



ST WENN SCHOOL

PHOTOGRAPHIC/IMAGES

POLICY

Reviewed: September 2020

Date of next Review: July 2021

Headteacher: Mrs Sally Berry

Chair of Governors: Dr Tessa Cubitt

Principles

This policy details the rules governing photography and recording videos at St Wenn School, the distribution of these photos & videos, & their publication on the internet.

Taking photographs and video images of children's achievements and activities is a wonderful way of capturing a memory and promoting successes. This policy document explains, in detail, the school's requirement to obtain parental permission (where necessary) while taking such images and the safeguards in place to ensure anonymity (wherever possible) in their usage.

The policy covers the rules for staff, governors, parents, carers and wider family members, and is founded on four main principles:

1. **Safety** The overriding priority is to ensure that photography does not lead, either directly or indirectly, to anything that may potentially endanger the safety of the children at school.
2. **Privacy** We believe that every child & parent is entitled to their own privacy, and can therefore choose not to feature in photographs or videos recorded at school.
3. **Projecting the Right Image** Photographs taken at school should not cause embarrassment to the school, the children or the staff.
4. **Sharing Children's Achievements**

It is natural for every parent to want to share their children's activities & achievements at school with their friends & family. This school is keen to allow this as much as possible, while keeping this in balance with the first three principles.

Consent

When a child joins the school, their parent or carer is asked for consent for the child to appear in photos used by the school (and in the local press). The school encourages all parents to provide consent, as it enables us to include all the children in depictions of school life, but we respect the right to refuse consent. Parents may, in writing to the Headteacher, withdraw consent at any time, or grant consent if they had previously declined.

School Website

Any material published to the website must be assessed to ensure it meets the following safeguarding rules:

1. It must not feature any child whose parent/carer has not given consent.
2. It must not offer any means of identifying a child by name *
3. It must not in any way embarrass the school, children or staff involved.

Photos & videos intended for the school website should be taken either by a member of staff, or another person (typically a governor or parent) authorised by the Headteacher.

* If a child received an individual award (eg. a maths competition entered through school) and the school wished to share their achievement including a photo, parental consent would be sought before naming (first name only) them on the school website.

School Events and Parents and Carers

Reflecting our Safeguarding Policy, parents/carers are requested **not** to take photographs or record videos at any school events.

However, the school will endeavour to record events and put selected videos/images onto the website where this possible; the school will also facilitate parents taking photographs and videos of their children (and friends if permission is granted) either prior to the event, or just after it.

It is not permitted to take photos in classrooms or elsewhere in the school unless explicitly authorised by the Headteacher. Parents cannot use cameras when helping on school trips to take pictures of children. Photos of staff should only be taken when they are in a picture with other children such as giving a speech, or unavoidably such as conducting the choir. Pictures of staff other than these situations **MUST NOT** be taken.

If a parent does not want their child to be photographed, options will be discussed with the parents and they do have the right to withdraw their child from an event, (children would be then accommodated elsewhere within school). Options have to be manageable by the school, and could include for example, wearing a mask in a play if appropriate or having a role behind the scenes.

Parents who do not wish their child to be photographed will be invited to meet with the class teacher at the beginning of term to inform the teacher directly of their wishes.

Outside Designated Events

It is not permitted to use a camera on school premises at any time outside these designated events except for events where parents have the supervision of their child eg. the school fayres, or unless explicitly authorised by the Headteacher.

Distribution and Publication of Photos and Videos

Photos taken at these events (of children and/or staff) are for your parents and carers' personal use only. They must not be published on any internet website. This includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and all other social media sites. The reason for this restriction is that it is not possible for individual parents to ensure that all three of the safeguarding rules described above are adhered to at both the time of publication, and later.

Withdrawal of Permission

The expectation is that parents will cooperate with this policy as it is not reasonable for the school to 'police' every event. However, if it is drawn to the school's notice that there is failure to adhere to these conditions, this may, at the discretion of the Headteacher, lead to withdrawal of permission to use a camera at future events. The Headteacher may also refer the matter to the Police.

External Photographers

Terms for external photographers, such as local newspaper photographers, must be agreed in advance with the Headteacher. These are considered on a case-by-case basis, and must conform to the safeguarding rules described above.

Rules for Pupils

☒ Pupils must not take any photographs or video on the school site using personal cameras at any time unless explicitly authorised by the Headteacher.

☒ Pupils may take photos or video using school equipment under the supervision of staff or other authorised persons.

☒ Pupils must not upload any photographs taken within the school premises (school buildings, playground, field, etc.) on to the internet or any social media sites, e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.

Rules for Staff

☒ Staff may take photos & video anywhere within the school for the purposes indicated on the parental consent form.

☒ These may be published on the school website if they conform to the safeguarding rules described above.

☒ They may not be published on any other internet or social media site.

☒ They may be shared with other members of staff by email to support teaching work. They may not be shared with friends & family.

☒ The school cameras should be used to take photographs where possible. Staff will not use personal cameras (digital or otherwise) for taking and transferring images of pupils or staff without permission from the Headteacher and will not store images at home.

☒ Members of staff who are also parents/carers of children at the school are permitted to take photographs at school events under the terms described in 'Rules for parents, carers/guardians and governors'.

☒ Photos taken on residential are uploaded to Photobox for which the specific parents are given a password to access. Permission for this is sought before the residential.

Scope

This policy does not apply to events such as the school fayres, which are classed as public events.

Note. For the purposes of this policy, 'camera' refers to any device that can take images, eg. mobile phone, iPad, tablet, DS, etc.

Signed Headteacher: *Sally Berry*

Chair of Governors: T Cubitt