



St. Brigid's Boys' National School

CCTV Policy

DOCUMENT VERSION AND SIGN OFF HISTORY

Reviewed/Ratified Date	Signed by	Next Review Due
07.04.2025	Nick Baird (BOM Chairperson) Stephen Flood (Acting Principal)	April, 2028

INTRODUCTION

Closed Circuit Television Systems (CCTVS) are installed in St. Brigid's BNS.

Any new CCTVS will be introduced in consultation with staff, the Board of Management (BoM) and the Parents' Association (PA). Where systems are already in operation, their operation will be reviewed regularly in consultation with staff, the BoM and the PA.

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of CCTVS and their associated technology in the monitoring of both the internal and external environs of the premises under the remit of the BoM of St. Brigid's BNS.

CCTVS are installed (both internally and externally) in the premises for the purpose of enhancing security of the building and its associated 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. CCTVS surveillance at the School is intended for the purposes of:

1. Promoting the health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors;
2. Protecting the school buildings and school assets, both during and after school hours;
3. Reducing the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour (including theft and vandalism);
4. Supporting the Gardaí in a bid to deter and detect crime;
5. Assisting in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders; and
6. Ensuring that the school rules are respected so that the school can be properly managed

SCOPE

This policy relates directly to the location and use of CCTVS and the monitoring, recording and subsequent use of such recorded material.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Board of Management of XYZ School as the corporate body, has a statutory responsibility for the protection of the school property and equipment as well as providing a sense of security to its employees, students and invitees to its premises. The BoM of St. Brigid's BNS owes a duty of care under the provisions of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and associated legislation and utilises CCTVS and their associated monitoring and recording equipment as an added mode of security and surveillance for the purpose of enhancing the quality of life of the school community by integrating the best practices governing the public and private surveillance of its premises.

The use of the CCTVS will be conducted in a professional, ethical and legal manner and any diversion of the use of CCTVS security technologies for other purposes is prohibited by this policy e.g. CCTVS will not be used for monitoring employee performance.

Information obtained through the CCTVS may only be released when authorised by the Principal, following consultation with the Chairperson of the BoM. Any requests for CCTVS recordings/images from An Garda Síochána will be fully recorded and legal advice from the data protection commissioner/legal advice will be sought if any such request is made. (See "Access" below)

CCTVS monitoring of public areas for security purposes will be conducted in a manner consistent with all existing policies adopted by the school, including the provisions set down in equality and other educational and related legislation.

This policy prohibits monitoring based on the characteristics and classifications contained in equality and other related legislation e.g. race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, etc.

Video monitoring of public areas for security purposes within school premises is limited to uses that do not violate the individual's reasonable expectation of 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 CCTVS and associated equipment will be required to be compliant with this policy following its adoption by the BoM of St. Brigid's BNS. Recognisable images captured by CCTVS are personal data. They are therefore subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Acts 1988 to 2018.

JUSTIFICATION FOR USE OF CCTV

Data Protection legislation requires that data is "adequate, relevant and not excessive" for the purpose for which it is collected. This means that the BoM of St. Brigid's BNS needs to be able to justify the obtaining and use of personal data by means of a CCTVS. The use of CCTVS to control the perimeter of the school buildings for security purposes has been deemed to be justified by the BoM. The system is intended to capture images of intruders or of individuals damaging property or removing goods without authorisation.

CCTVS will not be used to monitor normal teacher/student classroom activity in school

In other areas of the school where CCTVS has been installed, e.g. hallways, offices, the Principal has demonstrated that there is a proven risk to security and/or health & safety and that the installation of CCTVS is proportionate in addressing such issues that have arisen prior to the installation of the system.

LOCATION OF CAMERAS

The location of cameras is a key consideration. Use of CCTVS to monitor areas where individuals would have a reasonable expectation of privacy would be difficult to justify. The BoM of St. Brigid's BNS has endeavoured to select locations for the installation of CCTVS cameras which are least intrusive to protect the privacy of individuals. Cameras placed so as to record external areas are positioned in such a way as to prevent or minimise recording of passers-by or of another person's private property.

