

# **St Michael's CE (Aided) Primary School**

## **School Policy for the Safe Use of Children's Photographs**

### **Introduction**

Schools need and welcome publicity. Children's photographs add colour, life and interest to articles promoting school activities and initiatives. Making use of photographs for publicity materials and to promote the school in the press can increase pupil motivation and staff morale, and help parents and the local community identify and celebrate the school's achievements.

However, photographs must be used in a responsible way. Schools need to respect children's and parents' rights of privacy and be aware of potential child protection issues.

At St Michael's School every reasonable effort will be made to minimise risk by following the guidelines detailed in this document and by securing parental consent for the use of photographs.

This policy applies to the use of photographs in school publicity materials, on its website and in the press.

This policy reflects the consensus of opinion of the staff and governing body of St Michael's CE (Aided) Primary. Its implementation is the responsibility of all staff. Parents and visitors will be made aware of this policy.

### **Child Protection**

There may be a risk when individual pupils can be identified in photographs. For that reason the governing body of St Michael's School have developed this policy to make every effort to minimise risk.

In the event of the inappropriate use of children's photographs the Headteacher will inform the local Child Protection Officer and Social Services and / or the Police.

### **Data Protection Act 1998**

Photographs and video images of pupils and staff are classed as personal data under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. Therefore, using such images for school publicity purposes requires the consent of either the individual concerned or in the case of pupils, their legal guardians.

St Michael's School will not display images of pupils or staff on websites, in publications or in a public place without such consent. The definition of a public place includes areas where visitors to the school have access.

Where photographs are taken at an event attended by large crowds, this is regarded as a public area so it is not necessary to get permission of everyone in a crowd shot. The Data Protection Act does not apply to photographs or films taken for personal use by family and friends.

### **Appropriate Use of Images in School Publicity Materials**

The staff and governors of St Michael's School will:

- Ensure that images are stored securely and used only by those authorised to do so;
- ensure that electronic images are stored on a secure network to which members of the public have no access;
- not use an image of any child who is subject to a court order;
- secure parental consent for the use of children's photographs;
- not use photographs of children or staff who have left the school without their consent; and
- Ensure that children are appropriately dressed - a minimum of a vest/shirt and shorts.

### **School Website**

The advice for using photographs on a website is no different from their use in any other kind of publication or publicity material. However, the staff and governors of St Michael's School are aware of the potential risk of inappropriate use of images because of the lack of control over who might see the image and the wide extent of the misuse of the Internet by certain people. The governors will seek the consent of parents regarding the use of images on the Internet. Children's names will not be included in photographs of children published on the school website.

### **The Press**

The use of photographs in newspapers and magazines is already subject to strict guidelines. The Press Complaints Commission's Code of Practice states that:

- Journalists must not interview or photograph a child under the age of 16 on subjects involving the welfare of the child in the absence of or without the consent of a parent or other adult who is responsible for the children.
- Pupils must not be approached or photographed while at school without the permission of the school authorities.
- There is no breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in passing on a child's name to a journalist as long as parental consent has been secured.

St Michael's School will provide names of children to accompany photographs published in newspapers and magazines only where the parent or guardian have provided their consent.

### **Filming Events**

It is usual for parents to take photographs and videos of children at school events such as the annual Nativity Play and Sports Day. However, the headteacher, does make it clear to all parents that images are for the use of the family only and should not be uploaded to social media sites. Any objections to this policy should be addressed to the Headteacher.

On occasions, commercial video films may be made of children on educational visits and performing in school productions. The school will inform parents where arrangements have been made for a commercial photographer to film such an event.

Where a commercial photographer is used, the school will follow the NSPCC guidelines which are as follows:

- Schools should provide a clear brief about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour;
- Schools should issue the photographer with identification which must be worn at all times;
- Schools should let parents and children know that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films and photographs;
- Schools should not allow unsupervised access to children or one-to-one photo sessions at home;
- Schools should not approve / allow photo sessions outside the event or at a child's home.

If children or parents have any concerns about inappropriate or intrusive photography, they should report them to the Headteacher who would report them in the same manner as any other child protection concern.

If schools or parents have concerns regarding the use of filmed images by television companies they should contact the Office of Communication (Ofcom). