

A place to learn where everyone feels welcome;
based on love, wisdom, and respect.



Let your light shine, so that others may see the good you do.

Inspired by MATTHEW 5:16.

Photographs & Images Policy

Approved by Governors:	December 2025
Review Date:	December 2026

Statement of intent

At Lower Peover CofE Primary School, we use images and videos for a variety of purposes, including new starter parent handbooks, display boards, newsletters, social media (open Facebook page) and the school website. We understand that parents may also wish to take videos or photos of their children participating in school events for personal use.

Whilst we recognise the benefits of photography and videos to our school community, we also understand that these can have significant risks for those involved. Under the legal obligations of the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018, the school has specific responsibilities in terms of how photos and videos are taken, stored, and retained.

The school has implemented a policy on the safe cameras and recording equipment by staff, pupils, and parents to reflect the protective ethos of the school with regard to pupils' safety.

In order to ensure that, as far as possible, the use of photography and video is safe at all times, the policy provided below should be followed. This policy is applicable to all forms of visual media, including film, print, video, and websites.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004
- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education 2024'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Data Protection Policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Social Media Policy
- ICT Acceptable Use Agreement

Roles and responsibilities

The headteacher is responsible for:

- Gaining consent from parents at the beginning of the academic year with regard to photos and videos being taken whilst at school.
- Ensuring that all photos and videos are stored and disposed of correctly, in line with the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018.
- Deciding whether parents are permitted to take photos and videos during school events.
- Communicating this policy to all the relevant staff members and the wider school community, such as parents.

The DSL is responsible for:

- Liaising with social workers to gain consent for the use of photos and videos of pupils who are LAC.
- Liaising with the Data Protection Lead (DPL) to ensure there are no data protection breaches.
- Updating any known changes to a pupil's security, e.g. child protection concerns, which would mean that participating in photography and video recordings would put them at significant risk.

Parents and pupils are responsible for:

- Completing a photography consent survey on an annual basis.
- Informing the school in writing if they wish to make any changes to their consent.
- Acting in accordance with this policy.

Definitions

“**Camera**” is used to refer to mobile phones, tablets, webcams, and any other equipment or devices which may be used to take photos.

“**Personal use**” of photography and videos is defined as the use of cameras to take images and recordings of children by relatives, friends or known individuals, e.g. a parent taking a group photo of their child and their friends at a school event. These photos and videos are only for personal use by the individual taking the photo and are not intended to be passed on to unknown sources. The principles of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018 do not apply to images and videos taken for personal use.

“**Official School use**” is defined as photography and videos which are intended for a wide audience, e.g. photos of children taken for the school Facebook page/local newspapers. The principles of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018 apply to images and videos taken for media use.

Staff may also take photos and videos of pupils for “**educational purposes**” and be used for a variety of reasons, such as school displays, special events, assessment, and workbooks. The principles of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018 apply to images and videos taken for educational purposes.

Consent

All photos and video content are classified as personal data under the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018; images or video content may be used for publicity or other purposes only once informed consent has been provided, and it has not been withdrawn.

Staff, pupils, and parents will be encouraged to read the Data Protection Policy for more information on the school’s approach to data protection.

Parents will be required to provide consent on their child’s behalf, except where the processing is related to preventative or counselling services offered directly to children.

Parents will be aware that their child may be photographed at school, and they have the right to withdraw consent for:

- Photos or videos taken by members of staff for school-based publicity and promotional purposes or for anonymous use on the school website.
- Photos or video taken by members of the press who are on the school premises by invitation in order to celebrate individual, group or school success.

The school will recognise that consent must be a positive indication. It cannot be inferred from silence, inactivity, or pre-ticked boxes. Consent will only be accepted where it is freely given, specific, informed and an unambiguous indication of the individual’s wishes. Where consent is given, a record will be kept documenting how and when consent was given and last updated.

The school will ensure that consent mechanisms meet the standards of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018. Where the standard of consent cannot be met, an alternative legal basis for processing the data will be found, or the processing will cease.

Parents will be asked to complete the photography consent survey on an annual basis, which will determine whether or not they allow their child to participate in photos and videos.

The photography consent survey will be valid for the full academic year, unless the pupil’s circumstances change in any way, e.g. if their parents separate, or consent is withdrawn. Additional consent will be required if the pupil’s circumstances change.

If there is a disagreement over consent, or if a parent does not respond to a consent request, it will be treated as if consent has not been given and photos and videos will not be taken or published of the pupil without consent.

All parents will be entitled to withdraw or change their consent at any time during the school year. Parents who wish to withdraw their consent must notify the school in writing.

