



**Thorndown Pre-School**

# CCTV Policy

Our aspiration is that Thorndown Primary will be an outstanding school.

We value and respect everyone in our community and work as a team to:

- Provide learning experiences which support and inspire high achievement for all;
- Ensure a caring, safe and welcoming environment;
- Promote co-operative and responsible attitudes to make a positive contribution;
- Actively encourage independence and confidence to thrive in a changing world.

**Approved at Finance & Premises committee meeting on 10 June 2021**

**Review Period: Two Years**

**Date for next review: Summer 2023**

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Plan showing location of all cameras, monitoring equipment, and system control centre within the school buildings and on the school site.

## 1. Introduction

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

1.2 The CCTV system is owned by the school.

1.3 The system comprises **of nine cameras** located in and around the school premises. Appended to this document is a plan of the School showing the location of all cameras, monitors and the system control centre within the school buildings and on the school site.

1.4 All cameras are monitored by selected senior and administrative staff together with those directly involved in the security of the school site.

1.5 This Policy follows Data Protection Act guidelines.

1.6 Operation of the School CCTV Policy will be reviewed annually by the School Governing Body and will include consultation, as appropriate, with interested parties.

## 2. Objectives of the CCTV Policy

(a) To protect the School buildings and their assets

(b) To increase personal safety and reduce the fear of crime

(c) To support the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime

(d) To assist in identifying, apprehending and disciplining offenders

(e) To protect members of the public and private property.

## 3. Statement of Intent

3.1 The CCTV policy will be registered with the Information Commissioner, if necessary, 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 2008.

3.2 The School will treat the system and all information, documents and recordings obtained and used as data which are protected by the Act.

3.3 Cameras will be used to monitor activities within and around **the school and its car parks** to identify criminal activity actually occurring, anticipated, or perceived, and for the purpose of securing the safety and well-being of the School, together with its visitors.

3.4.1 Staff have been instructed to ensure cameras are not able to focus on private homes, gardens and other areas of private property. Cameras are set in a fixed position and are not remotely moveable.

3.4.2 Unless an immediate response to events is required, staff must not direct cameras at an individual, their property or a specific group of individuals, without an authorisation being obtained for Directed Surveillance to take place, as set out in the Regulation of Investigatory Power Act, 2000. Note: Cameras are not remotely moveable and are set in a fixed position.

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

3.6 The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that the CCTV 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.

3.7 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 CCTV System

4.1 The system will be administered and managed by the Head Teacher in accordance with the principles and objectives expressed in this Policy.

4.2 The day-to-day management will be the responsibility of the Business Manager and Senior Management Team during the day, out of hours and at weekends.

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

## 5. Operational Control

5.1 The School Office personnel will check and confirm the efficiency of the system daily and in particular that the equipment is properly recording and that cameras are functional.

5.2 The Business Manager 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 issues e.g. the rights of individuals in relation to their recorded images.

Training records will be maintained accordingly.

5.3 Access to the viewing monitors will be strictly limited to selected senior and administrative staff together with those directly involved in the security of the School.

5.4 Unless an immediate response to events is required, staff must not direct cameras at an individual or a specific group of individuals.

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

5.6 If an emergency arises out of hours, permission must be obtained from the Headteacher or Chair of Governors to view or process recorded material.

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

5.8 Incidents involving the Emergency Services must be notified to the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors (the incident maybe notifiable to the LA depending on severity)

## 6. Liaison

Liaison meetings will be held as required with all staff involved in the support of the system.

## 7. Monitoring Procedures

7.1 Camera surveillance may be maintained at all times.

7.2 Pictures will be continuously recorded and stored on the hard drive for 28 days only.

7.3 No covert monitoring will be undertaken until the circumstances have been considered by, and written authorisation obtained from, the Corporate Director - People and the Director of Legal and Governance Services at Shire Hall

7.4 Covert surveillance activities of law enforcement agencies are not covered here because they are governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) 2000.