CCTVS Video Monitoring and Recording of Public Areas in St. Brigid's BNS may include the following:

Protection of school buildings and property: The building's perimeter, entrances and exits, lobbies and corridors, special storage areas, cashier locations, receiving areas for goods/services

Monitoring of Access Control Systems: Monitor and record restricted access areas at entrances to buildings and other areas

Verification of Security Alarms: Intrusion alarms, exit door controls, external alarms

Video Patrol of Public Areas: Parking areas, Main entrance/exit gates, Traffic Control

Criminal Investigations (carried out by An Garda Síochána): Robbery, burglary and theft surveillance

COVERT SURVEILLANCE

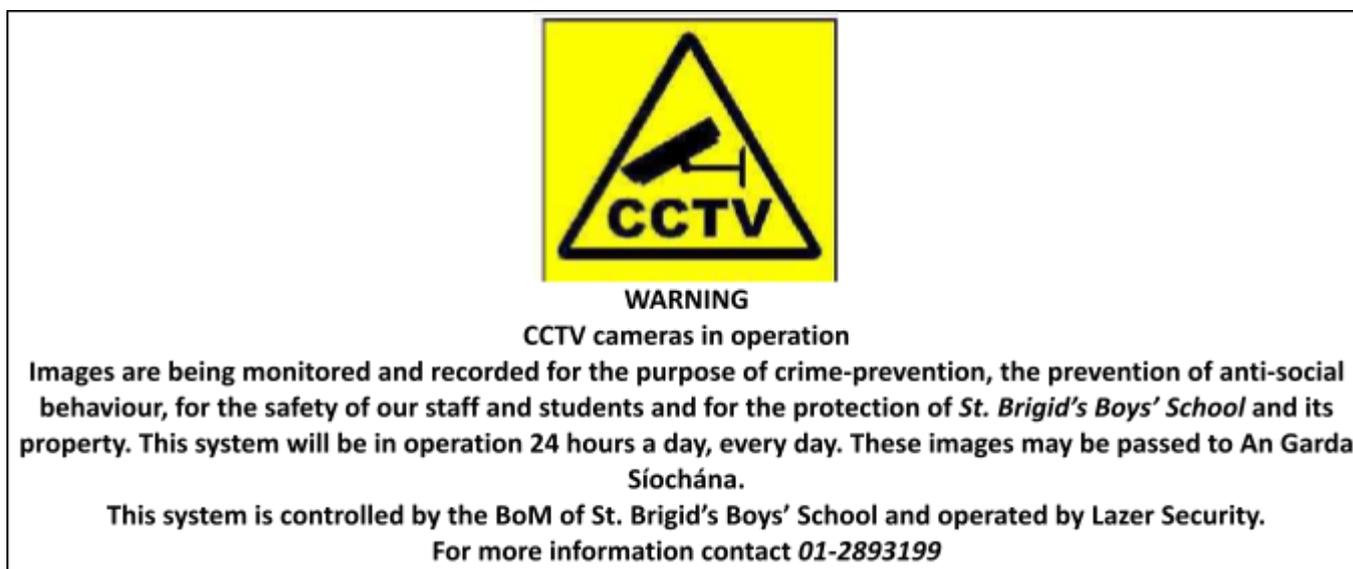
St. Brigid's BNS will not engage in covert surveillance

Where An Garda Síochána requests to carry out covert surveillance on school premises, such covert surveillance may require the consent of a judge. Accordingly, any such request made by An Garda Síochána will be requested in writing and the school will seek Data Protection Commissioner/legal advice

NOTIFICATION – SIGNAGE

The Principal will provide a copy of this CCTV Policy on request to staff, students, parents and visitors to the school. This policy describes the purpose and location of CCTV monitoring, a contact number for those wishing to discuss CCTV monitoring and guidelines for its use. The location of CCTV cameras will also be indicated to the BoM.

