



**Westminster**

**Primary**

**School**

*Nurturing Minds...  
Inspiring Excellence*

# Photography and Videos at School Policy

Date of ratification by trustees: March 2024

Date of review: March 2026

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## **Statement of intent**

At Westminster Primary School, we use imagery and videos for a variety of purposes, including prospectuses, display boards, educational purposes, conferences and the school website. We understand that parents may also wish to take videos or photos of their children participating in school events for personal use.

Whilst we recognise the benefits of photography and videos to our school community, we also understand that these can have significant risks for those involved. Under the Data Protection Act 1998, the school has specific responsibilities in terms of how photos and videos are taken, stored and retained.

The school has implemented a policy on the safe use of cameras and videos by staff and parents to reflect the protective ethos of the school with regard to pupils' safety.

In order to ensure that, as far as possible, the use of photography and video is used safely at all times, the policy provided below should be followed. This policy is applicable to all forms of visual media, including film, print, video, DVD and websites.

## 1. Legal framework

- 1.1. This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:
  - The Data Protection Act 1998
- 1.2. This policy will be used in conjunction with the following school policies:
  - GDPR Data Protection Policy

## 2. Definitions

**For the purpose of this policy:**

- 2.1. **“Personal use”** of photography and videos is defined as the use of cameras to take images and recordings of children by relatives, friends or known individuals, e.g. a parent taking a group photo of their child and their friends at a school event. These photos and videos are only for personal use by the individual taking the photo, and are not intended to be passed on to unknown sources. The principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 do not apply to images and videos taken for personal use.
- 2.2. **“Official school use”** is defined as photography and videos which are used for school purposes, e.g. for building passes. These images are likely to be stored electronically alongside other personal data. The principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 apply to images and videos taken for official school use.
- 2.3. **“Media use”** is defined as photography and videos which are intended for a wide audience, e.g. photographs of children taken for a local newspaper. The principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 apply to images and videos taken for media use.
- 2.4. Staff may also take photos and videos of pupils for **“educational purposes”**. These are not intended for official school use, but may be used for a variety of reasons, such as school displays, special events, assessment and workbooks. The principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 apply to images and videos taken for educational purposes.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities

- 3.1. The school administrator is responsible for submitting consent forms to parents at the beginning of the academic year with regards to photographs and videos being taken whilst at school.
- 3.2. The school administrator and senior ICT support officer are responsible for ensuring that all photos and videos are stored and disposed of correctly, in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.
- 3.3. The designated safeguarding lead (DSL) is responsible for liaising with social workers to gain consent for photography and videos of LAC pupils.

- 3.4. The DSL is responsible for informing the headteacher of any known changes to a pupil's security, e.g. child protection concerns, which would mean that participating in photography and video recordings would put them at significant risk.
- 3.5. The headteacher is responsible for deciding whether parents are permitted to take photographs and videos during school events.
- 3.6. Parents are responsible for completing the [Consent Form](#). This is completed on entry to the school.
- 3.7. Parents are responsible for informing the school in writing where there are any changes to their consent.

#### **4. Parental consent**

- 4.1. All parents will be asked to complete the Consent Form on entry to the school, which will determine whether or not they allow their child to participate in photographs and videos.
- 4.2. The Consent Form will be valid for the lifetime of the child at school, unless the pupil's circumstances change in any way or consent is withdrawn. Additional consent forms will be required if the pupil's circumstances change.
- 4.3. If there is disagreement over consent, or if a parent does not respond to a consent request, it will be treated as if consent has not been given, and photographs and videos will not be taken or published.
- 4.4. All parents are entitled to withdraw or change their consent at any time during the time their child attends the school.
- 4.5. Parents will be required to confirm on the consent form, in writing, that they will notify the school if their child's circumstances change in any way, or if they wish to withdraw their consent.
- 4.6. For any LAC pupils, or pupils who are adopted, the DSL will liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers or adoptive parents to establish where consent should be sought. Consideration will be given as to whether identification of an LAC pupil, or pupils who are adopted, would risk their security in any way.
- 4.7. Consideration will also be given to any pupils for whom child protection concerns have been raised. Should the DSL believe that taking photographs and videos of any pupils would put their security at further risk, greater care will be taken towards protecting their identity.
- 4.8. A list of all the names of pupils for whom consent was not given will be created by the school administrator and will be circulated to all staff members. This list will be updated annually, or when consent forms for new pupils are provided

