

Policy Updated 23/01/2024



Policy for

Photography and Images

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Statement of intent

All AET policies are written to support our schools and communities. We do this by ensuring they are always in line with our Colleague Values:



Applying these values to everything we do means always acting with integrity, in the interests of others, being honest, open and transparent and putting the safety of our children first.

The Aspire Educational Trust and its schools, use images and videos for a variety of purposes, including prospectuses, display boards, educational purposes, newsletters, social media accounts, conferences and school and trust websites. We understand that parents may also wish to take videos or photos of their children participating in school events for personal use.

Whilst we recognise the benefits of photography and videos to our trust community, we also understand that these can have significant risks for those involved. Under the legal obligations of the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018, the trust and its schools have specific responsibilities in terms of how photos and videos are taken, stored and retained.

The trust and its schools have implemented a policy on the safe use of cameras and videos by staff and parents to reflect the protective ethos of the trust with regard to pupils' safety.

In order to ensure that, as far as possible, the use of photography and video is used safely at all times, the policy provided below should be followed. This policy is applicable to all forms of visual media, including film, print, video, DVD and websites.

Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- The Data Protection Act 2018
- The UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) The Freedom of Information Act 2000
- The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004
- DfE (2023) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'

1. Roles and responsibilities

The principal is responsible for:

- Submitting consent forms to parents, and pupils where appropriate, when a pupil joins the school with regard to photos and videos being taken whilst at school.
- Ensuring consent is updated if new purposes are required for the use of photos and videos being taken.
- Ensuring that all photos and videos are stored and disposed of correctly, in line with the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018.
- Deciding whether parents are permitted to take photos and videos during school events.
- Communicating this policy to all the relevant staff members and the wider school community, such as parents.

The DSL is responsible for:

- Liaising with social workers to gain consent for the use of photos and videos of pupils who are LAC.
- Liaising with the DPO to ensure there are no data protection breaches.
- Informing the principal of any known changes to a pupil's security, e.g. child protection concerns, which would mean that participating in photography and video recordings would put them at significant risk.

Parents and pupils are responsible for:

- Completing a photography consent form on joining the school or if asked to update consent during the time the pupil is at the school.
- Informing the school in writing if they wish to make any changes to their consent.
- Acting in accordance with this policy.

2. Definitions

“Camera” is used to refer to mobile phones, tablets, webcams, portable gaming devices, and any other equipment or devices which may be used to be take photos.

“Personal use” of photography and videos is defined as the use of cameras to take images and recordings of children by relatives, friends or known individuals, e.g. a parent taking a

group photo of their child and their friends at a school event. These photos and videos are only for personal use by the individual taking the photo and are not intended to be passed on to unknown sources. The principles of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018 do not apply to images and videos taken for personal use.

“**Official school use**” is defined as photography and videos which are used for school purposes, e.g. for building passes and identity cards. These images are likely to be stored electronically alongside other personal data. The principles of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018 apply to images and videos taken for official school use.

“**Media use**” is defined as photography and videos which are intended for a wide audience, e.g. photos of children taken for a local newspaper. The principles of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018 apply to images and videos taken for media use.

Staff may also take photos and videos of pupils for “**educational purposes**”. These are not intended for official school use, but may be used for a variety of reasons, such as school displays, special events, assessment and workbooks. The principles of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018 apply to images and videos taken for educational purposes.

3. Consent

All photos and video content are classified as personal data under the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018; images or video content may be used for publicity or other purposes only once informed consent has been provided, and it has not been withdrawn.

Staff, pupils and parents are encouraged to read the Data Protection Policy for more information on the trust’s approach to data protection.

Parents are responsible for providing consent on their child’s behalf, except where the processing is related to preventative or counselling services offered directly to children.

Parents and pupils are required to be aware that their child/they may be photographed at school and they have the right to withdraw consent for:

- Photos or videos taken by members of staff for school/trust-based publicity and promotional purposes or for anonymous use on the school/trust website.
- Photos or videos taken by parents and other family members of children at the school during school concerts, performances, sports events and other similar events organised by the school.
- Photos or video taken by members of the press who are on the school premises by invitation in order to celebrate individual, group or school success.

The school understands that consent must be a positive indication. It cannot be inferred from silence, inactivity or pre-ticked boxes. Consent will only be accepted where it is freely given, specific, informed and an unambiguous indication of the individual’s wishes. Where consent is given, a record will be kept documenting how and when consent was given and last updated.

The school ensures that consent mechanisms meet the standards of the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018. Where the standard of consent cannot be met, an alternative legal basis for processing the data will be found, or the processing will cease.

