



[The Ellis CE \(VA\) Primary School](#)

CCTV Policy

Completed and approved RH/DS. To be reviewed July 2022.

INTRODUCTION

Closed Circuit Television Systems (CCTVS) are installed in The Ellis CE Primary School. New CCTV systems will be introduced in consultation with staff and governors. Where systems are already in operation, their operation will be reviewed regularly.

1. PURPOSE OF POLICY

“The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of Closed Circuit Television and its associated technology in the monitoring of both the internal and external environs of the premises under the remit of The Ellis CE Primary School.

CCTV systems are installed (both internally and externally) in premises for the purpose of enhancing security of the building and its associated equipment as well as creating a mindfulness among the occupants, at any one time, that a surveillance security system is in operation within and/or in the external environs of the premises during both the daylight and night hours each day. CCTV surveillance at The Ellis Primary School is intended for the purposes of:

- protecting the school building and school assets, both during and after school hours;
- promoting the health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors;
- reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour (including theft and vandalism);
- supporting the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime; and
- assisting in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders;

2. SCOPE

This policy relates directly to the location and use of CCTV and the monitoring, recording and subsequent use of such recorded material.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Ellis CE Primary School as the corporate body has a statutory responsibility for the protection of its property, equipment and other plant as well as providing a sense of security to its employees, students and invitees to its premises. The Ellis CE Primary School owes a duty of care under the provisions of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and associated legislation and utilises CCTV systems and their associated monitoring and recording equipment as an added mode of security and surveillance for the purpose of enhancing the quality of life of the school.

The use of the CCTV system will be conducted in a professional, ethical and legal manner and any diversion of the use of CCTV security technologies for other purposes is prohibited by this policy e.g. CCTV will not be used for monitoring employee performance.

Information obtained through the CCTV system may only be released when authorised by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher. Any requests for CCTV recordings/images from the Police will be fully recorded.

CCTV monitoring of public areas for security purposes will be conducted in a manner consistent with all existing policies adopted by the school, including Equality & Diversity Policy, Dignity at Work Policy, Codes of Practice for dealing with complaints of Bullying & Harassment and Sexual Harassment and other relevant policies, including the provisions set down in equality and other educational and related legislation.

This policy prohibits monitoring based on the characteristics and classifications contained in equality and other related legislation e.g. race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability etc.

Video monitoring of public areas for security purposes within school premises is limited to uses that do not violate the individual's reasonable expectation to privacy.

Information obtained in violation of this policy may not be used in a disciplinary proceeding against an employee or a pupil of the school.

All CCTV systems and associated equipment will be required to be compliant with this policy following its adoption by The Ellis CE Primary School. Recognisable images captured by CCTV systems are "personal data." They are therefore subject to GDPR.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF CCTV

Section 2(1)(c)(iii) of the Data Protection Acts requires that data is "adequate, relevant and not excessive" for the purpose for which it is collected. This means that The Ellis CE Primary School needs to be able to justify the obtaining and use of personal data by means of a CCTV system. The use of CCTV to control the perimeter of the school buildings for security purposes has been deemed to be justified by governors. The system is intended to capture images of intruders or of individuals damaging property or removing goods without authorisation.

CCTV systems will not be used to monitor normal teacher/student classroom activity in school.

4. LOCATION OF CAMERAS

The location of cameras is a key consideration. Use of CCTV to monitor areas where individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy would be difficult to justify. The Ellis CE Primary School has endeavoured to select locations for the installation of CCTV cameras which are least intrusive to protect the privacy of individuals. Cameras placed so as to record external areas are positioned in such a way as to prevent or minimise recording of passers-by or of another person's private property.

CCTV Video Monitoring and Recording of Public Areas in The Ellis CE Primary School may include the following:

- ***Protection of school buildings and property:*** The building's perimeter, entrances and exits and receiving areas for goods/services.
- ***Monitoring of Access Control Systems:*** Monitor and record restricted access areas at entrances to buildings and other areas.

- **Verification of Security Alarms:** Intrusion alarms, exit door controls, external alarms
- **Video Patrol of Public Areas:** Parking areas, Main entrance/exit gates, Traffic Control
- **Criminal Investigations :** Robbery, burglary and theft surveillance

5. COVERT SURVEILLANCE

The Ellis CE Primary School will not engage in covert surveillance.

Police requests to carry out covert surveillance on school premises, such covert surveillance may require the consent of a judge. Accordingly, any such request will be requested in writing and the school will seek legal advice.

6. NOTIFICATION – SIGNAGE

The Principal will provide a copy of this CCTV Policy on request to staff, students, parents and visitors to the school. This policy describes the purpose and location of CCTV monitoring, a contact number for those wishing to discuss CCTV monitoring and guidelines for its use. The location of CCTV cameras will also be indicated to the governors. Signage will also be prominently displayed at the entrance to The Ellis CE Primary School.



WARNING

CCTV cameras in operation

Images are being monitored and recorded for the purpose of crime-prevention, the prevention of anti-social behaviour, for the safety of our staff and students and for the protection of The Ellis CE Primary School and its property. This system will be in operation 24 hours a day, every day. These images may be passed to Police if requested.