- 4.9. If any parent withdraws or changes their consent, or the DSL reports any changes to a pupil's security risk, or there are any other changes to consent, the list will also be updated and re-circulated.

## **5. General procedures**

- 5.1. Photographs and videos of pupils will be carefully planned before any activity. Where photographs and videos will involve LAC pupils, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the headteacher will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved.
- 5.2. When organising photography and videos of pupils, the headteacher, as well as any other staff members involved, will consider the following:
- Can general shots of classrooms or group activities, rather than individual shots of pupils, be used to fulfil the same purpose?
  - Could the camera angle be amended in any way to avoid pupils being identified?
  - Will pupils be suitably dressed to be photographed and videoed?
  - Will pupils of different ethnic backgrounds and abilities be included within the photographs or videos to support diversity?
  - Would it be appropriate to edit the photos or videos in any way? E.g. to remove logos which may identify pupils?
  - Are the photographs and videos of the pupils completely necessary, or could alternative methods be used for the same purpose? E.g. could an article be illustrated by pupils' work rather than images or videos of the pupils themselves?
- 5.3. The list of all pupils of whom photographs and videos must not be taken will be checked prior to the activity. Only pupils for whom consent has been given will be able to participate.
- 5.4. The staff members involved, alongside the headteacher, will liaise with the DSL if any LAC pupil, or a pupil for whom there are security concerns is involved. (see [section 6](#) of this policy)
- 5.5. School equipment will be used to take photographs and videos of pupils. Exceptions to this are outlined in [section 7](#) of this policy.
- 5.6. Staff will ensure that all pupils are suitably dressed before taking any photographs or videos.
- 5.7. Where possible, staff will avoid identifying pupils. If names are required, only first names will be used.
- 5.8. The school will not use images or footage of any pupil who is subject to a court order.

- 5.9. The school will not use photographs of children or staff members who have left the school, without their consent.
- 5.10. Photos and videos that may cause any distress, upset or embarrassment will not be used.
- 5.11. Any concern relating to inappropriate or intrusive photography or publication of content is to be reported to the headteacher.

## **6. Additional safeguarding procedures**

- 6.1. The school understands that certain circumstances may put a pupil's security at greater risk and, thus, may mean extra precautions are required to protect their identity.
- 6.2. The DSL will, in known cases of a pupil who is a LAC, liaise with the pupil's social worker or carers to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupil.
- 6.3. Any measures required will be determined between the DSL, social worker, or carers with a view to minimise any impact on the pupil's day-to-day life. The measures implemented could be one of the following:
  - Photos and videos can be taken as per usual school procedures
  - Photos and videos can be taken within school for educational purposes and official school use, e.g. on registers, but cannot be published online or in external media
  - No photos or videos can be taken at any time, for any purposes
- 6.4. Any outcomes will be communicated to all staff members via a staff meeting and the list outlining which pupils are not to be involved in any videos or photographs, held in the school office, will be updated accordingly.

## **7. School-owned devices**

- 7.1. Staff are encouraged to take photos and videos of pupils using school equipment.
  - 7.2. Where school-owned devices are used, images and videos will be provided to the school at the earliest opportunity, and removed from any other devices.
  - 7.3. Staff will not use their personal mobile phones, or any other personal device, to take images and videos of pupils.
  - 7.4. Photographs and videos taken by staff members on school visits may be used for educational purposes, e.g. on displays or to illustrate the work of the school, where consent has been obtained.
- 8.** Digital photographs and videos held on the school's drive are accessible to staff only. Photographs and videos are stored in labelled files, annotated with the date, and are only identifiable by year group/class number – no names are associated

with images and videos. Files are protected by access control lists and only authorised personnel will have access.

