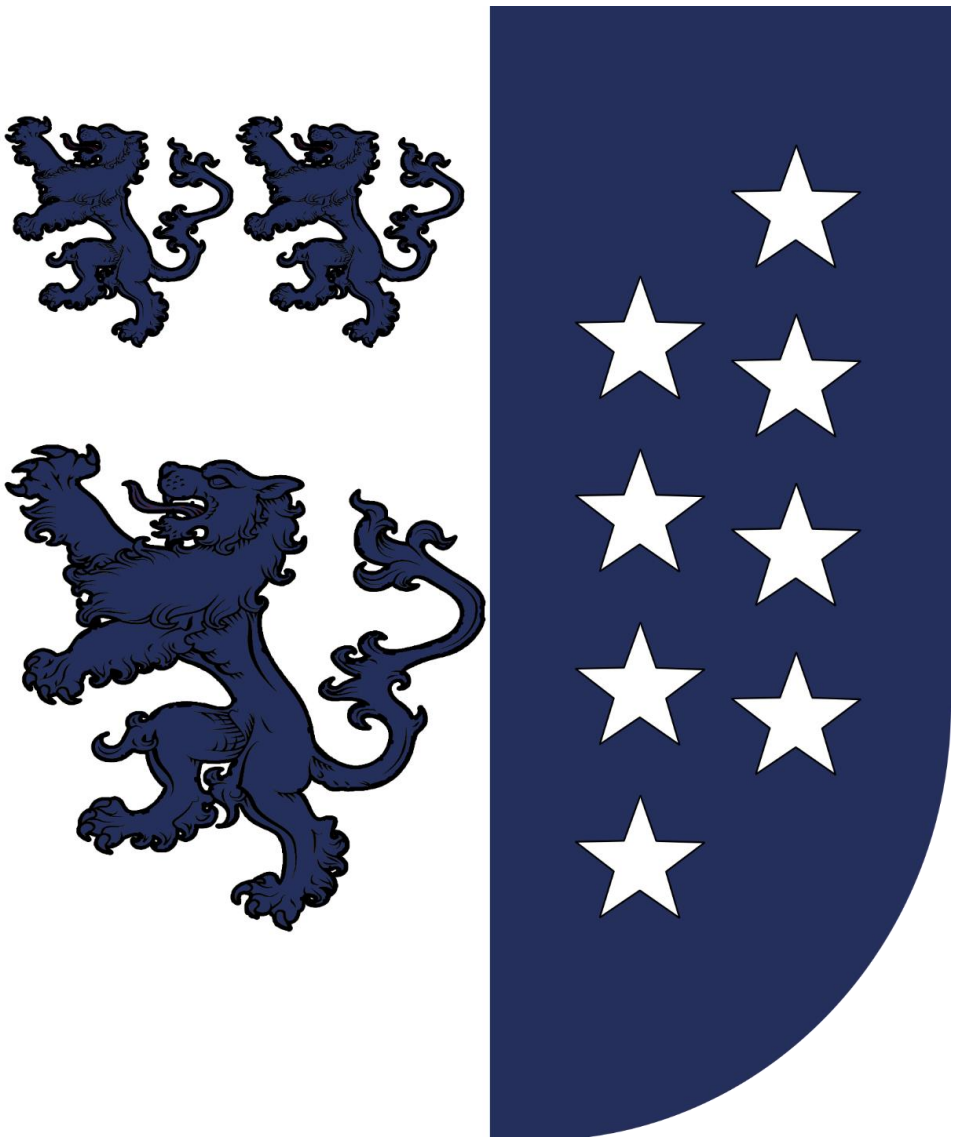
Somerset Council | Support Services for Education



MODEL CCTV POLICY
including
BODY-WORN VIDEO AND SURVEILLANCE

2026-2027

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Contacts and Review Information

