St Mary's School
Gerrards Cross

Taking, Storing and Using Images of Children Policy

Policy Owner	Bursar and DSL	**Approval Date**	September 2026
Approved By	SLT	**Review Date**	September 2028
Version		**Status**	Approved
Applies To	Pupils/Staff/Parents/Visitors	**Review Cycle**	Bi-Annually
Related Policies	Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy Data Protection and Privacy Policy (GDPR) Online Safety Policy Mobile Devices Policy Staff Code of Conduct Whistleblowing Policy	**Policy Ref.**	

Policy Statement

This Policy is intended to provide guidance to staff and information to pupils and their parents or carers about how images of pupils are normally used by the school. It also covers the school's approach to the use of cameras, video, and filming equipment at school events and on school premises by parents and pupils themselves, and the media.

It applies alongside any individual parent or pupil consent forms provided and should be understood in the context of any other information the school may provide from time to time about a particular use of pupil images, including e.g., signage about the use of CCTV; and more general information about use of pupils' personal data in the school's Privacy Notice.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF IMAGE USE

- Certain uses of images, including pupil images, are necessary for the ordinary running of the school, for example, for administration, identification, educational and curricular purposes, and security. It may not be possible to object to such uses, although any concerns in this regard will be duly considered by the school.
- Other uses considered to be in the legitimate interests of the school and its community and unlikely to cause any negative impact on children. The school is entitled lawfully to process such images and take decisions about how to use them, although objections may be raised and the school will seek to accommodate any reasonable concerns. Examples are given in this policy.
- We hope parents and carers will feel able to support the school in using pupil images to celebrate the achievements of pupils, sporting, and academic; to promote the work of the school; and for important administrative purposes such as identification and security. However, for any uses of images which might be considered more intrusive or unexpected – examples of which are set out further in this Policy – we will seek specific consent from parents and, as appropriate, pupils.
- Parents who accept a place for their child at the school are invited to indicate that they agree to the school using images of him/her as set out in this policy. However, parents and carers should be aware that certain uses of their child's images may continue to be necessary, for example, administration, education or security or will be unavoidable for example if they are included incidentally in CCTV or as a part of a whole-school photograph.
- Any parent who wishes to limit the use of images of a pupil for whom they are responsible should contact office@stmarysgx.co.uk. The school will respect the wishes of parents/carers wherever reasonably possible, and in accordance with this policy.
- Parents should be aware that, from around age 12, the law recognises pupils' own rights to have a say in how their personal information is used – including images.
- Where remote video provision for pupils (e.g., Zoom or Teams) is necessary, whether for lessons or e.g., counselling, the school will notify its policies in respect of monitoring, recording and retention of such sessions (along with policies on appropriate dress and supervision).

USE AND PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN PUPIL IMAGES

In accordance with any consents, notices or objections as may be applicable from time to time, the school will use images of its pupils to keep the school community updated on the activities of the school, and for marketing and promotional purposes, including:

- on internal displays and notice boards within the school premises;

- as part of the school's email system and intranet, and in appropriate communications by whatever means with the school community (parents, pupils, staff, Governors, and alumni);
- as part of school curricular activities, for example for physical education or drama or as a teaching aid, as part of official activities using school devices, tablets, and applications;
- in printed material, such as school magazines and printed marketing material, including the school's prospectus;
- on the school's website and, where appropriate and in line with relevant policies, via the school's social media channels e.g., Instagram and Facebook including in the form of streamed video of school events; and
- exceptionally, in the press and other external advertisements for the school.

The school's policy in respect of the above uses is as follows:

- Legitimate interests will be relied upon for any uses which are either essential (for example, security, administration, and education) or which fall within a scope of reasonably expected uses. Reasonably expected uses include internal school or parent communications, on the intranet, other closed community groups or in printed material such as a school magazine or prospectus, or any uses whereby an individual child cannot reasonably be identified by someone outside the school community: for example, where their face cannot clearly be seen.
- The key effect of the school relying on legitimate interests is that parents and pupils may be entitled to object to such uses, although their specific consent will not be sought beforehand. Any objections will be duly considered by the school, but objections can be overridden by other factors: for example, uses which the school considers essential; or uses which create little or no risk of harm (including where children are not at risk of outside identification).
- Consent will be sought for all other external uses of pupil images online or in conjunction with AI (artificial intelligence). In particular, where any intended use is more intrusive or unexpected – for example, if a child is the focus of the image and their face can clearly be seen – the school will discuss the use with the pupil or parents (as appropriate) in advance and seek a specific consent.

The school will take reasonable steps following any objection or withdrawal of consent but may not be able to recall or destroy printed materials. Any concerns or vulnerabilities relating to a pupil or their family should be drawn to the school's attention in advance. The safeguarding and best interests of pupils will always remain the school's priorities.

USE OF PUPIL IMAGES FOR IDENTIFICATION AND SECURITY

- All pupils are photographed on entering the school and, thereafter at yearly intervals, for the purposes of internal identification. These photographs identify the pupil by name, year group, house and form/tutor group and will be stored on the school's MIS.
- CCTV is in use on school premises for certain notified purposes, including security, and in certain cases is likely to capture images of pupils. Images captured on the school's CCTV system are used in accordance with the Privacy Notice and CCTV Policy.

