Victoria Lane Academy

Whole School Policy for CCTV 2026-2027

A Member of the Tudhoe Learning Trust

CCTV Policy

1 Introduction

1.1 Victoria Lane Academy uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images to monitor the school buildings in order to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors, and to prevent the loss or damage to school property.

1.2 The system comprises of a number of fixed dome cameras only managed by CDS.

1.3 The system does not have sound recording capability.

1.4 There is one CCTV system in place which consists of 7 cameras.

1.5 The school CCTV system is monitored centrally from the main office and the Headteacher is responsible for the monitoring of the CCTV.

1.6 The introduction of any changes to CCTV monitoring will be subject to consultation with staff and the school community.

1.7 All authorised operators and employees with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images and sound (if applicable). All school operators are trained by the school data controller in their responsibilities under the CCTV Code of Practice. All employees are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of, recorded images.

1.8 The school's CCTV information is logged in accordance with the school's GDPR personal data ecosystem.

2 Statement of Intent

2.1 The school complies with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV guidance to ensure it is used responsibly and safeguards both trust and confidence in its continued use.

https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/cctv/

2.2 A CCTV warning sign is clearly placed at the external entrance to the school.

2.3 The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that our CTTV 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.

3 Siting the Cameras

3.1 Cameras will be sited so they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they are installed, 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 to ensure that images captured comply with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

3.2 The school will make every effort to position cameras so that their coverage is restricted to the school premises, which may include outdoor areas.

3.3 CCTV is not used in classrooms or indoor areas of the school premises.

3.4 Members of staff have access to details of where CCTV cameras are situated in school.

4. Storage and Retention of CCTV images

4.1 Recorded data will not be retained for longer than is necessary. All images will be kept on the school site and will be overwritten every three months unless they are required for an ongoing investigation. The only external viewing of CCTV images will be via Steadfast Security based in Peterlee, when the school building is unoccupied. 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.

4.2 All retained data will be stored securely.

5 Access to CCTV images

5.1 Access to recorded images will be restricted to those staff authorised to view them and will not be made more widely available.

6 Subject Access Requests and Freedom of Information Requests

6.1 Individuals have the right to request access to CCTV footage relating to themselves under GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

6.2 All requests are covered by the school Subject Access Request Policy and this can be provided on request.

6.3 The school reserves the right to refuse access to CCTV footage where this would prejudice the legal rights of other individuals or jeopardise an on-going investigation.

6.4 CCTV is covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

7. Access to and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

7.1 There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than to authorised personnel such as the Police and service providers to the school where these would reasonably need access to the data (e.g. investigators).

7.2 The school will never disclose CCTV images to the media or place CCTV images on the Internet.

7.3 Requests should be made as described in paragraph 7.2.

7.4 The data may be used within the school's discipline and grievance procedures as required and will be subject to the usual confidentiality requirements of those procedures.

8. Complaints

8.1 Complaints and enquiries about the operation of CCTV within the school should be directed to the Headteacher in the first instance.

Signed: H. D. Whitfield (Headteacher)

Signed: K Short (Chair of Governors)

Policy Reviewed: July 2026

Next Review due: July 2027