Data Protection Officer dposchools@somerset.gov.uk

School Data Protection Lead David Gordon

Version Control

Version	Author(s)	Date Produced	Amendments
1.0	Amy Brittan	10/03/20	Rewrite of eLIM CCTV Policy 2018
1.2	Amy Brittan	29/05/20	Minor textual changes. Additional information added to Section 13: Subject Access Requests.
1.3	Amy Brittan	06/01/21	Updated for post-Brexit legislation
1.4	Amy Brittan	23/09/22	Checked for any updates – removed ICO code of practice reference and updated link to Surveillance code
1.5	Amy Brittan	01/09/23	Reviewed for 2023-24 – no changes required
1.6	Amy Brittan	03/09/24	Reviewed for 2024-25 – added in reference to AI and Biometric Data policies, if applicable to school
1.7	Amy Brittan	03/09/26	Checked for accuracy and formatting – minor changes throughout and inclusion of para 15.2 – data protection complaints process

Introduction

1.1. We take our responsibility towards the safety of staff, visitors and pupils very seriously. To that end, we use surveillance cameras to monitor any instances of aggression or physical damage.

1.2. The purpose of this policy is to manage and regulate the use of the surveillance and CCTV systems and ensure that:

- we comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)
- the images that are captured are useable for the purposes we require them for
- we reassure those persons whose images are being captured, that the images are being handled in accordance with data protection legislation and their rights are being upheld

1.3 This policy covers the use of surveillance and CCTV systems which capture moving and still images of people who could be identified, as well as information relating to individuals for any of the following purposes:

- observing what an individual is doing
- taking action to prevent a crime
- using images of individuals that could affect their privacy

About this policy

2.1 This policy has been created with regard to the Home Office guidance 'The Surveillance Camera Code of Practice' (2013, updated 2021, effective 2022).

2.2 This policy has due regard to legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- the UK GDPR
- the Data Protection Act 2018
- the Freedom of Information Act 2000
- the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

2.3 This policy operates in connection with the following policies:

- Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policy
- Digital technologies Policy
- AI Policy

Definition of data protection terms

3.1 For the purpose of this policy a set of definitions will be outlined, in accordance with the Surveillance Camera Code of Practice:

- **CCTV** – Closed Circuit Television is a system of cameras which stream an image to a central monitor, where activity can be recorded

- **Body-Worn Cameras (BWC)** - a camera worn by a representative of the Trust or School to capture video recordings. BWC are only activated when there is an incident

- **Surveillance** – monitoring the movements and behaviour of individuals; through CCTV or BWC

- **Overt surveillance** – any use of surveillance for which authority does not fall under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

- **Covert surveillance** – any use of surveillance which is intentionally not shared with the subjects it is recording. Subjects will not be informed of such surveillance. We do not condone the use of covert surveillance when monitoring staff, pupils and/or volunteers. Covert surveillance will only be operable in extreme circumstances

The Data Protection Principles and Privacy by Design

4.1 Data collected from surveillance and CCTV will be:

1. Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals
2. Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes
3. Adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed
4. Accurate and, where necessary, kept up to date
5. Kept for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed
6. Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage

4.2 We will follow the ICO's guidelines on Privacy by Design – before planning installing and using a surveillance system, we will:

- Consider whether we can fulfil our requirements through a less privacy-intrusive system that does not include surveillance and recording
- Carry out a Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA) to assess security risks and how the rights of individuals will be upheld
- Where we identify a high risk to an individual's interests, and it cannot be overcome, we will consult the ICO before we use CCTV, and will act on the ICO's advice

Responsibilities of the School

5.2 The School, as the corporate body, is the data controller. The governing board of School therefore has overall responsibility for ensuring that records are maintained, including security and access arrangements in accordance with regulations.