Appropriate locations for signage will include:

- at entrances to premises i.e. external doors, school gates
- reception area

7. STORAGE & RETENTION

Data "shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for" the purposes for which it was obtained. A data controller needs to be able to justify this retention period. For a normal CCTV security system, it would be difficult to justify retention beyond a month (28 days), except where the images identify an issue – such as a break-in or theft and those particular images/recordings are retained specifically in the context of an investigation/prosecution of that issue.

Accordingly, the images captured by the CCTV system will be retained for a maximum of 28 days, except where the image identifies an issue and is retained specifically in the context of an investigation/prosecution of that issue.

The images/recordings will be stored in a secure environment with a log of access kept. Access will be restricted to authorised personnel. Supervising the access and maintenance of the CCTV System is the responsibility of the Head teacher. The Head teacher may delegate the administration of the CCTV System to another staff member. In certain circumstances, the recordings may also be viewed by other individuals in order to achieve the objectives set out above (such individuals may include the Police, the Deputy Head teacher, SLT member, other members of the teaching staff, representatives of the Department of Education and Skills, representatives of the HSE and/or the parent of a recorded student). When CCTV recordings are being viewed, access will be limited to authorised individuals on a need-to-know basis.

Tapes/DVDs will be stored in a secure environment with a log of access to tapes kept. Access will be restricted to authorised personnel. Similar measures will be employed when using disk storage, with automatic logs of access to the images created.

8. ACCESS

Tapes/DVDs storing the recorded footage and the monitoring equipment will be securely stored in a restricted area. Unauthorised access to that area will not be permitted at any time. The area will be locked when not occupied by authorised personnel. A log of access to tapes/images will be maintained.

Access to the CCTV system and stored images will be restricted to authorised personnel only i.e. The Headteacher or anyone who has been granted permission by the headteacher.

In relevant circumstances, CCTV footage may be accessed:

- By Police where The Ellis CE Primary School is required by law to make a report regarding the commission of a suspected crime; or
- Following a request by Police when a crime or suspected crime has taken place and/or when it is suspected that illegal/anti-social behaviour is taking place on The Ellis CE Primary School property, or
- To the HSE and/or any other statutory body charged with child safeguarding; or
- To assist the Head teacher or Deputy Headteacher in establishing facts in cases of unacceptable student behaviour, in which case, the parents/guardians will be informed; or
- To data subjects (or their legal representatives), pursuant to an access request where the time, date and location of the recordings is furnished to The Ellis CE Primary School, or
- To individuals (or their legal representatives) subject to a court order.

- To the school's insurance company where the insurance company requires same in order to pursue a claim for damage done to the insured property.

Requests by Police: Information obtained through video monitoring will only be released when authorised by the Head teacher following consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of Management. If Police request CCTV images for a specific investigation, Police may require a warrant and accordingly any such request made by Police should be made in writing and the school should immediately seek legal advice.

Access requests: On written request, any person whose image has been recorded has a right to be given a copy of the information recorded which relates to them, provided always that such an image/recording exists i.e. has not been deleted and provided also that an exemption/prohibition does not apply to the release. Where the image/recording identifies another individual, those images may only be released where they can be redacted/anonymised so that the other person is not identified or identifiable. To exercise their right of access, a data subject must make an application in writing to the school Head teacher. The school may charge up to €6.35 for responding to such a request and must respond **within 40 days**.

Access requests can be made to the following: Mrs Rachel Hurding, Head teacher, The Ellis CE Primary School, School Street, Hemingfield, Barnsley, S73 0PS.

A person should provide all the necessary information to assist The Ellis CE Primary School in locating the CCTV recorded data, such as the date, time and location of the recording. If the image is of such poor quality as not to clearly identify an individual, that image may not be considered to be personal data and may not be handed over by the school.

In giving a person a copy of their data, the school may provide a still/series of still pictures, a tape or a disk with relevant images. However, other images of other individuals will be obscured before the data is released.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure that the use of CCTV systems is implemented in accordance with the policy set down by The Ellis CE Primary School.
- Oversee and co-ordinate the use of CCTV monitoring for safety and security purposes within The Ellis CE Primary School.
- Ensure that all existing CCTV monitoring systems will be evaluated for compliance with this policy.
- Ensure that the CCTV monitoring at The Ellis CE Primary School is consistent with the highest standards and protections.
- Review camera locations and be responsible for the release of any information or recorded CCTV materials stored in compliance with this policy.
- Maintain a record of access (e.g. an access log) to or the release of tapes or any material recorded or stored in the system.
- Ensure that monitoring recorded tapes are not duplicated for release.