Parents will be asked to complete the photography consent form when a child joins the school, which will determine whether or not they allow their child/themselves to participate in photos and videos.

The photography consent form will be valid for the period the child attends the school, unless the pupil's circumstances change in any way, e.g. if their parents separate, consent is withdrawn, or the school seeks consent for additional purposes. Additional consent forms will be required if the pupil's or school's circumstances change.

If there is a disagreement over consent, or if a parent/pupil does not respond to a consent request, it will be treated as if consent has not been given and photos and videos will not be taken or published of the pupil without consent.

All parents and pupils are entitled to withdraw or change their consent at any time during the school year. Parents or pupils who wish to withdraw their consent must notify the school in writing.

If any parent or pupil withdraws or changes their consent, or the DSL reports any changes to a pupil's security risk, or there are any other changes to consent, the list will also be immediately updated and re-circulated.

For any pupils who are LAC, PLAC, or adopted, the DSL will liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers or adoptive parents to establish where consent should be sought. Consideration will be given as to whether identification of pupils who are LAC, PLAC, or adopted would risk their security in any way.

Consideration will also be given to any pupils for whom child protection concerns have been raised. Should the DSL believe that taking photos and videos of any pupils would put their security at further risk, greater care will be taken towards protecting their identity.

A list of all the names of pupils for whom consent was not given will be created by the school office staff and will be circulated to all staff members. This list will always be updated whenever there is a change to consent.

4. General procedures

Photos and videos of pupils will be carefully planned before any activity and the principal will oversee the planning of any events where photos and videos will be taken.

Where photos and videos will involve pupils who are LAC, PLAC, or adopted, or pupils for whom there are security concerns, the principal will liaise with the DSL to determine the steps involved.

The list of all pupils who have not consented to being photographed or recorded will be checked prior to the activity. Only pupils for whom consent has been given will be able to participate.

The staff members involved, alongside the headteacher and DPO, will liaise with the DSL if any pupil who is LAC, PLAC, adopted, or for whom there are security concerns is involved.

When organising photography and videos of pupils, staff involved will consider the following:

- Can general shots of classrooms or group activities, rather than individual shots of pupils fulfil the same purpose?
- Could the camera angle be amended in any way to avoid pupils being identified?
- Will pupils be suitably dressed to be photographed or videoed?
- Will pupils from different ethnic backgrounds and abilities be included in the photographs or videos to support equality and diversity?
- Would it be appropriate to edit photographs or videos in any way (e.g. remove logos which may identify pupils, blur faces)?
- Are the photographs and videos of pupils completely necessary, or could alternative methods be used for the same purpose? For example, could an article be illustrated by pupils' work rather than images or videos of the pupils themselves?

A school-owned digital camera will be used to take photos and videos of pupils.

Staff will ensure that all pupils are suitably dressed before taking any photos or videos.

Where possible, staff will avoid identifying pupils by name or any other identifiable data. If names are required, only first names will be used.

The school will not use photos or videos of:

- Any pupil who is subject to a court order.
- Children who have left the school, without the consent of their parents.
- Staff members who have left the school, without their consent.

Photos and videos that may cause any distress or embarrassment will not be used.

Any concern relating to inappropriate or intrusive photography or publication of content will be reported to the DPO.

5. Additional safeguarding procedures

The school understands that certain circumstances may put a pupil's security at greater risk and, thus, may mean extra precautions are required to protect their identity.

The DSL and/or Designated Teacher (DT) will, in known cases of pupils who are LAC, PLAC or adopted, liaise with the pupil's social worker, carers or adoptive parents to assess the needs and risks associated with the pupil.

Any measures required will be determined between the DT, DSL, social worker, and carer and/or adoptive parent with a view to minimising any impact on the pupil's day-to-day life. The measures implemented will be one of the following:

- Photos and videos can be taken as per usual school procedures
- Photos and videos can be taken within school for educational purposes and official school use, e.g. on registers, but cannot be published online or in external media
- No photos or videos can be taken at any time for any purposes

Any outcomes will be communicated clearly to all staff members and the list outlining which pupils are not to be involved in any videos or photos, held in the school office, will be updated accordingly.

6. Use of digital cameras

Staff members may be provided with a camera to record and maintain pictorial evidence of the lessons, behaviour, activities and events related to their pupils. Photos and videos may only be taken for educational purposes and in “school or educational provision settings” as mentioned above.

The use of personal cameras, mobile phone cameras or other recording equipment is prohibited on school premises at all times.

