



Tallaght Community School CCTV Policy

1. POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1. Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) is an increasing feature of our everyday lives. It can, and is, used for a variety of reasons and has been regulated in accordance with the Data Protection Acts 1988 – 2018.
- 1.2. This policy is designed to inform staff, students and the public about the safeguards in place with regard to the operation of and access to the CCTV systems and the resultant images in the school.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. The CCTV systems within the school will monitor images of the interior/exterior of buildings, car parks, reception areas and specific office locations. Audio recording features on CCTV equipment may only be enabled dependent on the outcome of a data privacy proportionality and balancing test.
- 2.2. The areas covered by the CCTV cameras are those most susceptible to unauthorised activities.
- 2.3. The purpose of the CCTV is for:
 - 2.3.1. Crime prevention
 - 2.3.2. The prevention of anti-social behaviour
 - 2.3.3. To deter, detect and prevent bullying
 - 2.3.4. The safety of our staff and students
 - 2.3.5. The protection of personal and school property
 - 2.3.6. To ensure compliance in with the Code of Behaviour and for use in disciplinary procedure
 - 2.3.7. For use in disciplinary procedures
- 2.4. CCTV in itself does not offer protection but rather deterrence.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1. This Policy applies to the premises and grounds of Tallaght Community School

4. LEGISLATION/OTHER RELATED POLICIES

- 4.1. Data Protection Acts 1988-2018
- 4.2. School Data Protection Policy

4.3. School Data Subject Access Request Procedure contained in Appendix 4 of the School Data Protection Policy.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. It is the responsibility of the Board of Management to monitor this policy and ensure it is implemented in the school.

5.2. The Board of Management will delegate the responsibility to the school principal as the day-to-day responsible person for the management of CCTV equipment and the availability of recordings/images.

5.3. All staff and students must adhere to the relevant parts of this policy.

5.4. Data Subject Access Requests for access to recordings/images will be dealt with by the school principal. The school principal cannot release/access CCTV footage except on the expressed request of a data subject (or a parent/guardian where the data subject is under 18) captured in the footage. See section 9 of this policy.

6. LOCATION OF CAMERAS AND SIGNAGE

6.1. Location:

6.1.1. It is important that the cameras are located in such a position that they only monitor those areas intended to be covered by the equipment.

6.1.2. The location should take into account the individuals' right to privacy and this right should be balanced against the purpose of the recording when deciding on the location of cameras, for example in the consideration of placing cameras in such places as bathrooms or changing rooms.

6.1.3. CCTV has been installed in general circulation areas, e.g. hallways, locker areas, in toilets covering entrance and wash basin area.

6.1.4. The principal has demonstrated that there is a proven risk to security and/or health & safety and that the installation of CCTV is proportionate to addressing such issues that have arisen prior to the installation of the system

6.2. Signage

6.2.1. It is a requirement that CCTV signs are displayed in a prominent place where they will be clearly seen by staff, students and the public.

6.2.2. The signs should contain the following information:

6.2.2.1. That the Board of Management is responsible for the CCTV

6.2.2.2. The purpose for the CCTV

6.2.2.3. Contact details for the school.

7. QUALITY OF THE IMAGES

7.1. It is important that the images produced by the cameras are as clear as possible in order that they are effective for the purpose/s for which they are intended.

7.2. All relevant equipment should be maintained on a regular basis to ensure the quality of the images is upheld

8. RETAINING INFORMATION AND PROCESSING IMAGES

8.1. It is important that images are not retained for longer than is considered necessary for the purpose for which they were processed. While images are retained, it is essential that their integrity is maintained, for both evidential purposes and to protect the rights of those individuals captured in the images.

8.2. Images should not be retained for longer than 30 days unless they are required for evidential purposes in legal proceedings. Under these circumstances, the information should be retained securely and clearly marked as to why it is being retained for a period exceeding 30 days.

9. ACCESS TO THE IMAGES

9.1. It is important that access to, and the disclosure of, images to third parties is strictly controlled and documented. This is to ensure that the rights of the individual shown in the images are maintained and that the chain of evidence remains intact should the images be required for evidential purposes.

9.2. Data Subject Access Requests

9.2.1. Under Data Protection legislation, an individual has the right to view personal information held about them by the school. The school principal will arrange for the copying of or on site viewing of the recording, to satisfy the request. The images of identifiable 3rd party individuals also captured in the CCTV footage may have to be redacted to protect the data protection rights of those individuals. The School Data Subject Access Request Procedure shall apply.

9.3. In addition, the following should be logged:

9.3.1. Details of the image disclosed i.e. the date, time and location of the image the reason for the disclosure;

9.3.2. Whether any images were disguised/blurred to prevent identification of individuals other than the data subject.

9.4. If it is not possible to disguise images, an external company may be called in to facilitate this. This will need to be logged.

9.5. Requests will not be complied with if insufficient details are supplied relating to the date and time of the recording. A letter must be sent to the data subject advising them of this.

9.6. If the data subject wishes to view the images on site, as opposed to a copy being sent, the viewing should take place in a closed office with only the relevant individuals present.

9.7. Garda Requests:

9.7.1. In line with the Data Protection Acts 1988- 2018, An Garda Síochána are entitled to view personal information about individuals if it is for the following purposes:

9.7.1.1. For the prevention or detection of crime;

9.7.1.2. The apprehension or prosecution of offenders;

- 9.7.1.3. Required urgently to prevent injury or other damage to the health of a person or serious loss of or damage to property;
- 9.7.1.4. Required by or under any enactment or by a rule of law or order of a court.
- 9.7.2. Requests must be made on the official Garda Data Protection form and passed to the school principal.
- 9.7.3. Should information be required to be retained for evidential purposes, procedures detailed in Section 8.2 should be followed.

10. REVISION AND AUDIT

- 10.1. This policy will be reviewed by ACCS regularly and always following changes in relevant legislation.
- 10.2. The revised or amended policy will be approved by the Board of Management.

Ratified by Board of Management 2nd December 2025