

CCTV (Use of) Policy

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the management and operation of the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) System at St Mary's School, Colchester (the School). It also serves as a notice and a guide to data subjects (including pupils, parents, staff, volunteers, visitors to the School and members of the public) regarding their rights in relation to personal data recorded via the CCTV system (the System).

The System is administered and managed by the School, who act as the Data Controller. This policy will be subject to review from time to time and should be read with reference to the School's Data Protection Policies and Privacy Notice, which are available on the website (www.stmaryscolchester.org.uk). For further guidance, please visit the Information Commissioner's CCTV Code of Practice (www.ico.org.uk).

All fixed cameras are in plain sight on the School premises, and the School does not routinely use CCTV for covert monitoring or monitoring of private property outside the School grounds. A list of the cameras in use is available on request from the School.

The School's purposes of using the CCTV system are set out below and, having fully considered the privacy rights of individuals, the School believes these purposes are all in its legitimate interests. Data captured for the purposes below will not be used for any commercial purpose.

1. Objectives of the System

- 1.1 To protect pupils, staff, volunteers, visitors and members of the public with regard to their personal safety.
- 1.2 To protect the School buildings and equipment, and the personal property of pupils, staff, volunteers, visitors and members of the public.
- 1.3 To support the police and community in preventing and detecting crime and assist in the identification and apprehension of offenders.
- 1.4 To monitor the security and integrity of the School site and deliveries and arrivals.
- 1.5 To monitor staff and contractors when carrying out work duties only where necessary for safety, security, safeguarding or investigation of incidents, and not for routine performance management.

2. Positioning

- 2.1 Locations have been selected that the School reasonably believes require monitoring to address the stated objectives.
- 2.2 Adequate signage has been placed in prominent positions to inform staff and pupils that they are entering a monitored area, identifying the School as the Data Controller and giving contact details for further information regarding the system.
- 2.3 No images will be captured from areas in which individuals would have a heightened expectation of privacy, including changing and washroom facilities.

- 2.4 No images of spaces outside of the School premises will be captured, except to a limited extent at site entrances.

3. Maintenance

- 3.1 The CCTV System will be operational 24 hours a day, every day of the year.
- 3.2 The Assistant Head of Operations & IT Manager will ensure that the System is properly recording and that cameras are functioning correctly, on a regular basis.
- 3.3 The System will be checked and serviced (if required) at least annually.

4. Supervision of the System

- 4.1 The Staff authorised by the School to conduct routine supervision of the System, as well as the Assistant Head of Operations, may include maintenance staff (Caretakers, Groundskeeper) Front Office Staff, Pastoral Staff.
- 4.2 Images will be viewed and/or monitored in a suitably secure and private area to minimise the likelihood of or opportunity for access by unauthorised persons.

5. Storage of Data

- 5.1. The day-to-day management of images will be the responsibility of the Assistant Head of Operations, who will act as the System Manager, or such suitable person as the System Manager shall appoint in his or her absence.
- 5.2 Images will be stored for 30 days and automatically over-written unless the School considers it reasonably necessary for the pursuit of the objectives outlined above, or if lawfully required by an appropriate third party such as the police or local authority.
- 5.3 Where such data is retained, it will be retained in accordance with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 and the School's Data Protection Policy. Information including the date, time and length of the recording, as well as the locations covered and groups or individuals recorded, will be recorded in the system logbook.

6. Access to Images

- 6.1 Access to stored CCTV images will only be given to authorised persons, under the supervision of the System Manager, in pursuance of the above objectives (or if there is some other overriding and lawful reason to grant such access).
- 6.2 Individuals also have the right to access personal data the School holds on them (please see the Privacy Notice and Data Protection Policy), including information held on the System, if it has been kept. The School will require specific details including at least the time, date and camera location before it can properly respond to any such requests. This right is subject to certain exemptions from access, including in some circumstances where others are identifiable (see appendix A: CCTV footage access request).
- 6.3 The System Manager must satisfy themselves of the identity of any person wishing to view stored images or access the system and the legitimacy of the request. The following are examples when the System Manager may authorise access to CCTV images:

- 6.3.1 Where required to do so by the Principal, the Police or some relevant statutory authority;
 - 6.3.2 To make a report regarding suspected criminal behaviour;
 - 6.3.3 To enable the Designated Safeguarding Lead or his/her appointed deputy to examine behaviour which may give rise to any reasonable safeguarding concern;
 - 6.3.4 To data subjects (or their legal representatives) pursuant to an access request under the data protection legislation and on the basis set out in 6.2 above;
 - 6.3.5 To the School's insurance company where required in order to pursue a claim for damage done to insured property; or
 - 6.3.6 In any other circumstances required under law or regulation.
- 6.4 Where images are disclosed under 6.3 above a record will be made in the system logbook including the person viewing the images, the time of access, the reason for viewing the images, the details of images viewed and a crime incident number (if applicable).
- 6.5 Where images are provided to third parties under 6.3 above, wherever practicable steps will be taken to obscure images of non-relevant individuals.
- 6.6 The School will respond to valid subject access requests within one calendar month, in line with data protection legislation.

7. Minibus Dash Cameras

- 7.1 The School's minibus fleet is fitted with both internal and external cameras.
- 7.2 The use of these cameras is in line with the use of the CCTV cameras located on the School's site, as detailed in this policy.

8. Other CCTV systems

- 8.1 The School does not own or manage third party CCTV systems but may be provided by third parties with images of incidents where this in line with the objectives of the School's own CCTV policy.
- 8.2 Where pupils travel on transport provided by third party contractors and a number of these vehicles are equipped with CCTV systems, the School may use these in establishing facts in cases of unacceptable pupil behaviour. In such an instance the parents/guardian will be informed as part of the School's management of a particular incident.

9. Complaints and queries

- 9.1 Any complaints or queries in relation to the School's CCTV system, or its use of CCTV, or requests for copies, should be referred to the Head of Finance & Operations in the first instance.

Reviewed/Approved: March 2026
Next review: Spring 2027

Appendix A

CCTV footage access request

The following information is required before the School can provide copies of or access to CCTV footage from which a person believes they may be identified.

Please note that CCTV footage may contain the information of others that needs to be protected, and that the School typically deletes CCTV recordings after 30 days.

Name and address: (proof of ID may be required)	
Description of footage (including a description of yourself, clothing, activity etc.)	
Location of camera	
Date of footage sought	
Approximate time (give a range if necessary)	

Signature*

Print Name.....

Date

Important Note

If requesting CCTV footage of a child aged under 13, a person with parental responsibility should sign this form. For children aged 13 or over, the child's authority or consent must be obtained except in circumstances where that would clearly be inappropriate and the lawful reasons to provide to the parent(s) outweigh the privacy considerations of the child.