The school-owned cameras are stored securely in identified locations. Members of staff are responsible for making sure that the camera is locked away in a secure location after use and at the end of the day. Members of staff are not allowed to take school cameras or memory cards home.

Members of staff are not allowed to bring in personal cameras without prior permission. If personal cameras are allowed to be brought in due to a specialist requirement or defective equipment, the memory card should be shown to be empty and images downloaded to the school’s server.

Cameras are not permitted to be taken into toilets, swimming pools or changing areas

Staff or other adults are not permitted to take photos of pupils in vulnerable circumstances, such as when they are upset or inappropriately dressed. Members of staff and the school community are required to report inappropriate use of digital cameras and images to the principal. If it is found that any incidents raise child protection concerns, immediate action will be taken in consultation with the DSL.

The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged camera equipment. This remains the responsibility and obligation of the individual who has borrowed the equipment.

7. Other school-owned devices

Staff are encouraged to take photos and videos of pupils using the school’s digital cameras; however, they may use other school-owned devices, such as mobile phones and tablets, where consent has been sought from the headteacher prior to the activity. Staff will not use their personal mobile phones, or any other personal device, to take images and videos of pupils.

Where school-owned devices other than digital cameras are used, images and videos will be provided to the school at the earliest opportunity and then removed from the devices.

Photos and videos taken by staff members on school visits may be used for educational purposes, e.g. on displays or to illustrate the work of the school, where consent has been obtained.

8. Storage and retention

As per the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018, images obtained by the school will not be kept for longer than necessary; retention periods for the different types of personal data are outlined in the trust’s Records Management Policy.

Hard copies of photos and video recordings held by trust schools will be annotated with the date on which they were taken and will be stored securely. They will not be used other than for their original purpose, unless permission is sought from the principal and parents of the pupils involved and the DPO has been consulted.

Digital photos and videos held on the trust schools' drive or cloud storage are accessible to staff only. Photos and videos are stored in labelled files, annotated with the date, and are only identifiable by year group or class number – no names are associated with images and videos. Files are password protected and only staff members have access to these passwords.

Paper documents will be shredded and electronic memories scrubbed clean or destroyed once the retention period has ended. The principal will review stored images and videos, at least annually, to ensure that all unwanted material and images and those that have exceeded their period of consent have been deleted.

Where a parent or pupil has withdrawn their consent, any related imagery and videos involving their child/the pupil will be removed from the school drive or cloud storage immediately. When a parent withdraws consent, it will not affect the use of any images or videos for which consent had already been obtained. Withdrawal of consent will only affect further processing.

Where a pupil's security risk has changed, the DSL will inform the principal immediately. If required, any related imagery and videos involving the pupil will be removed from the school drive or cloud storage immediately. Hard copies will be removed by returning them to the parent/pupil or by shredding, as appropriate.

Official school photos are held on SIMS alongside other personal information and are retained for the length of the pupil's attendance at the school, or longer if necessary and can be justified, e.g. due to a police investigation.

Images taken on school cameras must be downloaded as soon as possible on to a school computer or laptop, ideally once a week.

Members of staff are responsible for ensuring that images are safely stored, particularly on encrypted memory sticks and hard drives. They must take reasonable measures to ensure that they do not come into the possession of unauthorised persons.

No digital image will be altered or enhanced in any way by any member of staff, unless given prior permission by the principal to do so. The school may require images to be deleted or edited as appropriate and may choose to use images taken by members of staff or volunteers for other purposes, provided the processing conditions and consent requirements of this policy are met. Staff members are responsible for ensuring that edited images do not mislead or misrepresent. They must not edit images which result in their subject being vulnerable to embarrassment, humiliation, teasing, bullying or abuse.

If the memory card for individual school cameras needs to be replaced, then the replaced memory card will be destroyed to ensure that no images can be recovered. Members of staff must remember that, even when images are physically deleted from a camera or memory card, the camera or the memory card must be appropriately disposed of to ensure that no imprint remains.

9. Appropriate use of images under UK GDPR and the DPA 2018

Photos are used in school for many reasons and the different uses for the same image should be considered separately, as each photograph and use will potentially have different conditions for processing.

As a public body, the trust and its schools **must** consider whether the processing is taking place in the performance of its duties as a public authority. Where this is the case, the legal basis for processing will be recorded as 'public task', not 'legitimate interests' – public authorities cannot use legitimate interests as a lawful basis if the processing is in the performance of their tasks as a public authority.

The trust uses privacy notices with declarations attached to inform staff, pupils and parents about how their personal data may be collected and as one method of gaining consent.

