





PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

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| Date of Implementation | July 2024 |
| Review Date | July 2025 |
| Chair Governor | Raheem Gul |

Policy Statement:  
  
At Blackwater Academy, we are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students. This policy aims to provide guidance on photography within the school premises, with a specific focus on protecting the rights and privacy of students who may require additional safeguarding measures.  
  
1. Purpose:  
The purpose of this policy is to:  
  
a) Safeguard the welfare and privacy of all students, especially those who may be vulnerable or at risk.  
b) Set clear guidelines for staff, parents, and visitors regarding photography on school grounds to ensure a secure and respectful environment.  
c) Promote collaboration and open communication between all stakeholders to address any concerns related to photography within the school setting.  
  
2. Definitions:  
a) Students who need protection: Refers to all students who may require additional care, support, or safeguarding measures due to their individual circumstances, including, but not limited to, children in foster care, those under child protection plans, and students with special educational needs or disabilities.  
  
3. General Guidelines:  
a) Obtaining Consent:  
i) Prior written consent from parents or legal guardians must be obtained before taking or sharing photographs that may feature students.  
ii) The school will maintain a record of consent forms to ensure compliance with data protection regulations.  
iii) Staff and volunteers must be cautious not to take photographs of students without consent unless there is a pressing concern for a student's safety or well-being.  
  
b) Appropriate Use of Photographs:  
i) Photographs taken of students should only be used for educational, promotional, or official school purposes, such as school newsletters, websites, class displays, or yearbooks.  
ii) Any photographs that may identify individual students who require protection should be used sparingly or anonymized whenever possible to protect their privacy.  
  
c) Sharing and Distribution:  
i) Photographs featuring students who need protection should not be shared or distributed beyond the school community without the explicit consent of parents or legal guardians.  
ii) Approved photographs should only be shared through secure platforms to minimize the risk of unauthorized access or misuse.  
  
d) Social Media:  
i) Staff, parents, and visitors are prohibited from posting or sharing photographs of students on personal social media platforms without explicit consent from parents or legal guardians.  
ii) Those who receive consent may only share photographs of students who need protection in a closed and secure social media group dedicated to the school community.

4. Reporting and Concerns:  
a) Any concerns regarding unauthorized photography, the inappropriate use of photographs, or potential breaches of this policy should be reported immediately to designated safeguarding leads within the school.  
  
b) The school will investigate and address each reported concern promptly, ensuring appropriate actions are taken according to school policies and legal requirements.  
  
5. Review and Evaluation:  
This policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure its effectiveness, taking into account any changes to relevant legislation, technology, or best practices. The school will actively seek feedback from staff, parents, and students to improve the policy's implementation and address any emerging concerns.  
  
Signed:  
Mr Kyle Morrison

Headteacher of Blackwater Academy