


Photography Policy

Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Approved by:	PP. Mrs L. Henderson Deputy Headteacher Mrs C. Vile Headteacher	
Lead of Review:	Miss S Oscroft, Strategic Data Manager	
Last reviewed on:	August 2025	
Next review due by:	August 2026	



Common Good



Dignity of the Human Person

Caring for our planet and ourselves is vitally important. By ensuring our school community are educated in the processing of data, we are supporting the common good of the school community and caring for God's creation. This policy is for all, for the health of our school.

We believe that all pupils are made in the image of God and are therefore inherently dignified. With this policy we are ensuring that every pupil has the chance to achieve their full academic potential with a caring and supportive environment. This policy also ensures that all pupils are treated equally in school and in law and have access to the same high-quality education, no matter their background or ability level.

This Policy is intended to provide information to students and their parents, carers or guardians (referred to in this Policy as “parents”) about how images of students are normally used by EllesmerePort Catholic High School (“the School”). It also covers the School’s approach to the use of cameras and filming equipment at school events and on the premises by parents and students themselves, and the media.

It applies in addition to the School’s terms and conditions, and any other information the School may provide about a particular use of student images, e.g. signage about the use of CCTV; and more general information about the use of students’ personal data, (e.g. in the School’s Privacy Notice(s)).

This Policy reflects the School’s legal obligation to protect the privacy, and in some cases, personal safety of all our students and in recognition of the fact that not all students and their parents wish to have the student’s image published.

Photographic and video images of students and staff are classed as ‘personal data’ under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation.

Certain uses of images are necessary for the ordinary running of the School; other uses are in the legitimate interests of the School and its community and are unlikely to have a negative impact on children. The School is entitled to lawfully process such images and take decisions about how to use them, subject to reasonable objections raised.

On joining the School, (i.e. by accepting a place), parents and students, are invited to indicate whether they consent or object to the use of images by the School or various different purposes via a written/digital consent form. Consent can also be collected via the Parent App.

Parents should be aware of the fact that certain uses of their child’s image may be necessary such as for identification and security purposes or unavoidable, for example if they are included incidentally in CCTV or a photograph or film.

We hope parents will feel able to support the School in using student images to celebrate the achievements of students, promote the work of the School and students, and for important administrative purposes such as identification and security.

The School will always respect the wishes of parents (and indeed students themselves) where reasonably possible, and in accordance with this policy. Any parent who wishes to limit or amend their consent preferences for the use of images of a student for whom they are responsible should contact the School’s Data Protection Lead who will hold a record of your consent.

Parents should be aware that, from around the age of 12 and upwards, the law recognises a student’s own rights to have a say in how their personal information is used – including images. This means that there may be times where the student’s decision may override yours except in exceptional circumstances.

Use of Student Images in School Publications

Unless the relevant student or his or her parents have requested otherwise, the School will use images of its students to keep the School community updated on the activities of the School, and for marketing and promotional purposes including:

- On internal displays (including clips of moving images) on digital and conventional notice boards within the School premises;
- In communications with the School community (parents, students, staff and Governors) including by email, on the School intranet and by post;
- On the School's website and, where appropriate, via the School's social media channels, e.g. Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Such images would not normally be accompanied by the student's full name and;
- In any School prospectus, and in online, press and other external advertisements for the School. Such external advertising would not normally include students' names.

The source of these images is predominantly the School's staff in relation to school events, sports and trips (who are subject to this policy), or a professional photographer used for marketing or promotional purposes, or occasionally students.

The School will only use images of students in suitable dress and images will be stored securely and centrally.

Students' full names will not be included with their image in School publications or on the School website or other publicity connected with the School without the consent of the parent and/or student.

Use of Student Images for Identification and Security

All students are photographed on entering the School and at necessary intervals thereafter for the purposes of identification. These photographs identify the student by name and year group.

CCTV is in use on the School premises and will sometimes capture images of students. Images captured on the School's CCTV system are used in accordance with the School's Data Protection, CCTV and any other information or policies.

Use of Student Images in the Media

The School will notify parents in advance when the media is expected to attend an event or school activity in which school students are participating, in order to obtain their consent to take part, if this is necessary. The School will make every reasonable effort to ensure that any student whose parent has refused permission, or where the child has refused permission, is not photographed or filmed by the media, nor such images provided for media purposes.

The media often asks for the names of the relevant students to go alongside the images, and these will only be provided where the parent/student has been informed about the media's visit and have consented to such use.

Security of Student Images

Professional photographers and the media are accompanied at all times by a member of staff when on School premises. The School uses only reputable professional photographers and makes every effort to ensure that any images of students are held by them securely, responsibly and in accordance with the School's instructions.

The School takes appropriate technical and organisational security measures to ensure that images of students held by the School are kept securely, and protected from loss or misuse, and in particular will take reasonable steps to ensure that members of staff take images and/or have access to images of students held by the School.

only where it is necessary for them to do so.

Use of Cameras and Filming Equipment (including mobile phones and body devices) by Parents - including visiting parents from other schools.