If any parent withdraws or changes their consent, or the DSL reports any changes to a pupil's security risk, or there are any other changes to consent, the list will also be updated and re-circulated.

For any pupils who are Looked After Children (LAC), Previously Looked After Children (PLAC), or adopted, the DSL will liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers, or adoptive parents to establish where consent should be sought.

Consideration will be given as to whether identification of pupils who are LAC, PLAC, or adopted would risk their security in any way.

Consideration will also be given to any pupils for whom child protection concerns have been raised. Should the DSL believe that taking photos and videos of any pupils would put their security at further risk, greater care will be taken towards protecting their identity.

A list of all the names of pupils for whom consent was not given will be created by the DPL and will be available on TEAMS for staff members to view. This list will be updated annually when new consent is provided.

General procedures

Photos and videos of pupils will be carefully planned before any activity and the DPL will oversee the planning of any events where photos and videos will be taken.

Where photos and videos will involve pupils who are LAC, PLAC, or adopted, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the headteacher will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved.

The list of all pupils who have not consented to being photographed or recorded will be checked prior to the activity. Faces of children where consent has not been given will be covered by an emoji. No child will be excluded from participation.

The staff members involved, alongside the headteacher and DPL, will liaise with the DSL if any pupil is LAC, PLAC, adopted, or for whom there are security concerns.

School-owned devices only (iPads) will be used to take photos and videos of pupils.

Staff will ensure that all pupils are suitably dressed before taking any photos or videos.

Where possible, staff will avoid identifying pupils by name or any other identifiable data. If names are required, only first names will be used.

The school will not use photos or videos of:

- Any pupil who is subject to a court order.
- Children who have left the school, without the consent of their parents or, where appropriate, the children themselves.
- Staff members who have left the school, without their consent.

Photos and videos that may cause any distress or embarrassment will not be used.

Any concern relating to inappropriate or intrusive photography or publication of content will be reported to the DPL.

Additional safeguarding procedures

The school will consider certain circumstances that may put a pupil's security at greater risk and, thus, may mean extra precautions are required to protect their identity.

The DSL will, in known cases of pupils who are LAC, PLAC or adopted, liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupil.

Any measures required will be determined between the DSL, DPL, social worker, and carer and/or adoptive parent with a view to minimising any impact on the pupil's day-to-day life. The measures implemented will be one of the following:

- Photos and videos can be taken as per usual school procedures
- Photos and videos can be taken within school for educational purposes and official school use, e.g. on registers, but cannot be published online or in external media
- No photos or videos can be taken at any time for any purposes

Any outcomes will be communicated to all staff members via a staff meeting and the list outlining which pupils are not to be involved in any videos or photos, held on TEAMS, will be updated accordingly.

Use of School Devices

Staff members may be provided with a school device (iPad) to record and maintain pictorial evidence of the lessons, behaviour, activities, and events related to their pupils. Photos and videos may only be taken for educational purposes and in "school or educational provision settings" as mentioned above.

The use of personal cameras, mobile phone cameras or other recording equipment will be prohibited on school premises at all times.

Members of staff will not be allowed to bring in personal cameras without prior permission. If personal cameras are allowed to be brought in due to a specialist requirement or defective equipment, the memory card should be shown to be empty, and images downloaded to the school's server.

Staff or other adults will not be permitted to take photos of pupils in vulnerable circumstances, such as when they are upset or inappropriately dressed. Members of staff and the school community will be required to report inappropriate use of devices and images to the headteacher. If it is found that any incidents raise child protection concerns, immediate action will be taken in consultation with the DSL.

The school will not take responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged equipment. This remains the responsibility and obligation of the individual who has the equipment assigned to them.

Storage and retention

As per the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018, images obtained by the school will not be kept for longer than necessary and will be in line with the school's data protection policy.

Digital photos and videos held on the school's server or within TEAMS are accessible to staff only. Photos and videos are stored in labelled files, annotated with the date, and are only identifiable by year group or class number – no names are associated with images and videos. Computers are password protected with two factor authentication enabled.

Paper documents will be shredded once the retention period has ended.

Where a parent has withdrawn their consent, any related imagery and videos involving their child will be removed from the date consent withdrawal is received. All images or videos used prior to this date will not be affected.

Where a pupil's security risk has changed, the DSL will inform the headteacher immediately. If required, any related imagery and videos involving the pupil will be removed from the school drive immediately.

Hard copies will be removed by returning them to the parent or by shredding, as appropriate.

Official school photos will be held the school's MIS system alongside other personal information and retained for the length of the pupil's attendance at the school, or longer, if necessary, e.g. due to a police investigation.

