

CCTV Policy



Thorn Grove Primary School

Approved by Governing Body on:	21 November 2024
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Next review due by:	November 2026
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Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Objectives of CCTV	1
3. Identification of CCTV cameras	1
4. Supervision of the system	2
5. Storing digital images	2
6. Retention and erasure	2
7. Access to CCTV images	3
Requests for disclosure	3
Subject access requests	3
8. Installation of new CCTV systems	3
9. Complaints and queries	3

1. Introduction

Thorn Grove Primary School uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images to help 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.

The system comprises of 9 dome cameras. We do not record audio through the CCTV 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 Policy which can be found on the school's website.

2. Objectives of CCTV

The school uses CCTV for the following:

- Ensuring a safe environment for pupils, staff and visitors.
- Monitoring pupil behaviour
- Deterring criminal acts against persons and property.
- Assisting the police in identifying people who have committed an offence.
- Allowing for the prevention, investigation and detection of crime.
- Monitoring the security of the site.
- Allowing for the apprehension and prosecution of offenders (including use of images as evidence in criminal proceedings).

CCTV systems will not be used to monitor normal teacher/student classroom activity in school.

3. Identification of CCTV cameras

Locations have been selected, both inside and out, that the school reasonably believes require monitoring to address the stated objectives.

In areas where CCTV is used, the school will ensure that there are prominent signs in place to inform people that they are entering a monitored area. These signs will contain:

- Details of the Data Controller operating the CCTV
- Contact details for further information regarding the system

4. Supervision of the system

Images from the CCTV system are only accessible to people who are authorised to monitor CCTV for the stated objectives. This will be the Headteacher and School Business Manager.

Images will be viewed and/or monitored in a suitably secure and private area to minimise the likelihood of or opportunity for access to unauthorised persons.

5. Storing digital images

Recorded images will be stored in a way that ensures the integrity of the image and in a way that allows specific times and dates to be identified. Access to live images is restricted to the CCTV operator unless the monitor displays a scene which is in plain sight from the monitored location.

Recorded images can only be viewed in a restricted area by approved staff. The recorded images are viewed only when there is suspected criminal activity and not for routine monitoring of pupils, staff or visitors.

The school reserves the right to use images captured on CCTV where there is activity that the school cannot be expected to ignore such as criminal activity, potential gross misconduct, or behaviour which puts others at risk. If a CCTV camera has recorded a specific incident under investigation, recordings may be used in both student and staff investigatory and potentially disciplinary proceedings to provide evidence as appropriate.

Images retained for evidential purposes will be retained in a locked area accessible by the system administrator only. Where images are retained, the system administrator will ensure the reason for their retention is recorded, where they are kept, any use made of the images and finally when they are destroyed.

6. Retention and erasure

Images captured by CCTV/Surveillance will not be kept for longer than is necessary. The system stores the information for 10 days. However, on occasions there may be a need to keep images for longer, for example where a crime is being investigated. These files are then downloaded and stored on the school server in the admin drive that only the Headteacher, School Business Manager and School Secretary have access to.

There are no specific minimum or maximum periods which apply to CCTV recorded images. The school ensures that images are not retained for longer than is necessary. Once the retention period has expired, the images are removed or erased.

7. Access to CCTV images

Requests for disclosure

Data will not normally be released unless satisfactory evidence that it is required for legal proceedings or under a court order has been produced. In other appropriate circumstances, the school may allow law enforcement agencies to view or remove CCTV footage where this is required in the detection or prosecution of crime.

Subject access requests

The UK GDPR and Data Protection Act gives people the right to request a disclosure of their personal data, which can include CCTV images (see [Individual Rights Policy](#)). A request can be made verbally or in writing and identification may be requested by the school. The school aims to respond to all requests within one month.

In order to locate relevant footage, any requests for copies of recorded CCTV images must include the date and time of the recording and the location where the footage was captured. Images of third parties will not be disclosed as part of a SAR where doing so will contravene data protection legislation.

The school will maintain a record of all disclosures of CCTV footage.

All requests should be directed to the attention of the School Business Manager via the school office using admin@tgps.uk or 0161 485 1177.

8. Installation of new CCTV systems

CCTV has the potential to intrude upon privacy. The school will perform a Data Protection Impact Assessment when installing or moving CCTV cameras to consider the privacy issues involved with using new surveillance systems to ensure that the use is necessary and proportionate and addresses one of the stated objectives.

9. Complaints and queries

Any complaints or queries in relation to the school's CCTV system, or its use of CCTV, should be referred to Laura Vose, Headteacher using headteacher@tgps.uk or 0161 485 1177.