5.3 The role of the data controller includes:

- Processing surveillance and CCTV footage legally and fairly
- Collecting surveillance and CCTV footage for legitimate reasons and ensuring that it is used accordingly
- Collecting surveillance and CCTV footage that is relevant, adequate and not excessive in relation to the reason for its collection
- Ensuring that any surveillance and CCTV footage identifying an individual is not kept for longer than is necessary
- Protecting footage containing personal data against accidental, unlawful destruction, alteration, and disclosure

Responsibilities of the Data Protection Officer

6.1 As a School we are data controllers in law and are required to appoint a Data Protection Officer. Our DPO is Amy Brittan and can be contacted at dposchools@somerset.gov.uk.

6.2 The DPO is responsible for advising and monitoring compliance with current Data Protection legislation and with this policy. Their responsibilities are laid out in the Data Protection policy, but in relation to CCTV they include:

- Advising on how to process footage in accordance with the 6 data protection principles including the first principle (Lawful, Fair and Transparent)
- Supporting the completion of a Data Protection Impact Assessment when installing or replacing the doorbell (see paragraph 4.2).
- Reviewing the effectiveness of the current system and making recommendations if appropriate
- Advising how long to keep footage

Responsibilities of the headteacher

7.1 The headteacher has the following responsibilities:

- Meeting with the DPO to decide where CCTV or BWC is needed to justify its means
- Liaising with the DPO regarding the lawful processing of the surveillance and CCTV footage
- Reviewing the Surveillance and CCTV Policy to ensure it is compliant with current legislation
- Monitoring legislation to ensure we are using surveillance fairly and lawfully
- Communicating any changes to legislation to all members of staff

Purpose and justification

8.1 We will only use surveillance cameras for the safety and security of the School and its staff, pupils and visitors.

8.2 Surveillance will be used as a deterrent for violent behaviour and damage to the School.

8.3 We may share surveillance footage to assist the police in identifying persons who have committed an offence (see paragraph 13.1).

8.4 We will only conduct surveillance as a deterrent and will not site cameras in classrooms or any changing facility.

8.5 We may use surveillance data as part of disciplinary and grievance processes. This will be communicated to students and staff through our Privacy Notices.

8.6 If the surveillance and CCTV systems fulfil their purpose and are no longer required, we will deactivate them.

How we manage CCTV and surveillance

9.1 We are registered as a data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office, which also covers the use of surveillance systems.

9.2 CCTV warning signs are clearly and prominently placed at all external entrances to the School, including gates if coverage includes outdoor areas. The signs contain details of the purpose of using CCTV e.g. public safety or crime prevention.

9.3 In areas where CCTV is used, we will ensure that there are prominent signs placed at both the entrance of the CCTV zone and within the controlled area.

9.4 If BWC are being used, the staff member wearing the device will receive training on their appropriate use. They will only start recording when there is an incident they judge should be captured. They will display information which explains that they are wearing a camera and will clearly explain to the data subjects that they have started recording. Only trained and designated staff members will use BWC.

9.5 The surveillance system is a closed digital system that will not record audio by default., as audio recording may be considered an excessive intrusion of privacy. If audio recording is possible, this option will be turned off.

9.6 The surveillance system has been designed for maximum effectiveness and efficiency; however, we cannot guarantee that every incident will be detected or covered and 'blind spots' may exist.

9.7 The surveillance system will not be trained on individuals unless an immediate response to an incident is required.

9.8 The surveillance system will not be trained on private vehicles or property outside the perimeter of the School.

Security

10.1 Access to the surveillance system, software and data is strictly limited to authorised school staff and is password protected.

10.2 Our authorised CCTV system users are:
- David Gordon - headteacher.
- Karen Annetts - office administrator

10.3 Visual display monitors are located in the main office and is password protected and locked at all times. The monitor screen is not in sight of the general public and is turned off when there is no requirement to view live images.

10.4 The main control facility is kept secure and locked when not in use.

10.5 Surveillance and CCTV systems will be tested for security flaws once a term to ensure that they are being properly maintained at all times.

10.6 The headteacher and authorised staff will decide when to record footage, e.g. a continuous loop outside the grounds to deter intruders.