To judge whether legitimate interest can be used as the basis for processing data, the school will carry out three different tests. These are:

- A purpose test – establishing the reasons for using the data, what will be achieved and whether the benefits are justifiable.
- A necessity test – establishing whether the processing of pupils' data will be useful and whether there is a less intrusive way of reaching a means to an end.
- A balance test – establishing the impact it will have on the data subject by processing the data for said reason.

These three tests make up a 'legitimate interest assessment' (LIA) – the trust and its schools will carry out a LIA prior to obtaining the data and it will be recorded in a physical copy in compliance with the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018.

Photos used in identity management

These are likely to be essential for performing the public task of the school, but they will be deleted once the child is no longer in attendance – as they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were held.

Photos used for marketing purposes

Photos will not be used for marketing purposes unless the school has specific informed consent for the images and the images are only used in line with the consent provided.

The school recognises that when images are posted on the school/trust website and social media accounts anyone may view the images, and consequently this may result in a greater risk of misuse of images. The school will therefore give specific consideration to the suitability of images for use on the school/trust's website and social media accounts.

Photos in the school environment relating to education

These photos may be essential for performing the public task of the school, but once the pupil has left the school this argument is insufficient. If the school wishes to display the image beyond the pupil's time at the school, the school will obtain the pupil or their parent's permission. If permission is not granted, the image will be removed.

When gaining consent, including when initially taking the photograph or when the purpose of the image has changed, the pupil, or where appropriate their parents, will be informed of the retention period pertaining to the use of the image. If the image is still on display after the retention period stated in the privacy notice used to gain consent, the school will be in breach of data protection obligations and may be subject to a fine.

10. Use of cameras and filming equipment by parents

Parents or family members are usually permitted to take photos of (and where appropriate, film) their own children taking part in school's events, subject to the following guidelines, which the school expects all parents to follow. Parents will:

- Remain seated while taking photos or videos during concerts, performances and other events.
- Minimise the use of flash photography during performances.
- In the case of all school events, make the focus of any photos and/or videos their own children.
- Avoid disturbing others in the audience or distracting pupils when taking photos or recording videos.
- Ensure that any images and recordings taken at school events are exclusively for personal use and are not uploaded to the internet, posted on social networking sites or openly shared in other ways.
- Refrain from taking further photos and/or videos if and when requested to do so by staff.

Trust schools should make these guidelines clear to parents and family members prior to and at events by for example putting them in letters about the event, putting up posters, printing guidelines on the back of tickets or making announcements.

It is the decision of the principal and DSL to give permission for photos and video to be taken by parents at events in their school. Permission will not be given if there are any reasons that may compromise the safeguarding or protection of pupils.

11. Use of cameras and filming equipment by pupils

All pupils 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 staff.

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

Misuse of images, cameras, or filming equipment in a way that breaches this policy, or the school's Anti-bullying Policy, Technology Acceptable Use Agreement, and Social Media Policy is always taken seriously and may be the subject of disciplinary procedures or dealt with under the relevant safeguarding policy as appropriate

12. Sharing of images

All images taken by members of staff or volunteers at school or during school activities remain the property of the school and images must not be shared with anyone outside the school or held for private use.

No digital image will be uploaded onto any internet/intranet system without the express permission of the child's parent. Members of staff and volunteers will not post school images on personal pages of social networking sites or other websites.

Images will not be emailed or shared via private email accounts unless a parent has asked for a photo of their child to be sent to them.

13. Use of a professional photographer

If the school decides to use a professional photographer for official school photos and school events, the principal will:

- Provide a clear brief for the photographer about what is considered appropriate, in terms of both content and behaviour.
- Issue the photographer with an identification badge or card, which must be worn at all times.
- Let pupils and parents know that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they have previously provided consent to both the taking and publication of videos and/or photos.
- Not allow unsupervised access to pupils or one-to-one photo sessions at events.
- Communicate to the photographer that the material may only be used for the school's own purposes and that permission has not been given to use the photos for any other purpose.
- Ensure that the photographer will comply with the requirements set out in the UK GDPR and the DPA 2018.
- Ensure that if another individual, such as a parent or governor, is nominated to be the photographer, they are clear that the images and/or videos are not used for anything other than the purpose indicated by the school.

14. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis by the DPO in accordance with the trust's policy review schedule.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and, where appropriate, pupils.

