyers and barristers;
- Insurance companies where images may be required to process a potential liability claim.
- Persons whose images have been recorded and retained, and where disclosure is required by virtue of data protection legislation, or the Freedom of Information Act.

A record will be maintained of the release of recorded materials to the Police or other authorised applicants. A register, maintained by the Controller will be made available for this purpose.

Viewing of recorded materials by the Police will be recorded in writing and in a log book.

Recorded materials will be released to the Police but will remain the property of the school, and both the recorded material and information contained on it are to be treated in accordance with this document.

The school retains the right to refuse permission for the Police to pass to any other person, the recorded material or any part of the information contained thereon.

Upon a court of law request the release of an original recorded material will be produced from the secure recorded material store, complete in its sealed bag.

If the Police require the school to retain the stored recorded materials for use as evidence in the future, such recorded materials will be properly indexed and properly and securely stored until they are required by the Police.

Requests for access or disclosure will be recorded, and the Head Teacher will make the final decision as to whether the recorded images may be released to persons other than the police.

8. Record Keeping / Incident Logs

The school will maintain adequate and comprehensive records relating to the management of the system and incidents. Model documents from the installers/providers of CCTV system may be utilised for this purpose.

9. Retention of Data

There are no specific guidelines about the length of time data images should be retained. Consequently, the period of retention will be determined locally, will be documented and understood by those operating the system and will be for the minimum period necessary to meet the objectives of the CCTV scheme. A period of 30 days is considered adequate unless determined otherwise.

Measures to permanently delete data will be clearly understood by persons that operate the system.

Systematic checks will be carried out to ensure the appropriate retention periods are adhered to and footage is deleted in line with the retention policy.

Where CCTV data is required to assist in the prosecution of a criminal offence, data will need to be retained until collected by the Police.

10. Security

All devices used are encrypted so that CCTV footage is stored securely at all times. Access to footage will be via password by authorised personnel only.

Security measures are in place to protect all footage from potential cyber-attacks.

11. Data Protection Impact Assessments

Where changes to the CCTV system are made such as additional cameras being installed or moved to other areas on site, or a complete replacement, a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) will be carried out. This will identify potential risks to data by replacing or developing the system as well as to ensure the system remains justifiable, necessary and proportionate in line with the GDPR.

The schools DPO will provide guidance and appropriate paperwork required to capture proposals and considerations made and to identify potential risk and safeguards needed. The completion of the DPIA will be led by School Business Manager

12. Breaches of the Policy (including breaches of security)

Any breach of the policy by school staff will be initially investigated by the Head Teacher to determine appropriate action, if necessary, and to make

recommendations on how to remedy the breach in liaison with the schools Data Protection Officer.

13. Assessment of the CCTV System

An annual assessment will be undertaken by The Head Teacher or School's Business Manager to evaluate the effectiveness of the CCTV system.

The outcome of the assessment will be reported to the Schools Governing Body who will determine if the system is achieving the objectives of the scheme, or if modifications are required.

14. Access by the Data Subject

The GDPR provides Data Subjects (individuals to whom "personal data" relates) with a right to data held about themselves, including those obtained by CCTV.

Individuals have the right to submit a subject access request in order to gain access to their personal data.

If the data subject is not the focus of the footage i.e. there are more individuals visible, or the data subject has not been singled out, or had their movements tracked then the images are not classed as 'personal data.' Therefore, the individual is not entitled to the image under the provisions of Subject Access Requests.

In such instances, the school will verify the identity of the individual making the request before any information is provided.

All requests will be responded to without delay, within one calendar month.

Requests for access or disclosure will be recorded and the Head teacher will make a final decision as to whether recorded images may be released to persons other than the police.

15. Complaints

Any complaints about the schools CCTV system should firstly be made, in writing, to The Head Teacher. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with section 14 of this document.

If an individual is dissatisfied with the assistance that they have received from the school they can contact the schools Data Protection Officer at gdpr@sips.co.uk or on telephone number 0121 296 300. A formal complaint can also be made to the Information Commissioners Office who is an independent regulator. This can be done via the website at www.ico.org.uk; Telephone: 0303 123 1113; or in writing to: Information Commissioners Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5A.

16. Further Information

Information in respect of data protection issues may be obtained from the Schools Data Protection Officer at gdpr@sips.co.uk or on telephone number 0121 296 3000.

The Information Commissioners website www.ico.gov.uk will contain the most up to date information and should be consulted on a regular basis to ensure all elements of this policy continue to reflect current guidance.