

Guidance on the Use of Photographic Images and Videos of Children in School

(September 2026)



When taking and using photographic and video images of children in schools there are two potential areas of concern:

Data Protection Concerns - Whether parents, staff or others taking photographs or videos of children could breach data protection regulations.

Safeguarding Concerns - The potential for inappropriate use/adaptation of images for use on child pornography websites and the possible identification of children (potentially used for grooming activities), especially where the photograph or video is accompanied by additional information.

Data Protection Concerns

- Data protection requires that consent is required if photographic or digital images are stored electronically alongside other personal data.
- Parents/carers are not required to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 when taking photographs for their own private use of their children at an organised event. However, they should not photograph or record images which they intend for anything other than their own personal use e.g. making copies of a video to sell or publishing images online, as in order to do this they need the consent of all the other parents or carers whose children may be included in the images.
- It is unlikely that teachers using photographs or digital images of children within the classroom for teaching or display purposes will contravene GDPR 2018.

Safeguarding Concerns

There have been concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly through the use of photographs on websites and in other publications. Therefore, the following guidelines should be adhered to:

Recording Images of Young People

- All children featured in photographs/recordings must be appropriately dressed in a minimum of vest/shirt and shorts.
- The recording should ideally focus on the activity. Where possible images should record small groups of children.
- Staff should be able to use ICT equipment as a legitimate learning aid and means of recording special occasions. However, care should be taken in the dissemination and storage of material. E.g. Computers, memory sticks, ipads etc. holding such material should be password protected and opportunities for theft minimised.
- Staff should **NOT** use their own personal devices e.g. mobile phone to take pictures or record videos.

Publishing images of Young People

- If photographs or recordings of young people are published or displayed, personal details such as name (including just first names), telephone numbers, address etc. should not be revealed. **This includes school displays involving photographs of children.**
- Ask for parental permission to use a specific image of a young person for media purposes even if general consent is granted. e.g. a photo for inclusion in a local newspaper.
- In the same circumstances, ask the child for permission to use their image and ensure they understand the way the image is to be used.

Parental Consent

All parents/carers are asked to give their consent to photographs and digital images appearing in printed publications, on Instagram or on the school website. **Where this consent has been withheld for children in your class, you will be informed.**

Consent withheld in this way does not mean that photographs or video recordings used for teaching /learning purposes cannot be used with the child concerned. However, it would be appropriate to check such parents are happy for photographs etc. of their child to be used in classroom displays (e.g. a photograph to accompany a self- portrait in an art display).

Consent can be refused or withdrawn at any time. If consent is withdrawn, we will delete the photograph or video and not distribute it further.

Recording / Photographing of School Productions Assemblies etc

Parents and carers are permitted to take photographs/make recordings of school events etc. However, permission is only granted on the understanding that any material recorded is only for personal use and should not be shared via social media etc. (unless the image or recording only includes their child). Reminders about appropriate use and sharing of images / recordings will be made periodically via the school newsletter and before school performances.