Aspire Educational Trust Photography and video parental consent form



DO before using

- Add School logo/header
- Decide on purposes for use of photograph and which will require consent
- Add different purpose to consent list
- Check or change text highlighted in yellow

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS PARENTAL/CARER CONSENT FORM

This information explains the reasons why and how **SCHOOL NAME** and the Aspire Educational Trust (AET), may take and use photographs and videos of your child. Please read the information thoroughly and outline your agreement as appropriate.

Name of pupil:	
Class:	
Name of parent:	

Why do we need your consent?

We request the consent of parents/carers to take and use photographs and videos of your child for a variety of different purposes. Without your consent, we will not take and use photographs and videos of your child. Similarly, if there are only certain conditions under which you would like images and videos of your child to be used, the school will abide by the conditions you outline in this form.

Why do you we take and use photographs and videos of your child?

We use photographs and videos of pupils as part of school displays to celebrate school life and pupils' achievements; to promote on social media, websites; and for other publicity purposes in printed publications, such as newspapers.

Where the school uses images of individual pupils, the name of the pupil **will not** be disclosed. Where an individual pupil is named in a written publication, a photograph of the pupil **will not** be used to accompany the text.

If, for example, a pupil has won an award and their parent would like their name to be published alongside their image, **separate consent** will be obtained prior to this.

We may take images or videos of individual pupils and groups of pupils to use on social media, the school website, in school prospectuses and other printed publications, such as a newsletter.

Who else takes and uses images and videos of your child?

It is common for the school to be visited by local media and press who take photographs or videos of school events such as sports days. Pupils will appear in these images and videos, and these may be published in local or national newspapers, social media or on approved websites.

The following organisations may use images and videos of your children:

- **Name of organisation, e.g. local newspaper**
- **Name of organisation**

Where any organisations other than those above intend to use images or videos of your child, additional consent will be sought before any image or video is used.

What are the conditions of use?

- This consent form is valid until your child leaves the school.
- It is the responsibility of parents to inform the school, in writing, if consent needs to be withdrawn or amended.
- The school will not use the personal details or full names of any pupil in an image or video on our website, in our school prospectuses or any other printed publications.
- The school will not include personal emails or postal addresses, telephone or fax numbers on images or videos on our website, in our school prospectuses or any other printed publications.
- The school may use pictures of pupils and teachers that have been drawn by pupils.
- The school may use work created by pupils.
- The school may use group or class images or videos with general labels, e.g. 'sports day'.
- The school will only use images and videos of pupils who are suitably dressed, i.e. it would not be suitable to display an image of a pupil in swimwear.
- The school will take class images of your child which are available to purchase annually.

I provide consent to:

Photographing and videoing my child		
Using photographs of my child on the school website and AET website.		
Using videos of my child on the school website and AET website.		

Using photographs of my child on social media, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.		
Using videos of my child on social media, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram.		
The local media using images of my child to publicise school events and activities (only including the organisations outlined above).		
The local media using videos of my child to publicise school events and activities (only including the organisations outlined above).		
Using images of my child in marketing material, e.g. the school brochure and prospectus.		
Sharing my child's data with a school-appointed external photography company for official school images. This includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Class • Roll number 		

Refreshing your consent -

This form replaces any previous consent that you have provided.

This form is valid for until your child leaves school.

Consent will also be refreshed where any changes to circumstances occur – this can include, but is not limited to, the following:

- New requirements for consent, e.g. an additional social media account will be used to share pupil images and videos
- Changes to a pupil's circumstances, e.g. safeguarding requirements mean a pupil's image cannot be used
- Changes to parental consent, e.g. amending the provisions for which consent has been provided for

Where you would like to amend the provisions for which consent has been provided, you must submit your request in writing to the headteacher. A new form will be supplied to you to amend your consent accordingly and provide a signature.

Withdrawing your consent

Parents have the right to withdraw their consent at any time. Withdrawing your consent will not affect any images or videos that have been shared prior to withdrawal.

If you would like to withdraw your consent, you must submit your request in writing to the headteacher.

Declaration

I, _____(name of parent), understand:

- Why my consent is required.
- The reasons why **SCHOOL NAME** and the Aspire Educational Trust uses images and videos of my child.
- Which other organisations may use images and videos of my child.
- The conditions under which the school and the Aspire Educational Trust uses images and videos of my child.
- I have provided my consent above as appropriate, and the school and the Aspire Educational Trust will use images and videos of my child in line with my requirements.
- I will be required to re-provide consent where any circumstances change.
- I can amend or withdraw my consent at any time and must do so in writing to the headteacher.

Name of parent: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

If you have any questions regarding this form, please do not hesitate to contact the headteacher at **email address** or **phone number**.

