

Policy adopted on: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013

Date of review: September 2017

Responsible person: Principal

## **Policy on Use of CCTV**

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this Policy is to regulate the management, operation and use of the closed circuit television (CCTV) system at The Boulevard Academy

The system comprises a number of fixed and dome cameras located around the school site. All cameras are monitored from a Central Site Office and are only available to designated staff – members of the Site Team and members of the Senior Leadership and Management Team

This Code follows Data Protection Act guidelines.

The Code of Practice will be subject to review bi-annually to include consultation as appropriate with interested parties.

The CCTV system is owned by the school.

### **2. Objectives of the CCTV scheme**

To increase personal safety of staff students and visitors and reduce the fear of crime

To protect the school buildings and their assets

To support the Police in a bid to deter and detect crime

To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders

To protect members of the public and private property

To assist in managing the school

### **3. Statement of intent**

The CCTV Scheme will be registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 and will seek to comply with the requirements both of the Data Protection Act and the Commissioner's Code of Practice.

The school will treat the system and all information, documents and recordings obtained and used as data which are protected by the Act.

Cameras will be used to monitor activities within the school and its car parks and other public areas to identify criminal activity actually occurring, anticipated, or perceived, and for the purpose of securing the safety and well-being of the school, together with its visitors.

Staff have been instructed that static cameras are not to focus on private homes, gardens and other areas of private property.

Unless an immediate response to events is required, staff must not direct cameras at an individual, their property or a specific group of individuals, without an authorisation being obtained, as set out in the Regulation of Investigatory Power Act 2000.

Materials or knowledge secured as a result of CCTV will not be used for any commercial purpose. Tapes will only be released to the media for use in the investigation of a specific crime and with the written authority of the police. Tapes will never be released to the media for purposes of entertainment.

The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that the Scheme will give maximum effectiveness and efficiency but it is not possible to guarantee that the system will cover or detect every single incident taking place in the areas of coverage.

Warning signs, as required by the Code of Practice of the Information Commissioner have been placed at all access routes to areas covered by the school CCTV.

### **4. Operation of the system**

The Scheme will be administered and managed by the Principal or nominee, in accordance

with the principles and objectives expressed in the code.

The day-to-day management will be the responsibility of the Site Manager. The Control Room will only be accessed by SLT and the Site Manager.

The CCTV system will be operated 24 hours each day, every day of the year.

#### **5. Control Room**

The Site Manager will check and confirm the efficiency of the system daily and in particular that the equipment is properly recording and that cameras are functional.

Access to the CCTV System will be strictly limited to the SLT & the Site Team.

Unless an immediate response to events is required, staff must not direct cameras at an individual or a specific group of individuals.

Visitors and other contractors wishing to enter the Control Room will be subject to particular arrangement as outlined below.

CCTV Operators must satisfy themselves over the identity of any other viewer to the System and the purpose of their viewing. Where any doubt exists access will be refused.

The system may generate a certain amount of interest. It is vital that operations are managed with the minimum of disruption. Casual visits will not be permitted. Visitors must first obtain permission from the Site Manager, and must be accompanied by him throughout the visit.

Any visit may be immediately curtailed if prevailing operational requirements make this necessary.

If out of hours emergency maintenance arises, the Site Manager must be satisfied of the identity and purpose of contractors before allowing entry.

A Visitors Book will be maintained at school reception. Full details of visitors including time/ data of entry and exit will be recorded.

Emergency procedures will be used in appropriate cases to call the Emergency Services.

#### **6. Liaison**

Liaison meetings may be held with all bodies involved in the support of the system.

#### **7. Monitoring procedures**

Camera surveillance may be maintained at all times.

A monitor is installed in the Control Room to which pictures will be continuously recorded.

#### **8. Image storage procedures**

In order to maintain and preserve the integrity of the disk used to record events from the hard drive and the facility to use them in any future proceedings, the following procedures for their use and retention must be strictly adhered to:

(i) Each disk must be identified by a unique mark.

(ii) Before using each disk must be cleaned of any previous recording.

(iii) The controller shall register the date and time of disk insert, including tape reference.

(iv) A disk required for evidential purposes must be sealed, witnessed, signed by the controller, dated and stored in a separate, secure, evidence disk store. If a disk is not copied for the police before it is sealed, a copy may be made at a later date providing that it is then resealed, witnessed, signed by the controller, dated and returned to the evidence disk store.

(v) If the disk is archived the reference must be noted.

disks may be viewed by the Police for the prevention and detection of crime, authorised officers of Oldham County Council for supervisory purposes, authorised demonstration and training.

A record will be maintained of the release of disks to the Police or other authorised applicants. A register will be available for this purpose.

Viewing of disks by the Police must be recorded in writing and in the log book. Requests by the Police can only be actioned under section 29 of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Should a disk be required as evidence, a copy may be released to the Police under the procedures described in paragraph 8.1 (iv) of this Code. Disks will only be released to the

Police on the clear understanding that the disk remains the property of the school, and both the disk and information contained on it are to be treated in accordance with this code. The school also retains the right to refuse permission for the Police to pass to any other person the disk or any part of the information contained thereon. On occasions when a Court requires the release of an original disk this will be produced from the secure evidence disk store, complete in its sealed bag.

The Police may require the school to retain the stored disks for possible use as evidence in the future. Such disks will be properly indexed and properly and securely stored until they are needed by the Police.

Applications received from outside bodies (e.g. solicitors) to view or release disks will be referred to the Principal. In these circumstances disks will normally be released where satisfactory documentary evidence is produced showing that they are required for legal proceedings, a subject access request, or in response to a Court Order. A fee can be charged in such circumstances: £10 for subject access requests; a sum not exceeding the cost of materials in other cases.

### **9. Breaches of the code (including breaches of security)**

Any breach of the Code of Practice by school staff will be initially investigated by the Principal, in order to take the appropriate disciplinary action.

Any serious breach of the Code of Practice will be immediately investigated and an independent investigation carried out to make recommendations on how to remedy the breach.

### **10. Assessment of the scheme and code of practice**

Performance monitoring, including random operating checks, may be carried out by the Site Manager.

### **11. Complaints**

Any complaints about the school's CCTV system should be addressed to the Principal. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with Section 9 of this Code.

### **12 Access by the Data Subject**

The Data Protection Act provides Data Subjects (individuals to whom "personal data" relate) with a right to data held about themselves, including those obtained by CCTV.

Requests for Data Subject Access should be made to the Principal.

### **13. Public information**

Copies of this Code of Practice will be available to the public from the School Office and the Principal.

### **Summary of Key Points**

- This Code of Practice will be reviewed every two years.
- The CCTV system is owned and operated by the school.
- The Control room will not be staffed out of school hours.
- The Control Room is not open to visitors except by prior arrangement and good reason.
- Liaison meetings may be held with the Police and other bodies.
- Recording disks used will be properly indexed, stored and destroyed after appropriate use.
- Disks may only be viewed by Authorised School Officers, Control Room staff and the Police.
- Disks required as evidence will be properly recorded witnessed and packaged before copies are released to the police.
- Disks will not be made available to the media for commercial or entertainment.
- Disks will be disposed of securely by incineration.
- Any breaches of this code will be investigated by the Principal. An independent

investigation will be carried out for serious breaches.

- Breaches of the code and remedies will be reported to the Principal.