



CCTV Policy

Introduction

Avon House Preparatory School (The 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 students, staff and visitors, and to prevent the loss of, or damage to, school property. As might be expected, this includes the protection and safeguarding of children.

The system comprises of six fixed cameras. We do not record audio through the CCTV system.

The CCTV system is owned and operated by the school and is maintained by a private company under contract. The deployment of the cameras is determined by the school's Senior Leadership Team.

Any future changes to the CCTV system or its capacity will be notified to parents/carers, students and staff.

The School is registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and will renew this registration annually or as otherwise legally required. The School's registration number is Avon House School – Z6834898.

The use of CCTV and the associated images is covered by the General Data Protection Regulations 2018. This policy outlines the School's use of CCTV and how it complies with the Regulations.

All authorised operators and employees with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images. All operators are trained by the school in their responsibilities under the ICO's CCTV Code of Practice, to which the school complies. All employees are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to and disclosure of recorded images.

The number of authorised operators and employees with access to images is very tightly restricted and comprises the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, the Bursar and the Site Manager (for investigating incidents of trespass, vandalism, or investigating staff or student injury claims). Images will only be viewed on the monitor in reception with no unauthorised personnel present. The system is password protected.

Statement of Intent, Rationale and Purpose

The School complies with the 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.

CCTV warning signs will be clearly and prominently placed at all external entrances to the school building, including school gates if coverage includes outdoor areas.

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 to the CCTV zone and within the controlled area.

The planning and design of the CCTV system has endeavoured to ensure that it 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 of Cameras

Cameras have been sited so they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they were installed (see 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 so that images captured comply with the General Data Protection Regulation.

The School will make every effort to position cameras so that their coverage is restricted to school premises, which may include outdoor areas. There is no intention to cover public spaces as defined in Section 16(b) of the Public Order Act 1986 and therefore the school does not have to meet the Security Commissioner's Office Surveillance Camera Code of Practice, but supports the provisions therein, nonetheless. CCTV will not be used in classrooms but in areas which are less easily monitored by other means and where experience suggests incidents of the kind being monitored are more likely to take place. CCTV is not used in private areas such as changing rooms, toilet cubicles or urinals.

Members of staff are aware of camera locations.

Storage and Retention of CCTV Images

Recorded images will not be retained for longer than is necessary. Secure deletion is automatic, based on a predetermined overwrite function after a specified period of time, which can be increased or reduced as required. 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. All retained data will be stored securely and access to recorded images will be restricted to those staff authorised to view them and will not be made more widely available.

Data Subject Access Requests

Individuals have the right to request access to CCTV footage relating to themselves, under the General Data Protection Regulation. All requests must be made in writing to the Data Protection Officer (DPO). Individuals submitting requests for access will be asked to provide sufficient information to enable the footage being requested, to be identified e.g. time, date and location.

The School will respond to such requests in line with its Subject Access Request Procedures.

The School reserves the right to refuse access to CCTV footage where this would prejudice the legal rights of other individuals, give rise to safeguarding concerns or jeopardise an ongoing investigation.

Access to and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than to statutory bodies such as the Police, Fire Brigade Investigators or the Health and Safety Executive, or service providers where these may reasonably require access to the data e.g. CCTV system maintenance engineers tracing and identifying a fault.

All such Third Party requests should be made in writing to the DPO.

Recorded images may be used in the school's discipline and grievance procedures as required and will be subject to the usual confidentiality requirements of those procedures.

Complaints and Further Information

Complaints and enquiries about the operation of CCTV in the school should be directed to the Data Protection Officer, email: bursar@ahsprep.co.uk

Further information on CCTV and its use in schools is available from the following:

<https://ico.org.uk>

Related Policies and Procedures

Data Protection Policy

Subject Access Request Procedure

Data Breach Procedure

Taking Storing and Using Images of Children Policy

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