Adequate signage will be placed at each location in which a CCTV camera(s) is sited to indicate that CCTV is in operation. Adequate signage will also be prominently displayed at the entrance to St. Brigid's BNS property. Signage shall include the name and contact details of the data controller as well as the specific purpose(s) for which the CCTV camera is in place.



Appropriate locations for signage will include:

- at entrances to premises i.e. external doors, school gates
- reception area
- at or close to each internal camera

STORAGE & RETENTION

Data Protection legislation states that data “shall not be kept for longer than is necessary for” the purposes for which it was obtained. A data controller needs to be able to justify this retention period. For a normal CCTV, it would be difficult to justify retention beyond a month (28 days), except where the images identify an issue – such as a break-in or theft and those particular images/recordings are retained specifically in the context of an investigation/prosecution of that issue. The current CCTV in St. Brigid's BNS retains data for 20 days.

Accordingly, the images captured by the CCTV will be retained for a maximum of 22 days, except where the image identifies an issue and is retained specifically in the context of an investigation/prosecution of that issue

The images/recordings will be stored in a secure environment with a log of access kept. Access will be restricted to authorised personnel. Supervising the access and maintenance of the CCTV is the responsibility of the BoM. The Principal may delegate the administration of the CCTV to another staff member. In certain

circumstances, the recordings may also be viewed by other individuals in order to achieve the objectives set out above (such individuals may include the Gardaí, the Deputy Principal, other members of the teaching staff, representatives of the Department of Education and Skills, representatives of the HSE and/or the parent of a recorded student). When CCTVS recordings are being viewed, access will be limited to authorised individuals on a need-to-know basis.

ACCESS

Tapes/DVDs/portable storage devices will be stored in a secure environment. Access will be restricted to authorised personnel. The area will be locked when not occupied by authorised personnel. A log of access to tapes/images will be maintained.

Access to the CCTVS and stored images will be restricted to authorised personnel only i.e. the Principal of the school.

In relevant circumstances, CCTVS footage may be accessed:

1. By An Garda Síochána where St. Brigid's BNS (or its agents) are required by law to make a report regarding the commission of a suspected crime; or
2. Following a request by An Garda Síochána when a crime or suspected crime has taken place and/or when it is suspected that illegal/anti-social behaviour is taking place on St. Brigid's BNS property, or
3. By the HSE and/or by any other statutory body charged with child safeguarding; or
4. By data subjects (or their legal representatives), pursuant to an access request where the time, date and location of the recordings is furnished to St. Brigid's BNS or
5. To individuals (or their legal representatives) subject to a court order
6. To the schools insurance company where the insurance company requires same in order to pursue a claim for damage done to the insured property

Requests by An Garda Síochána: Information obtained through video monitoring will only be released when authorised by the Principal following consultation with the Chairperson of the BoM. If An Garda Síochána requests CCTVS images for a specific investigation, An Garda Síochána may require a warrant and accordingly any such request made by An Garda Síochána should be made in writing and the school should immediately seek legal advice.

Access requests: On written request, any person whose image has been recorded has a right to be given a copy of the information recorded which relates to them, provided that such an image/recording exists i.e. has not been deleted and provided also that an exemption/prohibition does not apply to the release. Where the image/recording identifies another individual, those images may only be released where they can be redacted/anonymised so that the other person is not identified or identifiable. To exercise their right of access, a data subject must make an application in writing to the Chairperson of the BoM. The school must respond **within 1 month.**

Access requests can be made to the following: The Chairperson, Board of Management, St. Brigid's Boys' National School, Mart Lane, Foxrock, Dublin 18.

A person should provide all the necessary information to assist St. Brigid's BNS in locating the CCTV recorded data, such as the date, time and location of the recording. If the image is of such poor quality as not to clearly identify an individual, that image may not be considered to be personal data and may not be handed over by the school.