7.5 Prior to any request for covert surveillance to be considered, the applicant must be able to justify the request as being exceptional for the following reasons:

- the monitoring relates to behaviour, not to contract performance;
- it is carried out to investigate a suspected criminal activity or malpractice; and informing staff is likely to prejudice the above purpose and certain standards for covert monitoring are complied with.

The standards relating to covert monitoring are satisfied if:

- specific criminal activity has been identified;
- a need to obtain evidence by covert monitoring is established;
- following assessment, it is concluded that informing employees would prejudice the gathering of evidence;
- a time period for monitoring has been identified; and
- the provisions of RIPA are complied with.

At the conclusion of any investigation, all covert cameras must be removed from their location(s) and all none relevant data destroyed as soon as possible.

## 8. Recorded Material Procedures

8.1 In order to maintain and preserve the integrity of the recorded material 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) The recorded material is automatically stored on the hard drive of the PC for 28 days. After which, it will begin to be overwritten with the next cycle of data.

(iv) 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 providing that it is then resealed, witnessed, signed by the controller, dated and returned to the evidence material store.

(v) If the recorded material is archived the reference must be noted.

8.2 Recorded materials may be viewed by the Police for the prevention and detection of crime, authorised officers of the Police for supervisory purposes, authorised demonstration and training.

8.3 A record will be maintained of the release of recorded materials to the Police or other authorised applicants.

8.4 Viewing of recorded materials by the Police must be recorded in writing and in a log book. Requests by the Police can only be actioned under section 29 of the Data Protection Act, 1998.

8.5 Should recorded material be required as evidence, a copy may be released to the Police under the procedures described in paragraph

8.1(iv). Recorded materials will only be released to the Police on the clear understanding that the recorded material remains the property of the school, and both the recorded material and information contained on it are to be treated in accordance with this document.

8.6 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. On occasions when a Court requires the release of an original recorded material this will be produced from the secure recorded material store, complete in its sealed bag.

8.7 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 needed by the Police.

8.8 Applications received from outside bodies (e.g. solicitors) to view or release recorded materials will be referred to the Head Teacher. In these circumstances recorded materials 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. If there are uncertainties as to the validity of any request, clarification should be sought initially from the Data Protection Team, Cambridgeshire County Council. A fee can be charged in such circumstances: £10 for subject access requests; a sum not exceeding the cost of materials in other cases.

## **9. Record Keeping/Incident Logs**

The School will maintain adequate and comprehensive records relating to the management of the system and incidents.

## **10. Retention of Data**

10.1 Data is held on the hard drive for 28 days only

10.2 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.

10.3 Data on the hard drive is permanently deleted by overriding the data every 28 days.

10.4 Systematic checks are carried out to ensure the deletion regime is strictly followed.

## **11. Breaches of the Policy (including breaches of security)**

Any breach of the Policy by School staff will be initially investigated by the Business manager or Head teacher (identified in section 4.1) to determine disciplinary action, if necessary, and to make recommendations on how to remedy the breach.

## **12. Assessment of the CCTV System**

An annual assessment will be undertaken by **the Head Teacher** to evaluate the effectiveness of the CCTV system. The outcome of the assessment will be reported to a meeting of the School Governors Premises Committee who will determine if the system is achieving the objectives of the scheme, or if the system requires modification.

### **13. Complaints**

Any complaints about the School's CCTV system should firstly be made, in writing, to **the Head Teacher**. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with section 11 of this document.

### **14. Access by the Data Subject**

14.1 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.

If the individual is not the focus of the footage i.e. they have not been singled out or had their movements tracked then the images are not classed as 'personal data' and the individual is not entitled to the image under the provisions of Subject Access – Data Protection Act 1998.

**April 2015**

Review Date: April **2016**

**This policy should be read in conjunction with the CCTV Impact Assessment**

### **Appendix**

Plan showing the location of all cameras, monitoring equipment and system control centre within the school buildings and on.