Members of staff will maintain responsibility for ensuring that images are safely stored. They will take reasonable measures to ensure that they do not come into the possession of unauthorised persons.

No digital image will be altered or enhanced in any way by any member of staff, unless given prior permission by the headteacher to do so. The school may require images to be deleted or edited as appropriate and may choose to use images taken by members of staff or volunteers for other purposes, provided the processing conditions and consent requirements of this policy are met. Staff members are responsible for ensuring that edited images do not mislead or misrepresent. They must not edit images which result in their subject being vulnerable to embarrassment, teasing, bullying or abuse.

Appropriate use of images under UK GDPR and the DPA 2018

Photos will be used in school for many reasons and the different uses for the same image should be considered separately, as each photograph and use will potentially have different conditions for processing.

As a public body, the school will consider whether the processing is taking place in the performance of its duties as a public authority. Where this is the case, the legal basis for processing will be recorded as 'public task', not 'legitimate interests' – public authorities cannot use legitimate interests as a lawful basis if the processing is in the performance of their tasks as a public authority.

The school will use privacy notices with declarations attached to inform staff, pupils, and parents about how their personal data may be collected and as one method of gaining consent.

To judge whether legitimate interest can be used as the basis for processing data, the school will carry out three different tests. These are:

- A purpose test – establishing the reasons for using the data, what will be achieved and whether the benefits are justifiable.
- A necessity test – establishing whether the processing of pupils' data will be useful and whether there is a less intrusive way of reaching a means to an end.
- A balance test – establishing the impact it will have on the data subject by processing the data for said reason.

These three tests make up a 'legitimate interest assessment' (LIA) – the school will carry out an LIA prior to obtaining the data and it will be recorded in a physical copy in compliance with the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018.

Photos used in identity management

These are likely to be essential for performing the public task of the school, but they will be deleted once the child is no longer in attendance – as they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were held.

Photos used for marketing purposes

Photos will not be used for marketing purposes unless the school has specific informed consent for the images and the images are only used in line with the consent provided.

The school will recognise that when images are posted on the school website anyone may view the images, and consequently this may result in a greater risk of misuse of images. The school will therefore consider the suitability of images for use on the school's website.

Photos in the school environment relating to education

These photos may be essential for performing the public task of the school, but once the pupil has left the school this argument is insufficient. If the school wishes to display the image beyond the pupil's time at the school, the school will obtain the pupil's permission. If permission is not granted, the image will be removed.

When gaining consent, including when initially taking the photograph or when the purpose of the image has changed, the pupil, or where appropriate their parents, will be informed of the retention period pertaining to the

use of the image. If the image is still on display after the retention period stated in the privacy notice used to gain consent, the school will be in breach of data protection obligations and may be subject to a fine.

Use of cameras and filming equipment by parents

Parents or family members will be welcome to take photos 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.

Parents will:

- Remain seated while taking photos or videos during concerts, performances, and other events.
- Minimise the use of flash photography during performances.
- In the case of all school events, make the focus of any photos and/or videos their own children.
- Avoid disturbing others in the audience or distracting pupils when taking photos or recording videos.
- Ensure that any images and recordings taken at school events are exclusively for personal use and are not uploaded to the internet, posted on social networking sites, or openly shared in other ways.
- Refrain from taking further photos and/or videos if and when requested to do so by staff.

Sharing of images

All images taken by members of staff at school or during school activities remain the property of the school and images must not be shared with anyone outside the school or held for private use.

No digital image will be uploaded onto any internet system without the express permission of the child's parent. Unless specific prior consent has been obtained, members of staff will not post school images on personal pages of social networking sites or other websites.

Images will not be emailed or shared via private email accounts unless a parent has asked for a photo of their child to be sent to them.

Use of a professional photographer

If the school decides to use a professional photographer for official school photos and school events, the headteacher will:

- Provide a clear brief for the photographer about what is considered appropriate, in terms of both content and behaviour.
- Issue the photographer with an identification badge or card, which must be worn at all times.
- Let pupils and parents know that a photographer will attend an event and ensure they have previously provided consent to both the taking and publication of videos and/or photos.
- Not allow unsupervised access to pupils or one-to-one photo sessions at events.
- Communicate to the photographer that the material may only be used for the school's own purposes and that permission has not been given to use the photos for any other purpose.
- Ensure that the photographer will comply with the requirements set out in the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018.
- Ensure that if another individual, such as a parent or governor, is nominated to be the photographer, they are clear that the images and/or videos are not used for anything other than the purpose indicated by the school.