



**LIFE ACADEMIES TRUST**

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# CCTV

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## Introduction

This is the Trust's approved policy relating to the use of CCTV. LIFE Academies Trust and its various sites uses closed circuit television (CCTV) images to reduce crime and monitor the Trust's buildings in order to provide a safe and secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors, and to prevent loss or damage to the Trust property.

The system comprises a number of fixed and dome cameras.

The system does not have sound recording capability.

The CCTV system is owned and operated by LIFE Academies Trust, the deployment of which is determined by the Trust leadership team.

The CCTV is monitored both centrally (IT Office, Biggleswade Academy) & remotely from by both the IT and Facilities Managers.

The Trust's CCTV system is registered with the Information Commissioner under the terms of the Data Protection Act (DPA). The use of CCTV, and the associated images and any sounds recordings is covered by the DPA. This policy outlines the Trust's use of CCTV and how it complies with the legislation.

All authorised operators and employees with access to images are aware of the procedures that need to be followed when accessing the recorded images and sound. All operators are trained about their responsibilities under the CCTV policy. All employees are aware of the restrictions in relation to access to, and disclosure of, recorded images and sound.

## Statement of Intent

The Trust 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. The Code of Practice is published at:

<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1542/cctv-code-of-practice.pdf>

CCTV warning signs will be clearly and prominently placed at all external entrances to Trust sites. Signs will contain details of the purpose for using CCTV (see Appendix A). In areas where CCTV is used, the Trust will ensure that there are prominent signs placed at both the entrance of the CCTV zone and within the controlled area.

The planning and design has endeavoured to ensure that the system 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.

## Siting the Cameras

Cameras will be sited so they only capture images relevant to the purposes for which they are installed, (as described above), and care will be taken to ensure that reasonable privacy expectations are not violated. The Trust will ensure that the location of equipment is carefully considered to ensure that images captured comply with the legislation.

The Trust will make every effort to position cameras so that their coverage is restricted to the Trust premises, which may include outdoor areas.

CCTV will not be used in classrooms but in areas within school that have been identified by staff and pupils as not being easily monitored.

Members of staff should have access to details of where CCTV cameras are situated, with the exception of cameras placed for the purpose of covert monitoring.

## Covert Monitoring

The Trust 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.

In these circumstances authorisation must be obtained from the CEO or a member of the Trust senior leadership team, as appropriate.

Covert monitoring must cease following completion of an investigation.

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

## Access to CCTV Images

Access to recorded images will be restricted to those staff authorised to view them, and will not be made more widely available.

## Subject Access Requests (SAR)

Individuals have the right to request access to CCTV footage relating to themselves under the GDPR.

All requests should be made in writing using the SAR request form to the CEO. Individuals submitting requests for access will be asked to provide sufficient information to enable footage relating to them to be identified. For example, data, time and location.

The Trust will respond to requests within 1 calendar month of receiving the request.

The Trust 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.

Please see the Subject Access Request policy for further details.

## Access to and Disclosure of Images to Third Parties

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 where these would reasonably need access to

the data (e.g. investigators). Requests by third parties should be assessed using the Trust's Third Party Request for Information policy.

The data may be used within the Trust's discipline and grievance procedures as required, and will be subject to the usual confidentiality requirements of those procedures.

## **Complaints**

Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Trust's Complaints Policy.

## Appendix A: CCTV Signage

It is a requirement of the Data Protection Act to notify people entering a CCTV protected area that the area is monitored by CCTV and that pictures are recorded.

It should be obvious from the location of the signs that the CCTV camera belong to the school or the Trust.