10.7 Any unnecessary footage captured will be securely deleted from the system.

10.8 Any cameras that present faults will be repaired immediately to avoid any risk of a data breach.

Covert monitoring

11.1 We may in exceptional circumstances set up covert monitoring. For example:

- Where there is good cause to suspect that an illegal or unauthorised action(s), is taking place, or where there are grounds to suspect serious misconduct;
- Where notifying the individuals about the monitoring would seriously prejudice the reason for making the recording.

11.2 In these circumstances authorisation must be obtained from a member of the senior management team.

11.3 Covert monitoring must cease following completion of an investigation.

11.4 Cameras sited for the purpose of covert monitoring will not be used in areas which are reasonably expected to be private, for example toilets.

11.5 The Human Rights and Employment Rights of all children, staff, and other individuals must be respected and covert monitoring must only be used as a last resort.

Storage and retention of images

12.1 Recorded data will not be retained for longer than is necessary. While retained, the integrity of the recordings will be maintained to ensure their

evidential value and to protect the rights of the people whose images have been recorded.

12.2 The CCTV images will be kept for 9 days (in line with the purpose for recording this data) unless there is a current incident that is being investigated.

12.3 BWC images will be kept for 9 days (in line with the purpose for recording this data) unless there is a current incident that is being investigated.

12.4 All retained data will be stored securely and will be listed on our Record of Processing Activities (RoPA).

12.5 All retained data must be stored in a searchable system. Only a primary copy should be kept, and secondary copies should only be created in exceptional circumstances.

Subject Access Requests (SARs)

13.1 Individuals have the right to request access to video footage relating to themselves under the Data Protection Act 2018.

13.2 All requests should be made to the Headteacher or the Data Protection Officer. Individuals submitting requests for access will be asked to provide sufficient information to enable the footage relating to them to be identified, for example, date, time and location. Requests may be written or verbal.

13.3 We will immediately indicate receipt and then respond within one calendar month of receiving the request.

13.4 We reserve the right to refuse access to video footage where this would prejudice the legal rights of other individuals or jeopardise an ongoing investigation.

13.5 All attempts will be made to allow the viewing of the video. If others can be identified, we will assess the risk to others from the video being viewed by the requester. If there is likely to be a risk of harm, we may consider the following options where appropriate:

- Obtain the consent of others to share the video with the requester
- Use video-editing software to blur the faces of others who can be identified from the video
- Provide selected still images from the video and blur the identifiable faces
- Provide a transcript or written description of the contents of the video

13.6 If all options have been considered and we still consider there to be a risk to others from the requester viewing the video, we may decline the request to view the video (although relevant exemptions in the Data Protection Act 2018 will need to be identified in any communication provided to the requester).

13.7 We should not provide copies of the video to others unless instructed to do so in law or there is no risk to individuals who may be identifiable from the video.

Access to and disclosure to other third parties

14.1 There will be no disclosure of recorded data to third parties other than to authorised personnel such as the Police and service providers to the Trust or School, where these would reasonably need access to the data (e.g. investigators) and with the correct authorisation.

14.2 Requests from third parties should be made in writing to the Headteacher or the Data Protection Officer. However, consideration must also be given to the following paragraph (14.3)

14.3 Consideration should always be given to the safeguarding and best interest of pupils. Data Protection should not be used as an excuse to prevent the viewing of images if there is an overwhelming need. All disclosures and the reasons for release should be recorded.

14.4 As stated in paragraph 8.5, data may be used within the School‘s disciplinary and grievance procedures as required and will be subject to the usual confidentiality requirements of those procedures. This will be communicated to staff through our Privacy Notices.

Complaints

15.1 Complaints and enquiries about the operation of CCTV within the School should be directed to the Headteacher in the first instance.

15.2 Complaints will be managed in line with our Data Protection Complaints policy, statutory from June 2026.