

POLICY FOR THE USE OF IMAGES OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE IN THIRSK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Meeting your communication needs:

We want to ensure that your communication needs are met, if you would like this information on audio type, in Braille, large print, any other format or interpreted in a language other than English, please contact School office on 01845 524349

Purpose of policy

This policy sets out how Thirsk CP School will ensure the safety and welfare of children/ young people in our care when making photos/images of them.

Policy Application

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working at the school as well as visitors.

Introduction

Schools need and welcome publicity. Children's photographs add colour, life and interest to articles promoting school activities and initiatives. Making use of photographs for publicity materials and to promote the school in the press can increase pupil motivation and staff morale, and help parents and the local community identify and celebrate the school's achievements. However, photographs must be used in a responsible way (Appendix 1).

In May 2004, section 45 of the Sex Offences Act 2003 amended Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 by raising the age of a 'child' from 16 to 18. This means it is now an offence to 'take, make, allow to take, distribute, show, possess with intent to distribute, or advertise indecent photos or pseudo photographs of children under the age of 18.

Thirsk CP School recognises the need to respect children's and parents' rights of privacy and is aware of potential child protection issues.

Images taking by parents, legal guardians or family members at a school event:

- Parents, legal guardians, family members and friends can take images of their child and friends participating in school activities for family and personal use. Personal use does not include posting the pictures or videos on social media.
- Parents will be asked for their permission before photography is allowed (Appendix 2).
- Before they are allowed to take images during school activities, parents or legal guardians have to sign an agreement that any images they take will not be used inappropriately. (Appendix 1)
- Parents or family members wishing to take images during an activity will be asked to sign a dated register.
- Photography and video filming will be limited to designated areas.
- The school will ensure that children are appropriately dressed.
- The school will ensure that children who should not be photographed, for example those whose parents/legal guardians have refused consent, are not included in any images.
- Use of cameras and other equipment will be monitored.

Images for school publications:

- The school will only take and use images that are appropriate and are considered to not be open to misuse.
- If an image of a child is used, the child's name **will not** be published. If a name is published, **no image will be used** without specific consent.
- Children and their parents/legal guardians will be made aware of why their picture is being taken and how it will be used.
- The school will ensure that images of a single child with no surrounding context of what they are learning or doing will be avoided.
- Children and parents should be encouraged to recognise the value of group photographs or recordings of school events.
- The school recognises that images must not be used to cause distress, upset or embarrassment.
- The school will use photographs that represent the diversity of the children/young people participating.
- Images will be kept securely and held by the school for the duration of the pupils time there, the school may retain and use some images as part of its historical record. However on leaving the school if a parent/guardian wishes to have destroyed any images showing their child individually parents should inform the school in writing.
- Images of children from the school will not be used to illustrate controversial subjects.

Images for the school website:

- School websites are part of the internet and are more easily accessible than paper based school publications. The school will make sure that only appropriate images are used. Image filenames will avoid using children's names.
- The storage of electronic images will be regularly reviewed by a senior member of staff.

Webcams:

- Webcams are a useful tool for learning. They can allow an individual or class to interact over the internet with others and support links between pupils in different schools, countries and cultures.
- A webcam will only be used in appropriate circumstances such as a normal class setting.
- Both children and teachers will be made aware of when a webcam is in use.

Please note that images taken by the media are not covered by this policy and are subject to a separate set of regulations.

APPENDIX 1

DATA PROTECTION GOOD PRACTICE NOTE TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS IN SCHOOLS

In October 2007 the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) published Good Practice Guidance aimed at Local Authorities and those working in schools, colleges and universities. It gave advice on taking photographs in educational institutions and whether doing so must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Recommended Good Practice

The Data protection Act is unlikely to apply in many cases where photographs are taken in schools and other educational institutions. Fear of breaching the provisions of the Act should not be wrongly used to stop people taking photographs or videos which provide many with pleasure.

Where the Act does apply, a common sense approach suggests that if the photographer asks for permission to take a photograph, this will usually be enough to ensure compliance.

- Photos taken for official school use may be covered by the Act and pupils, students and parents/carers should be advised why they are being taken
- Photos taken purely for personal use are exempt from the Act

Examples

Personal Use:

- A parent takes a photograph of their child and some friends taking part in the school Sports Day to be put in the family photo album. These images are for personal use and the Data Protection Act does not apply.

Official School Use

- Photographs of students/pupils are taken for building passes. These images are likely to be stored electronically with other personal data and the terms of the Act will apply.
- A small group of pupils are being photographed during a science lesson and the photo is to be used in the school prospectus. This will be personal data but will not breach the Act as long as the children and/or their parents/carers/guardians are aware this is happening and the context in which the photo will be used.

Media Use

- A photograph is taken by a local newspaper of a school awards ceremony. As long as the school has agreed to this and the children and/or their parents/carers/guardians are aware that photographs of those attending may appear in the newspaper, this will not breach the Act.

The Data Protection Act should not be wrongly cited to stop people taking photographs or filming videos.

APPENDIX 2

Parents'/Legal Guardians' Consent to Take and Use Images of Pupils

Dear Parents/Carers

Consent Form to use a Photograph

There are occasions when we may take photographs of the pupils at our school. We may use these images in our school prospectus or in other printed publications that we produce, as well as on our website. We may also make video or webcam recordings for school – to – school conferences, monitoring or other educational use.

