



D9 - CCTV Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. St Mary's Catholic School uses closed circuit television (CCTV) and the images produced to prevent or detect crime and to monitor the school buildings and grounds in order to provide a safe and secure environment for its pupils, staff and visitors, and to prevent loss or damage to school property.
- 1.2. The system comprises a number of fixed cameras.
- 1.3. The system does not have sound recording capability.
- 1.4. The CCTV system is owned and operated by the school, the deployment of which is determined by the school's Senior Leadership Team
- 1.5. There are two main areas of the system:
 - 1.5.1. School Entrances – These sets of cameras are monitored by staff in reception offices to assist with the safe and secure entry of visitors to school site during the school day.
 - 1.5.2. Around School – This set of cameras is accessible by the ICT Manager in the Server room upon request by a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- 1.6. The school's CCTV Scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR – 2018). This policy outlines the school's use of CCTV and how it complies with the Regulations.
- 1.7. All authorised operators and employees with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images.
- 1.8.
 - 1.8. Through this policy, all operators are made aware of their responsibilities. The school will ensure that all employees are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of, recorded images by publication of this policy

2. Statement of Intent

- 2.1. This policy has been created by consulting the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice Revised Edition 2017 to ensure that CCTV is used responsibly and safeguards both trust and confidence in its continued use.
- 2.2. CCTV warning signs are clearly and prominently placed at the main external entrance to the school, including further signage in other outdoor areas in close proximity to camera positions. Signs should contain details of the purpose for using CCTV.
- 2.3. In areas where CCTV is used, the school will ensure that there are prominent signs placed within the controlled area.
- 2.4. The original planning, design and installation of CCTV equipment endeavoured to ensure that the scheme will deliver 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 are sited so that 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 GDPR.
- 3.2. The school will make every effort to position cameras so that their coverage is restricted to the school premises, which includes outdoor/indoor areas.
- 3.3. CCTV will not be used in classrooms but in areas within the school building that have been identified by staff and pupils as not being easily monitored at all times.

4. Covert Monitoring

- 4.1. It is not the school's policy to conduct 'Covert Monitoring' unless there are 'exceptional reasons' for doing so.
- 4.2. The school may, in exceptional circumstances, determine a sound reason to set up covert monitoring. For example:
 - 4.2.1. Where there is good cause to suspect that an illegal or unauthorised action(s), is taking place, or where there are grounds to suspect serious misconduct;
 - 4.2.2. Where notifying the individuals about the monitoring would seriously prejudice the reason for making the recording.
- 4.3. In these circumstances authorisation must be obtained from a member of the senior leadership team before any commencement of such covert monitoring.
- 4.4. Covert monitoring must cease following completion of an investigation.
- 4.5. Cameras sited for the purpose of covert monitoring will not be used in areas which are reasonably expected to be private, for example toilet cubicles, changing areas etc.

5. Storage and Retention of CCTV images

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. All retained data will be stored securely at all times and permanently deleted as appropriate.

6. Access to CCTV images

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



7. Subject Access Requests (SAR)

- 7.1. Individuals have the right to request access to CCTV footage relating to themselves under GDPR.
- 7.2. All requests should be made in writing to the Data Protection Officer. 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.
- 7.3. The school will respond to requests within 40 calendar days of receiving the written request and any fee. This is as per the ICO CCTV Code of Practice.
- 7.4. The school reserves the right to refuse access to CCTV footage where this would prejudice the legal rights of other individuals or jeopardise an on-going investigation.

8. Access to and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

- 8.1. 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).
- 8.2. Requests for images / data should be made in writing to the Data Protection Officer.
- 8.3. 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.

9. Complaints

- 9.1. Complaints and enquiries about the operation of CCTV within the school should be directed to the Head Teacher in the first instance.

Review

School Business Committee

Date of Last Review: June 2026

Date of Next Review: June 2028