



CCTV Policy

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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 North Chadderton School.

The system comprises a number of fixed cameras located around the school site. All cameras are controlled from a Central Premises Office and are only available to view by designated staff – members of the Premises Team, members of the Senior Leadership Board and the Pastoral Team. Cameras can be viewed via access to a secure website.

This Code follows Data Protection Act guidelines.

The Code of Practice will be subject to review bi-annually to include consultation as appropriate with interested parties.

The CCTV system is owned and managed by the school.

2. Objectives of the CCTV scheme

To increase personal safety of staff students and visitors and reduce the fear of crime.

To protect the school buildings and their assets.

To support the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime.

To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders.

To protect members of the public and private property.

To assist in managing school behaviour.

3. Statement of intent

The CCTV Scheme will be 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 which are protected by the Act.

Cameras will be used to monitor activities within the school and its car parks and other public areas to identify criminal activity actually occurring, anticipated, or perceived, and for the purpose of securing the safety and wellbeing of the school, together with its visitors.

Camera images will be used as evidence in internal and external investigations into breaches of codes of conduct, disciplinary issues, operational management and behaviour management. All staff, students and parents / carers will be informed of this intent by the publication of this policy on the school website and VLE.

Staff have been instructed that static cameras will not focus on private homes, gardens and other areas of private property.

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

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.

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 CCTV.

4. Operation of the system

The Scheme will be administered and managed by the Headteacher or her nominee, in accordance with the principles and objectives expressed in the code.

The day-to-day management will be the responsibility of both the Senior Leadership Board (SLB) and the Premises Manager during the day and the Premises Team out of hours and at weekends.

The CCTV system will be operated 24 hours each day, every day of the year.

5. Liaison

Liaison meetings may be held with all bodies involved in the support of the system.

6. Monitoring procedures

Camera surveillance may be maintained at all times.

A monitor is installed in the Premises Office to which pictures will be continuously recorded.

7. Image storage procedures

In order to maintain and preserve the integrity of the disk 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 must be strictly adhered to:

- (i) Each disk must be identified by a unique mark.
- (ii) Before using, each disk must be cleaned of any previous recording.
- (iii) The controller shall register the date and time of disk insert, including tape reference.
- (iv) A disk required for evidential purposes must be sealed, witnessed, signed by the controller, dated and stored in a separate, secure, evidence disk store. If a disk 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 controller, dated and returned to the evidence disk store.
- (v) If the disk is archived the reference must be noted.

Disks may be viewed by the Police for the prevention and detection of crime, authorised officers of Oldham County Council for supervisory purposes, authorised demonstration and training.

A record will be maintained of the release of disks to the Police or other authorised applicants. A register will be available for this purpose.

Viewing of disks by the Police must be recorded in writing and in the log book. Requests by the Police can only be actioned under Section 29 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Should a disk be required as evidence, a copy may be released to the Police under the procedures described in paragraph 8.1 (iv) of this Code. Disks will only be released to the Police on the clear understanding that the disk remains the property of the school, and both the disk 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 disk or any part of the information contained thereon. On occasions when a Court requires the release of an original disk this will be produced from the secure evidence disk store, complete in its sealed bag.

The Police may require the school to retain the stored disks for possible use as evidence in the future. Such disks will be properly indexed and properly and securely stored until they are needed by the Police.

Applications received from outside bodies (e.g. solicitors) to view or release disks will be referred to the Headteacher. In these circumstances disks will normally be released where satisfactory documentary evidence is produced showing that they are required for legal proceedings, a subject access request, or in response to a Court Order. A fee can be charged in such circumstances: £10 for subject access requests; a sum not exceeding the cost of materials in other cases.

8. Breaches of the code (including breaches of security)

Any breach of the Code of Practice by school staff will be initially investigated by the Headteacher, in order for her to take the appropriate disciplinary action.

Any serious breach of the Code of Practice will be immediately investigated and an independent investigation carried out to make recommendations on how to remedy the breach.

9. Assessment of the scheme and code of practice

Performance monitoring, including random operating checks, may be carried out by the Premises Manager.

10. Complaints

Any complaints about the school's CCTV system should be addressed to the Headteacher. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with Section 7 of this Code.

11. 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 themselves, including those obtained by CCTV. Requests for Data Subject Access should be made to the Headteacher.

12. Public information

Copies of this Code of Practice will be available to the public on the VLE.

Summary of Key Points

- This Code of Practice will be reviewed every two years.
- The CCTV system is owned and operated by the school.
- Liaison meetings may be held with the Police and other bodies.
- Recording disks used will be properly indexed, stored and destroyed after appropriate use.
- Disks may only be viewed by Authorised school Staff and the Police.
- Disks required as evidence will be properly recorded witnessed and packaged before copies are released to the police.
- Disks will not be made available to the media for commercial or entertainment.
- Disks will be disposed of securely by incineration.
- Any breaches of this code will be investigated by the Headteacher. An independent investigation will be carried out for serious breaches.
- Breaches of the code and remedies will be reported to the Headteacher.