Also, from time to time, the school may be visited by the media who will take photographs of film/video footage of a particular event. Pupils might also appear in photographs/films/video which may feature in local or national newspapers, or in televised news programmes. In some instances, for example where this is celebrating a particular achievement, it may be reasonable to provide the press with the name(s) of the pupil(s).

When parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, friends etc. are invited to school events many will want to record the occasion for personal use. The school feels that in most instances this is reasonable and will therefore generally allow the use of cameras, camcorders etc. However, due to respect for privacy as well as safeguarding vulnerable children, we ask you not to share images or videos using social media.

In all of these the school will use a common sense approach and the welfare and safety of children will always be uppermost in its decision making,

Nevertheless, to comply with certain aspects of the Data Protection Act 1998, we need your permission to take and store photographs or digital images of your child for school use. I would be grateful, therefore if you would answer the questions on the attached form and then sign and date the form where indicated.

Please return the completed form to school as soon as possible. If you require clarification on any aspect of this form or need assistance in completing it please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Chandler
Headteacher

Key Policy Points:

Data Protection Act 1998 The Data Controller is : Thirsk Community Primary School

The information you provide on this form will only be used for the purposes for which you have given consent as detailed below.

This form is valid from the date that it is completed, signed and returned to the school and throughout the duration of your child's attendance at the school.

You may withdraw, suspend or vary this consent at any time upon receipt by the school of a letter to that effect signed and dated by the parent or guardian of the child concerned.

The school may retain and use some photographs as part of its historical record.

However on leaving the school if you (or your child if over 16) wishes to have destroyed any photograph or image showing your child individually you should inform the school in writing.

The school will only use or permit to be used photographs of children who are deemed by the Headteacher or any person duly authorised by him/her, to be suitably dressed for the relevant activity.

Note: for the purpose of this form "photographs" is deemed to include film, video and other similar means of reproducing images.

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PARENTS

Please read our Policy for the Use of Images of Children and indicate whether you agree to your child's images being taken. You have the option to indicate whether or not you consent to your child's images being taken and used for different purposes. **You can withdraw your consent at any time by writing to the school.**

Name of child (block capitals)	
Child's date of birth	
Name of parent or legal guardian (block capitals)	
I have read the school's policy on the use of images of children and I agree to its provisions. <i>Please give your consent by putting your initials next to each statement. Your child's images will not be taken/used as specified, if you do not give your consent.</i>	
I give my consent to images of my child being taken and used for official school purpose promoting or publicising school events in accordance with the guidelines of the policy for the duration of their time at the school.	<u>Please initial here</u>
I give my consent to images of my child being used on the school website and I understand that these images will be available on the World Wide Web.	
I give my consent for images taken by the school in accordance with the guidelines of the policy to be used for official NYCC Council publications.	
I give my consent to my child being included in any images taken by other parents or carers who wish to photograph or record school events in which their children are participating. All parents or legal guardians will be asked to sign an agreement for appropriate use of images they take during school events. Please see below.	
I agree that any photographic or video images I as a parent or legal guardian might take at school events will not be used inappropriately.	
Signature of parent or legal guardian of the child	
Relationship to the child	
Date (date/month/year)	

NB: There may be other circumstances, falling outside the normal day to day activities of the school, when images of children are needed. The school recognises that in such circumstances specific consent from the parent or legal guardian will be sought before any photography or filming of children starts. If you have concerns or queries about any of this information, please contact the school. Please return to: School Office

The Issue

Sadly we live in a society where not everyone has children's best interests at heart.

We have already asked for you to consent for photographs of your child to be used in the press and/or our website.

However, we must all remember that some parents and people in temporary care of children may not be able to grant permission for photographs as to do so could endanger the child as his/her whereabouts may need to be kept secret .

You will not, nor should you, know who these children are. Although we realise that you have the right to take photographs, by asking you to think carefully and not to take photographs at school events we are trying to balance your desire as parents to be present with the need to protect our most vulnerable children.

Ensuring the safety of these, our most vulnerable children, is the responsibility of the whole community of Thirsk CP School .

We realise that you have entrusted to us your most precious possession and so we strive to provide a setting which ensures that your child is safe, secure, valued and inspired.

Whatever we do, please be assured that we do it with the best interests of your children at heart.

Thirsk Community Primary School



**Protecting your children
and the use of
Photographs –
A guide for parents**

Why do we use photographs?

To record and capture special moments

The curriculum which your child studies in our school is based upon first hand experiences and active learning. Observations of your child 's play and activities form the basis of our assessment of the progress he/she is making and the identification of next steps in learning.

Much of this is ongoing assessment recorded in the Learning Journey Book – a individual invaluable document which will be given to you as parents as a precious keepsake for your child's early learning. Many of the special moments in your child's time with us will be captured in photographs which are kept in the Learning Journey Book

This enables you to share in the experience in some way even though you could not be present at the time that it occurred.

To celebrate our school as a learning community.

We also take photographs which form part of displays for the whole school community to share. These may be of an assembly, a record of a special visitor or activity such as school trip.

To celebrate and share our work with the community of Thirsk

The local press are keen to publish our activities and we are equally keen to share our experiences with the community of North Stainley. This usually includes a photograph of children doing something and worthwhile!

To liven up our website!

Our website would be very dull and boring if we could not show pictures of our children learning. We try to have pictures that represent each class and the wide variety of educational experiences they undertake in school.

To show what we do as a school

When we have meetings for parents we may use a presentation to explain how we work as a school. This is an invaluable way of showing what active learning looks like in our school.

We have built up a bank of photographs which are part of these fantastic presentations.