Parents, guardians or close family members (hereafter, parents) are welcome to take photographs 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:

- When an event is held indoors, such as a play or a concert, parents should be mindful of the need to use their cameras and filming devices with consideration and courtesy for cast members or performers on stage and the comfort of others. In particular, flash photography can disturb others in the audience or even cause distress for those who have medical conditions; the School asks that cameras or any other devices which can take images including film are not used at indoor events.
- Parents are asked not to take photographs of other students, except incidentally as part of a group shot, without the prior agreement of that student or their parents.
- Parents are reminded that such images are for personal use only. Images which may, expressly or not, identify other students should not be accessible to others via the internet (for example Facebook), or published in any other way.
- Parents may not film or take photographs in changing rooms, private areas, nor in any other circumstances in which photography or filming may embarrass or upset students.
- The School reserves the right to refuse or withdraw permission to film or take photographs (at a specific event or more generally) from any parent who does not follow these guidelines, or otherwise is reasonably felt to be taking inappropriate images.

Use of Cameras and Filming Equipment (including mobile phones and body devices) by Staff (Teaching and Support)

Photographs or video will only be taken by staff member(s) to give evidence of students' progress, or to record a trip or sporting event. Such images can only be taken on school-owned equipment. Staff must not use their own camera, mobile phone or tablet or any other such device (bring your own device) capable of taking images unless in exceptional circumstances. Photographs or video cannot be used or passed on outside the School.

When taking photographs or filming in school, staff must:

- Note that a list of students/parents who have not given consent for their child's image to be used is kept by the Data Protection Lead. It is each member of staff's responsibility to check this list if they intend to take any images of students.
- Be clear about the purpose of the activity and what will happen to the photographs when the lesson/activity is concluded. It is not generally acceptable to use a photograph to illustrate sensitive or negative issues.
- Ensure that photographs are taken for valid educational purposes.
- Ensure that all images are available for scrutiny in order to screen for acceptability;
- Be able to justify images of children in their possession;
- Avoid making images in one-to-one situations;
- Not to take/film or store images of students on personal cameras, devices or home computers;
- Not make images of students available on the internet, other than through official School network/website.

- Report any concerns relating to any inappropriate or intrusive photography to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Not use images of a student who is considered vulnerable or subject to a relevant court order, unless parents have given specific consent;
- Regularly review stored images and ensure that unwanted images are permanently deleted or securely destroyed when no longer needed in accordance with the School's Records Management Policy.

Copyright and the use of photographs is carefully controlled by and retained by the School.

Use of Cameras and Filming Equipment by Students

All students are encouraged to look after each other, and to report any concerns about the misuse of technology, or any worrying issues to a member of the pastoral staff.

The use of cameras or filming equipment (including on mobile phones) is not allowed in toilets, washing or changing areas, nor should photography or filming equipment be used by students in a manner that may offend, or cause upset.

Students should not film or take photographs of other members of the School community (students and staff), other than where there is a justifiable or educational reason.

Using photographic or film material of any kind to bully, harass or intimidate others will not be tolerated and will constitute a serious breach of discipline.

Where there is an allegation about a student taking inappropriate images, the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead may request access to the image(s) stored and ask the student to delete the images in question if they are deemed to be inappropriate in the circumstances.

Images of any member of the School community are not permitted to be displayed publicly around the School unless in accordance with this Policy.

The misuse of images, cameras or filming equipment by students in a way that breaches this Policy, is taken seriously, and may be the subject of disciplinary procedures or dealt with under the Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Procedures as appropriate.

Inter-School Fixtures and other Events

This Policy applies to inter-school events. From time to time other schools will wish to photograph or film inter-school sports fixtures or other events in which images of participating students will be captured as a record of the event. If a Student, for whom consent has not been given or has subsequently been withdrawn, is involved in one of these events, we will inform the other school to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that the particular student is not photographed or filmed.

Where the other school (or third party on behalf of the other school) wishes to use the image(s) for a purpose other than as a record of the event, and which is not covered by the parents/students' original consent, then further specific consent will be sought ahead of the event.

Filming and Photography by External Suppliers to the School

Where a commercial photographer is used by the School they will be considered to be a "data processor" under the General Data Protection Regulation and therefore the School will enter into a Data Processing Agreement with them which confirms both parties' compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Filming and photography by visitors to the school

Visitors to the school, (who are not staff or parents) are not permitted to take images of children on the school site without the necessary permissions and consent.

Naming of Students in Images for the School's Use

Students will not be identified by full name in photographs unless either parent or student has consented to this, except where it is required for internal identification purposes. The School may however refer to the student by first name only or alternatively first name and the first initial of the surname. Group images, for example team sports, may be referred to collectively by year or team.

The misuse of cameras or filming equipment in a way that breaches this Policy, or any of the School's other policies is always taken seriously and may be the subject of disciplinary procedures.

Related Policies

- Data Protection Policy
- Privacy Notice(s)
- BYOD Policy
- Code of Conduct for Staff
- Safeguarding Policy and Child Protection Procedures

Any comments or queries regarding this policy should be directed to the:

Data Protection Lead, Miss S Oscroft, steph.oscroft@epchs.co.uk or

Data Protection Officer: Judicium Consulting Limited

Address: 72 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AE

Email: dataservices@judicium.com

Web: www.judiciumeducation.co.uk

Telephone: 0203 326 9174

Lead Contact: Craig Stilwell

If an individual believes that the School has not complied with this policy, they should utilise the School grievance or complaints procedure.