



The Acorns School

THE ACORNS SCHOOL CCTV Policy June 2025

- 1.1 The Acorns School uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images to reduce crime and monitor the school buildings in order to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors, and to prevent the loss or damage to school property.
- 1.2 The system comprises of a number of fixed and dome cameras.
- 1.3 The system does not have sound recording capability.
- 1.4 The CCTV system is owned and operated by the school and the deployment of which is determined by the school's leadership team.
- 1.5 The CCTV is monitored centrally from administration office.
- 1.6 The introduction of, or changes to, CCTV monitoring will be subject to consultation with staff and the school community.
- 1.7 The school's CCTV Scheme is compliant with data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 1998 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- 1.8 All authorised operators and employees with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images and sound. All employees are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of, recorded images.

2. Statement of Intent

- 2.1 The school complies with Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice to ensure it is used responsibly and safeguards both trust and confidence in its continued use.
- 2.2 CCTV warning signs will be clearly and prominently placed at all external entrances to the school, including school gates if coverage includes outdoor areas. In areas where CCTV is used, the school will ensure that there are prominent signs placed at both the entrance of the CCTV zone and within the controlled area.
- 2.3 The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that the Scheme will give maximum effectiveness and efficiency, but it is not possible to guarantee that the system will cover or detect every single incident taking place in the areas of coverage.

3. Siting the Cameras

- 3.1 Cameras will be sited so they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they are installed (described above) and care will be taken to ensure that reasonable privacy expectations are not violated. The School will ensure that the location of equipment is carefully considered to ensure that images captured comply with the Data Protection Act.
- 3.2 The school will make every effort to position cameras so that their coverage is restricted to the school premises, which may include outdoor areas.
- 3.3 CCTV is used in classrooms, corridors, school entrance, front car park and rear car park.
- 3.4 Members of staff should have access to details of where CCTV cameras are situated.

4. Storage and Retention of CCTV images

- 4.1 Recorded data will not be retained for longer than is necessary. While retained, the integrity of the recordings will be maintained to ensure their evidential value and to protect the rights of the people whose images have been recorded.
- 4.2 All retained data will be stored securely.

5. Access to CCTV images

- 5.1 Access to recorded images will be restricted to those staff authorised to view them and will not be made more widely available.

6. Subject Access Requests (SAR)

- 6.1 Individuals have the right to request access to CCTV footage relating to themselves under the Data Protection Act.
- 6.2 All requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher. Individuals submitting requests for access will be asked to provide sufficient information to enable the footage relating to them to be identified. For example, date, time and location.
- 6.3 The school will respond to requests within 40 calendar days of receiving the written request and fee.
- 6.4 A fee of £10 will charged per request.
- 6.5 The school reserves the right to refuse access to CCTV footage where this would prejudice the legal rights of other individuals or jeopardise an ongoing investigation.

7. Access to and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

- 7.1 There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than to authorised personnel such as the Police and service providers to the school where these would reasonably need access to the data (e.g. investigators).
- 7.2 Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.
- 7.3 The data may be used within the school's discipline and grievance procedures as required and will be subject to the usual confidentiality requirements of those procedures.

8. Complaints

- 9.1 Complaints and enquiries about the operation of CCTV within the school should be directed to the Headteacher.

Further Information

Further information on CCTV and its use is available from the following:

- CCTV Code of Practice (published by the Information Commissioners Office)
- www.ico.org.uk
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000
- Data Protection Act 2018

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