



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CCTV Policy

2025-26

MISSION STATEMENT

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full - John 10:10

As a Catholic Primary School, God is at the heart of all we do. We believe that each person is made in His image, deserving to be treated with respect and dignity.

Showing respect, love and care for everyone and everything, we aim to develop harmony between pupils, parents/carers, the school and Parish and grow as a Christian community.

We aim to embed the virtues in every child to believe in themselves to be the best that they can be and leave school as well-rounded individuals who care about themselves, others, and the world.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the
Safeguarding Policy & Site Security Policy

Date drafted: October 2025

Date ratified by the Governing Body: October 2025

Date for review by Staff and Governors: October 2026

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Purpose

The Purpose of this policy is to regulate the management, operation and use of the CCTV system (Closed Circuit Television).

CCTV systems are installed in premises for the purpose of enhancing security of the building and its associate equipment as well as creating a mindfulness among the occupants, at any one time, that a surveillance security system is in operation within and/or in the external environs of the premises during both the daylight and night hours each day.

CCTV surveillance at the school is intended for the purposes of:

- Protecting the School buildings and school assets, both during and after school hours;
- Reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour (including theft and vandalism);
- Supporting the police in a bid to deter and detect crime;
- Assisting in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders;
- Ensuring that the School rules are respected so that the School can be properly managed.
- Promoting the health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors as well as for monitoring student behaviour;
- Preventing bullying;

The system does not have sound recording capability.

The CCTV system is owned and operated by the School, the deployment of which is determined by the School's Leadership team.

The introduction of, or changes to, CCTV monitoring will be subject to consultation with staff and members of the School community.

The School's CCTV is registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679.

All authorised operators and employees with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images. All operators are made aware of their responsibilities in following the CCTV Code of Practice. All employees are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of, recorded images.

Scope

This policy relates directly to the location and use of CCTV and the monitoring, recording and subsequent use of such recorded material. The School complies with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) CCTV Code of Practice to ensure it is used responsibly and safeguards both trust and confidence in its use.

CCTV warning signs will be clearly and prominently placed at the main external entrance to the School. Signs will contain details of the purpose for using CCTV.

In areas where CCTV is used, the school will ensure that there are prominent signs placed within the controlled area. The system will give maximum effectiveness and efficiency, but it

is not guaranteed that the system will cover or detect every single incident taking place in the areas of coverage.

CCTV monitoring of public areas for security purposes will be conducted in a manner consistent with all existing policies and related legislation. Video monitoring of public areas for security purposes within school premises is limited to uses that do not violate the individual's reasonable expectation to privacy. Information obtained in violation of this policy may not be used in a disciplinary proceeding against an employee of the School or a student attending the School. All CCTV systems and associated equipment will be required to be compliant with this policy following its adoption by the School.

CCTV monitoring footage will not be used in any observing or monitoring of a member of staff's performance, but may be reviewed and used in the case of an incident which may lead to disciplinary action being taken against a member of staff.

Recognisable images captured by CCTV systems are classed as 'personal data'. They are therefore subject to the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018.

Location of Cameras

The cameras are sited so that they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they have been installed (as described above), 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 the images captured comply with legislation. The school will make every effort to position the cameras so that their coverage is restricted to the school premises inside and outside .

Members of staff will have access to details of where CCTV cameras are situated.

CCTV Video Monitoring and Recording of Public Areas may include the following:

- Protection of school buildings and property: the building's perimeter, entrances and exits, special storage areas, receiving areas for goods/services;
- Verification of Security Alarms: intrusion alarms, exit door controls, external alarms;
- Video Patrol of Public Areas: parking areas, main entrance/exit gates;
- Criminal Investigations (carried out by the police): robbery, burglary and theft surveillance.

Access to CCTV Images

Access to recorded images will be restricted to the staff authorised to view them and will not be made widely available. Supervising the access and maintenance of the CCTV System is the responsibility of the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher may delegate the administration of the CCTV System to another staff member. When CCTV recordings are being viewed, access will be limited to authorised individuals on a need-to-know basis.

Subject Access Requests (SAR)

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

All requests should be made in writing to the Data Protection Officer. Individuals submitting requests for access will be asked to provide sufficient information to enable footage relating to them to be identified. For example: time, data and location.

The applicant may view the CCTV footage if available.

The school will respond to requests within a timely manner ~~30 working days~~ of receiving the request. This should be dealt with within 28 days of the incident as video evidence is deleted after this point.

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.

Access and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than authorised personnel such as the Police.

If an order is granted by a court for disclosure of CCTV images, then this should be complied with. However, very careful consideration must be given to exactly what the court order requires. If there are any concerns as to disclosure, then the Data Protection Officer should be contacted in the first instance and appropriate legal advice may be required.

Requests for images should be made in writing to the Data Protection Officer.

Responsibilities

The Head Teacher will:

- Ensure that the use of CCTV systems is implemented in accordance with this policy.
- Oversee and co-ordinate the use of CCTV monitoring for safety and security purposes within the School.
- Ensure that the CCTV monitoring is consistent with the highest standards and protections.
- Review camera locations and be responsible for the release of information or recorded CCTV materials stored in compliance with this policy.
- Maintain a record of access to, (e.g. an access log), or the release of tapes or any material recorded or stored in the system.
- Ensure that monitoring recorded tapes are not duplicated for release.
- Ensure that the perimeter of view from fixed location cameras conforms to this policy.
- Give consideration to both pupils and staff feedback/complaints regarding possible invasion of privacy or confidentiality due to the location of a particular CCTV camera or associated equipment.
- Ensure that all areas being monitored are not in breach of an enhanced expectation of the privacy of individuals within the School and be mindful that no such infringement is likely to take place.

- Ensure that external cameras are non-intrusive in terms of their positions and views of neighbouring residential housing and comply with the principle of “Reasonable Expectation of Privacy”.
- Ensure that monitoring tapes are stored in a secure place with access by authorised personnel only.
- Ensure that images recorded on tapes/DVD's/digital recordings are stored for a period of no longer than 31 days and are then erased unless required as part of a criminal investigation or court proceedings (criminal or civil).
- Ensure that camera control is solely to monitor suspicious behaviour, criminal damage etc and not to monitor individual characteristics.
- Ensure that camera control is not infringing an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy in public areas.

Data Protection Impact Assessment and Privacy

CCTV has the potential to be privacy intrusive. The School will perform a Data Protection Impact Assessment when installing or moving CCTF cameras to consider the privacy issues involved with using new surveillance systems to ensure that the use is necessary and proportionate and address a pressing need identified.

Policy Review

The Head Teacher and Local Governing Committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually. In addition, changes to legislation, national guidance, codes of practice or commissioner advice may trigger interim reviews.