

Ravensbury Community School

CCTV Policy & Code of Practice

1. Introduction

The purpose of this Policy is to regulate the management, operation and use of the closed circuit television (CCTV) system at Ravensbury Community School.

The system comprises a number of cameras located o school building. All cameras are monitored under restricted access from the School Office / SBM office and are only available to nominated Senior Leaders, Administrative staff and site staff. The system is also monitored by an external company for security reasons out of school hours.

This Code follows Data Protection Act guidelines. The Code of Practice will be subject to review bi-annually to include consultation as appropriate with interested parties.

The CCTV system is owned by the school, but is monitored out of school hours by Commsec Ltd.

2. Objectives of the CCTV scheme

1. To increase personal safety of staff, students and visitors and reduce the fear of crime
2. To protect the school buildings and their assets
3. To support the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime
4. To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders
5. To protect members of the public and private property

3. Statement of intent

The CCTV Scheme is registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018 and will seek to comply with the requirements both of the Data Protection Act and the Commissioner's Code of Practice. The school will treat the system and all information, documents and recordings obtained and used as data which are protected by the Act.

Cameras will be used to monitor activities within the school grounds, its car park and in the vicinity of the access gates to identify adverse activity occurring, anticipated or perceived, and for the purpose of securing the safety of the school's students and staff, together with its visitors. Staff have been instructed that static cameras are not to focus on private homes, gardens and other areas of private property.

Materials or knowledge secured as a result of CCTV will not be used for any commercial purpose. Recordings will only be released to the media for use in the investigation of a specific crime and with the written authority of the Police. Recordings will never be released to the media for purposes of entertainment.

The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that the Scheme 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.

Warning signs, as required by the Code of Practice of the Information Commissioner have been placed at all access routes to areas covered by the school CCTV.

4. Operation of the system

The CCTV system will be administered and managed by the school in accordance with the values and objectives expressed in the code. The day to day management will be the delegated responsibility of the Headteacher during the day, and the monitoring station during out of hours and at weekends. Viewing of recorded images must take place in restricted area with controlled access. The CCTV system will be operated 24 hours each day, every day of the year, recording all activity and is linked to a monitoring station out of school hours. All operators and others with access to images must be aware of the access procedures that are in place.

5. Control and Liaison

A member of the Site Staff will check and confirm the efficiency of the system daily and in particular that the equipment is properly recording and that cameras are functional. The school will liaise with CIA 2000/Commsec Ltd regarding servicing and/or repairs of the system.

6. Monitoring procedures

Camera surveillance may be maintained at all times and footage continuously recorded and held on system memory.

7. Image storage procedures

In order to maintain and preserve the integrity used to record events from the hard drive and the facility to use them in any future proceedings, the following procedures for their use and retention must be strictly adhered to:

- Any footage on a storage device must be identified by a unique reference number.
- Before using each storage device must be cleared of any previous recording.
- The person responsible for recording will register the date and time of disc recording, including the unique reference number.
- A storage device required for evidential purposes must be sealed, witnessed, signed by the person responsible for recording, dated and stored in the safe. If a USB is not copied for the Police before it is sealed, a copy may be made at a later date providing that it is then resealed, witnessed, signed by the responsible member of staff, dated and returned to the safe.
- If the USB is archived the reference must be noted.

Footage may be viewed by the Police for the prevention and detection of crime. A record will be maintained of the release of footage to the Police or other authorised applicants. A register will be available for this purpose.

Viewing of footage by the Police or any external individual must be recorded in writing and entered in the register. Requests by the Police can only be authorised under the Data Protection Act 2018. Should footage be required as evidence, a copy may be released to the Police under the procedures described in the Data Protection Act 2018. Footage will only be released to the Police on the clear understanding that the footage remains the property of the school, and both the storage device and information contained on it are to be treated in accordance with this code. The school also retains the right to refuse permission for the Police to pass to any other person the footage or any part of the information contained thereon. On occasions when a Court requires the release of an original footage this will be produced from the safe, complete in its sealed bag. The Police may require the school to retain the saved footage for possible use as evidence in the future. Such footage will be properly indexed and properly and securely stored on a storage device until they are needed by the Police.

Applications received from outside bodies (e.g. solicitors) to view or release footages will be referred to the Headteacher. In these circumstances footages will normally be released where satisfactory documentary evidence is produced showing that they are required for legal proceedings, a subject access request, or in response to a Court Order. This must be provided within 40 calendar days of receiving the required fee and the request. A fee of £10 may be charged in such circumstances payable in cash (a receipt will be provided). If the decision is taken not to release the images, then the image in question should be held and not destroyed until all legal avenues have been exhausted.

8. Breaches of the code (including breaches of security)

Any breach of the Code of Practice by school staff will be initially investigated by the DPO and the Headteacher, in order for the Headteacher to take the appropriate disciplinary action. Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the ICO Code of Practice.

9. Assessment of the scheme and code of practice

Performance monitoring, including random operating checks, may be carried out by a nominated member of the site staff or contractors to ensure that the CCTV is working correctly.

10. Complaints

Any complaints about the school's CCTV system should be addressed to the Headteacher. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the ICO Code of Practice.

11. Access by the Data Subject

The Data Protection Act provides Data Subjects (individuals to whom "personal data" relate) with a right to data held about themselves, including those obtained by CCTV.

Data Subject Access Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher. The request should provide as much information as possible to enable the school to find the images including date, time and location. If the Data Subject is unknown to the school then a photograph of the individual and/or a description of what they were wearing at the time they believe they were caught on the system may be requested in order to aid identification.

12. Public information

Copies of this Code of Practice will be available to the public from the School Office and the school website.

Summary of Key Points

- This Code of Practice will be reviewed every two years.
- The CCTV system is owned and operated by the school and monitored by an external company out of school hours.
- Liaison meetings may be held with the Police and other bodies.
- Recording devices used will be properly indexed, stored and destroyed after appropriate use.
- Recordings may only be viewed by Authorised School Officers and the Police.
- Storage device required as evidence will be properly recorded witnessed and packaged before copies are released to the police.
- Recordings will not be made available to the media for commercial or entertainment.
- Any breaches of this code will be investigated by the Headteacher. An independent investigation will be carried out for serious breaches.
- Breaches of the code and remedies will be reported to the Headteacher.

Approved by Governing Body: 19.06.2023

Review Date: June 2026