In giving a person a copy of their data, the school may provide a still/series of still pictures, a tape or a disk with relevant images. However, other images of other individuals will be obscured before the data is released.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Principal will:

1. Ensure that the use of CCTV is implemented in accordance with the policy set down by the BoM of St. Brigid's BNS
2. Oversee and coordinate the use of CCTV monitoring for safety and security purposes within St. Brigid's BNS
3. Ensure that all existing CCTV will be evaluated for compliance with this policy
4. Ensure that the CCTV monitoring at St. Brigid's BNS is consistent with the highest standards and protections
5. Review camera locations and be responsible for the release of any information or recorded CCTV materials stored in compliance with this policy
6. Maintain a record of access (e.g. an access log) to or the release of tapes or any material recorded or stored in the system
7. Ensure that monitoring recorded tapes are not duplicated for release
8. Ensure that the perimeter of view from fixed location cameras conforms to this policy both internally and externally
9. Approve the location of temporary cameras to be used during special events that have particular security requirements and ensure their withdrawal following such events. *NOTE: [Temporary cameras do not include mobile video equipment or hidden surveillance cameras used for authorised criminal investigations by An Garda Síochána]*
10. Give consideration to both students' and staff feedback and/or complaints regarding possible invasion of privacy or confidentiality due to the location of a particular CCTV camera or associated equipment
11. 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
12. Cooperate with the Health & Safety Officer of St. Brigid's BNS reporting on the CCTV system in operation in the school
13. 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"

14. Ensure that monitoring tapes/DVDs/digital recordings are stored in a secure place with access by authorised personnel only
15. Ensure that images recorded on tapes/DVDs/digital recordings are stored for a period not longer than **22 days** (current CCTV stores data for 22 days) and are then erased unless required as part of a criminal investigation or court proceedings (criminal or civil) or other bona fide use as approved by the BoM
16. Ensure that when a zoom facility on a camera is being used, there is a second person present with the operator of the camera to guarantee that there is no unwarranted invasion of privacy
17. Ensure that camera control is solely to monitor suspicious behaviour, criminal damage etc. and not to monitor individual characteristics
18. Ensure that camera control is not infringing an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy in public areas
19. Ensure that when An Garda Síochána requests to set up mobile video equipment for criminal investigations, Data Protection Commissioner/legal advice has been obtained and such activities have the approval of the Chairperson of the BoM.

SECURITY COMPANIES

The school CCTV is controlled by a security company contracted by the school BoM. The following applies:

The school has **a written contract with the security company in place** known as a *Third Party Service Agreement* which details the areas to be monitored, how long data is to be stored, what the security company may do with the data, what security standards should be in place and what verification procedures apply. The written contract also states that the security company will give the school all reasonable assistance to deal with any subject access request made under Data Protection legislation which may be received by the school within the statutory time-frame i.e. 1 month

Security companies that place and operate cameras on behalf of clients are considered to be 'Data Processors'. As data processors, they operate under the instruction of data controllers (their clients i.e. School BoM). Data Protection legislation places a number of obligations on data processors. These include having appropriate security measures in place to prevent unauthorised access to, or unauthorised alteration, disclosure or destruction of the data, in particular where the processing involves the transmission of data over a network and against all unlawful forms of processing. This obligation can be met by having appropriate access controls to image storage or having robust encryption where remote access to live recording is permitted. Staff of the security company have been made aware of their obligations relating to the security of data. See *Third Party Service Agreement* for further guidance.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

The implementation of the policy shall be monitored by the Principal, Staff and the Board of Management

REVIEWING AND EVALUATING THE POLICY

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated after 3 years. On-going review and evaluation will take cognisance of changing information or guidelines (e.g. from the Data Protection Commissioner, An Garda Síochána, Department of Education and Skills, Audit units (internal and external to the school), national management bodies, legislation and feedback from parents/guardians, students, staff and others.

The policy will be revised as necessary in the light of such review and evaluation and within the framework of school planning.

Policy Sign Off:

Signed Chairperson BOM	
Dated	07/04/2025
Signed Principal/Acting Principal	
Dated	07/04/2025