- Ensure that the perimeter of view from fixed location cameras conforms to this policy both internally and externally.
- Give consideration to both students and staff feedback/complaints regarding possible invasion of privacy or confidentiality due to the location of a particular CCTV camera or associated equipment.
- Ensure that all areas being monitored are not in breach of an enhanced expectation of the privacy of individuals within the school and be mindful that no such infringement is likely to take place.
- Co-operate with the Health & Safety Officer of The Ellis CE Primary School in reporting on the CCTV system in operation in the school.
- Ensure that external cameras are non-intrusive in terms of their positions and views of neighbouring residential housing and comply with the principle of “Reasonable Expectation of Privacy”.
- Ensure that monitoring tapes are stored in a secure place with access by authorised personnel only.
- Ensure that images recorded on tapes/DVDs/digital recordings are stored for a period not longer than 28 days and are then erased unless required as part of a criminal investigation or court proceedings (criminal or civil) or other bona fide use as approved by the Chairperson of the Board or.
- Ensure that when a zoom facility on a camera is being used, there is a second person present with the operator of the camera to guarantee that there is no unwarranted invasion of privacy.
- Ensure that camera control is solely to monitor suspicious behaviour, criminal damage etc. and not to monitor individual characteristics.
- Ensure that camera control is not infringing an individual’s reasonable expectation of privacy in public areas.
- Ensure that where Police request to set up mobile video equipment for criminal investigations, legal advice has been obtained and such activities have the approval of the Chairperson of the Board.

10. SECURITY COMPANIES

The school CCTV system is maintained by a security company contracted by the school.

11. IMPLEMENTATION & REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated from time to time. On-going review and evaluation will take cognisance of changing information or guidelines (e.g. from the Data Protection Commissioner, Police, Department of Education and Skills, Audit units (internal and external to the school) national management bodies, legislation and feedback from parents/guardians, students, staff and others.

The date from which the policy will apply is the date of adoption by the Board of Management. Implementation of the policy will be monitored by the Headteacher of the school.

APPENDIX 2 - PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Before a school installs a new CCTV system, it is recommended that a documented privacy impact assessment is carried out. A school which properly conducts such an assessment is less likely to introduce a system that contravenes the provisions of GDPR. This is an important procedure to adopt as a contravention may result in action being taken against a school by the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner, or may expose a school to a claim for damages from a student.

Some of the points that might be included in a Privacy Impact Assessment are:

- What is the school purpose for using CCTV images? What are the issues/problems it is meant to address?
- Is the system necessary to address a pressing need, such as staff and student safety or crime prevention?
- Are the CCTV cameras intended to operate on the outside of the premises only?
- Is it justified under the circumstances?
- Is it proportionate to the problem it is designed to deal with?
- Is it intended that CCTV cameras will operate inside of the building?
- Are internal CCTV cameras justified under the circumstances?
- Are internal CCTV cameras proportionate to the problem they are designed to deal with?
- What are the benefits to be gained from its use?
- Can CCTV systems realistically deliver these benefits? Can less privacy-intrusive solutions, such as improved lighting, achieve the same objectives?
- Does the school need images of identifiable individuals, or could the system use other images which are not capable of identifying the individual?
- Will the system being considered deliver the desired benefits now and remain suitable in the future?
- What future demands may arise for wider use of images and how will they be addressed?
- Is the school, the data controller for the entire CCTV system?
- Where a management company is in place, is the school satisfied that it complies with the GDPR with regard to the processing of images of staff, students and visitors to your school captured on any CCTV systems under its management?
- What are the views of those who will be under CCTV surveillance?
- What could be done to minimise intrusion for those whose images may be captured, particularly if specific concerns have been expressed?
- How have staff, students and visitors been assured by the School that they will not be monitored and that the CCTV system will be used only for the stated purposes?
- Does the school's policy on the use of CCTV make it clear that staff (teaching and non-teaching) will not be monitored for performance or conduct purposes?
- Have the views of staff & students regarding the location of cameras been taken into account?
- Can the location of each internal camera be justified in accordance with the overall purpose for the use of the CCTV system?
- Has appropriate signage been erected at the location of each internal camera indicating that recording is taking place and outlining the purpose of such recording?

- Who will have access to the system and recordings/images?
- What security measures are in place to protect the CCTV system and recordings/images?
- Are those who will have authorised access to the system and recordings/images clear about their responsibilities?
- Are the camera monitors kept out of view of staff, students and visitors and is access to the camera monitors restricted to a limited number of staff on a 'need to know' basis?
- Is the room(s) which houses the camera monitors and the CCTV system securely locked when unattended?
- Does the school have a procedure in place to ensure that recordings/images are erased or deleted as soon as the retention period (28 days) has expired?
- Does the school have a procedure in place for handling requests for access to recordings/images from Police?
- Will appropriate notices be in place to ensure that individuals know that they are being monitored?
- Does the school have a data protection policy? Has it been updated to take account of the introduction of a CCTV system?
- Does the school have a procedure in place to handle access requests seeking a copy of images recorded by the CCTV system (within the statutory timeframe of forty days)?
- Has the right of access been communicated to staff, students and visitors?
- Has the school communicated its policy on the use of CCTV to staff, students and visitors and how has this been done?
- How are new students and new staff informed of the school's policy on the use of CCTV?

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