## **9. Use of a professional photographer**

9.1. If the school decides to use a professional photographer for official school photos and school events, the headteacher will:

- Provide a clear brief for the photographer about what is considered appropriate, in terms of both content and behaviour.
- Issue the photographer with identification, which must be worn at all times.
- Let pupils and parents know that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they have previously provided consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs.
- Not allow unsupervised access to pupils or one-to-one photo sessions at events.
- Communicate to the photographer that the material may only be used for the school's own purposes and that permission has not been given to use the photographs for any other purpose.
- Ensure that the photographer will comply with the requirements set out in the Data Protection Act 1998.
- Ensure that if another individual, such as a parent or trustee is nominated to be the photographer, they are clear that the images or videos are not used for any other anything other than the purpose indicated by the school.

## **10. Permissible photography and videos during school events**

10.1. If the headteacher permits parents to take photographs or videos during a school event, parents will:

- Remain seated while taking photographs or videos during concerts, performances and other events.
- Minimise the use of flash photography during performances.
- In the case of all school events, make the focus of any photographs or videos their own children.
- Avoid disturbing others in the audience or distracting pupils when taking photographs or recording video.
- Ensure that any images and recordings taken at school events are exclusively for personal use and are not uploaded to the internet, posted on social networking sites or openly shared in other ways.
- Refrain from taking further photographs and/or videos if and when requested to do so by staff.



## **11. Storage and retention**

- 11.1. Hard copies of photos and video recordings held by the school will be annotated with the date on which they were taken and will be stored in the school office. They will not be used other than for their original purpose, unless permission is sought from the headteacher and parents of the pupils involved.
- 11.2. Digital photographs and videos will be deleted from the school drive as soon as they have fulfilled the purpose(s) they were obtained for.
- 11.3. Staff will review stored images and videos on an annual basis to ensure that all unwanted material has been deleted.
- 11.4. Parents must inform the school in writing where they wish to withdraw or change their consent. If they do so, any related imagery and videos involving their children will be removed from the school drive immediately.
- 11.5. Where hard copies of photographs or videos are held, these will be disposed of either by returning to the pupil's parents, or by shredding, as appropriate.
- 11.6. Where a pupil's security risk has changed, the DSL will inform the headteacher immediately. If required, any related imagery and videos involving the pupil will be removed from the school drive immediately. Hard copies will be removed by returning to their parents or by shredding, as appropriate.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

- 12.1. This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Trust Board. The next scheduled review date for this policy is March 2026.
- 12.2. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff members and, where appropriate, parents.

## Consent Form

Name of pupil:	
Name of Parent/Carer:	
Class:	

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please understand that, occasionally, photographs of your child at school may be used in printed publications like the school prospectus and newsletters, project display boards or on the school website. Video or webcam recordings may also be used for school conferences or educational purposes.

Our school may also be visited by the media in order to celebrate a particular achievement or as part of footage for a high-profile event.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, and to protect your child's interests, please read the conditions of use and complete and submit the form below.

Please circle the relevant response where you give your consent to photographic images and videos of your child being used. Please circle the relevant response to indicate whether you consent to your child's name being associated with their image.

	Use of images or videos	My child being named
In school materials aimed at the school community, e.g. prospectus, newsletter, displays around school	YES / NO	YES / NO
On the school website	YES / NO	YES / NO
In media/press coverage of the school	YES / NO	YES / NO

I confirm that I have read and agree to the terms contained within this consent form, and agree to inform the school, in writing, of any changes to my consent.

Parent signature:	
Date:	

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### For office use only

Consent form received (date):	
Authorised (name):	
Date processed:	