

**CCTV Policy**

**Introduction**

* Westlea Primary School uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images to reduce crime and monitor the school buildings in order to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors, and to prevent the loss or damage to school property.
* The system comprises a number of fixed and dome cameras.
* The system has sound recording capability.
* The CCTV system is owned and operated by the school, the deployment of which is determined by the school’s leadership team.
* The CCTV is monitored centrally from the Site Manager’s Office.
* The school’s CCTV Scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. The use of CCTV, and the associated images and any sound recordings is covered by the Data Protection Act 1998. This policy outlines the school’s use of CCTV and how it complies with the Act.
* All authorised operators and employees with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images and sound. All employees are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of, recorded images and sound.

**Statement of Intent**

* The school complies with Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice to ensure it is used responsibly and safeguards both trust and confidence in its continued use. The Code of Practice is published at:  
  http://www.ico.gov.uk/~/media/documents/library/Data\_Protection/Detailed  
  specialist\_guides/ICO\_CCTVFINAL\_2301.ashx
* CCTV warning signs will be clearly and prominently placed at all external entrances to the school, including school gates. Signs will contain details of the purpose for using CCTV. In areas where CCTV is used, the school will ensure that there are prominent signs placed at both the entrance of the CCTV zone and within the controlled area.
* The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that the CCTV 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.

**Siting the Cameras**

* Cameras will be sited so they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they are installed (described above) and care will be taken to ensure that reasonable privacy expectations are not violated. The School will ensure that the location of equipment is carefully considered to ensure that images captured comply with the Data Protection Act.
* The school will make every effort to position cameras so that their coverage is restricted to the school premises, which may include outdoor areas.
* CCTV will not be used in classrooms but in areas within school that have been identified by staff and pupils as not being easily monitored.
* Members of staff should have access to details of where CCTV cameras are situated, with the exception of cameras placed for the purpose of covert monitoring.

**Covert Monitoring**

* The school may in exceptional circumstances set up covert monitoring. For example: i) Where there is good cause to suspect that an illegal or unauthorised action(s), is taking place, or where there are grounds to suspect serious misconduct; ii) Where notifying the individuals about the monitoring would seriously prejudice the reason for making the recording.
* In these circumstances authorisation must be obtained from the Head Teacher.
* Covert monitoring must cease following completion of an investigation.
* Cameras sited for the purpose of covert monitoring will not be used in areas which are reasonably expected to be private, for example toilet cubicles.

**Storage and Retention of CCTV images**

* Recorded data will not be retained for longer than is necessary. Typically, recordings are held for 14 days, unless there is a specific reason to hold them for a longer period of time. While retained, the integrity of the recordings will be maintained to ensure their evidential value and to protect the rights of the people whose images have been recorded.

**Access to CCTV images**

* Access to recorded images will be restricted to those staff authorised by the Head Teacher to view them on a need-to-know basis, and will not be made more widely available.

**Subject Access Requests (SAR)**

* Individuals (or parents on behalf of pupils under the age of 13) have the right to request access to CCTV footage relating to themselves under the Data Protection Act.
* All requests should be made in writing to the Head teacher. Individuals submitting requests for access will be asked to provide sufficient information to enable the footage relating to them to be identified. For example, date, time and location.
* The school will respond to requests within 5 working days of receiving the written request and fee.
* The school reserves the right to refuse access to CCTV footage where this would prejudice the legal rights of other individuals or jeopardise an on-going investigation.
* Following agreement by the Head Teacher, individuals may view CCTV recordings, but cannot take or make a personal copy of the recording.

**Access to and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties**

* There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than to authorised personnel such as the Police and service providers to the school where these would reasonably need access to the data (e.g. investigators).
* The data may be used within the school’s discipline and grievance procedures as required, and will be subject to the usual confidentiality requirements of those procedures.

**Complaints**

* Complaints and enquiries about the operation of CCTV within the school should be directed to the Head teacher in the first instance.

**Reviewed: January 2018**

**Reviewed: March 2020**

**Signed: Sarah Sumner**