USE OF PUPIL IMAGES BY EXTERNAL MEDIA

- Where practicably possible, the school will always notify parents in advance when the media is expected to attend an event or school activity in which school pupils are participating, and will make every reasonable effort to ensure that any pupil whose parent or carer has refused permission for

images of that pupil, or themselves, to be made in these circumstances are not photographed or filmed by the media, nor such images provided for media purposes.
- The media may ask for the names of the relevant pupils to go alongside the images. It is not the school's policy to provide full or first names in this scenario, and these will only be provided where parents have been informed about the media's visit and either parent or pupil has specifically consented to the sharing of their name, for an appropriate and necessary purpose.

SECURITY OF PUPIL IMAGES

- Professional photographers and the media are accompanied at all times by a member of staff when on school premises (unless they have a transferable Enhanced DBS). The school uses only reputable professional photographers and makes every effort to ensure that any images of pupils are in suitable dress and held by such persons securely, responsibly and in accordance with the school's instructions.
- The school takes appropriate technical and organisational security measures to ensure that images of pupils held by the school are kept securely on school systems and protected from loss or misuse. The school will take reasonable steps to ensure that members of staff only have access to images of pupils held by the school where it is necessary for them to do so.
- Any external processors of pupil images are engaged only for lawful purposes consistent with those set out in this policy, and subject to proper due diligence and contractual protections.
- All staff are given guidance on the school's Policy on Taking, Storing and Using Images of Pupils, and on the importance of ensuring that images of pupils are made and used responsibly, only for school purposes, and in accordance with school policies and the law.
- Pupils are also given mandatory and age-appropriate training on their own privacy online and with their peers, including image use and social media safety.
- The school is careful in our use of images and digital media but there is always a risk that content shared online may be copied, altered, or shared by others outside the school's control. This includes the online misuse and manipulation of digital content for potentially unlawful purposes. The school has robust procedures in place to mitigate the risk of this happening, but it cannot be completely eliminated.

Issues or concerns regarding data protection (GDPR) should be reported to the schools Data Protection Officer dpo@stmarysgx.co.uk.

USE OF CAMERAS AND FILMING EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING MOBILE PHONES) BY PARENTS

Parents, carers, or close family members are welcome to take photographs of (and where appropriate, film) their own children taking part in school events, subject to the following guidelines, which the school expects all parents to follow:

- When an event is held indoors, such as a play or a concert, parents should be mindful of the need to use their cameras and filming devices with consideration and courtesy for cast members or performers on stage and the comfort of others. Flash photography can disturb others in the audience or even cause distress for those with medical conditions; the school therefore asks that it is not used at indoor events.
- Parents are asked not to take photographs of other pupils, except incidentally as part of a group shot, without the prior agreement of that pupil's parents.

- Parents are reminded that such images are for personal use only. Images which may, expressly or not, identify other pupils should not be made accessible to others online (for example on Facebook, Instagram or by text or WhatsApp), or published in any other way.
- Surreptitious filming using personal devices of any sort is never permissible.
- Parents are reminded that copyright issues may prevent the school from permitting the filming or recording of some plays and concerts. The school will always print a reminder in the programme of events where issues of copyright apply.
- Parents may not film or take photographs in changing rooms or backstage during school productions, nor in any other circumstances in which photography or filming may embarrass or upset pupils, by reference to their dress or activity or any other factor.

The school reserves the right to refuse or withdraw permission to film or take photographs, at a specific event or more generally, either for all attendees/parents (e.g., where a safeguarding risk to an individual child has been identified) or from any individual parent who does not follow these guidelines or is otherwise reasonably felt to be making inappropriate images.

The school sometimes records plays and concerts professionally (or engages a professional photographer or film company to do so), in which case physical or digital copies may be made available to parents for purchase. Parents of pupils taking part in such plays and concerts will be consulted if it is intended to make such recordings available more widely.

Should remote video provision at home (by Zoom, teams or otherwise) be required or facilitated by the school in any context, specific guidelines and instructions will be provided to ensure privacy and safety, including around dress and recording of video.

USE OF CAMERAS AND FILMING EQUIPMENT BY PUPILS

- All pupils are encouraged to look after each other, and to report any concerns about the misuse of technology, or any worrying issues to a member of the pastoral staff.
- The use of cameras or filming equipment (including on mobile phones or other forms of smart/ wearable technology) is not allowed in toilets, washing or changing areas, nor should photography or filming equipment be used by pupils in a manner that may offend or cause upset.
- The misuse of images, cameras or filming equipment in a way that breaches this Policy, or the school's Anti-Bullying Policy, Data Protection Policy for Pupils, Parents and Carers, Online Safety Policy, IT Acceptable Use Policy for Pupils, Safeguarding Policy or the School Rules is always taken seriously, and may be the subject of disciplinary procedures or dealt with under the relevant safeguarding policy as appropriate.

AWARENESS OF OTHER SCHOOLS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

We are not responsible for other schools' use of images policies – e.g., at sporting fixtures. Wherever practical, however, steps are taken with visiting schools and at away fixtures / events to check any arrangements they have regarding pupil images and video streaming and that any policies in this area are broadly aligned with our own and/or are notified to participating parents and pupils as applicable.

RETENTION OF IMAGES

The school will follow the DfE guidelines as details within their 'Retention schedule'.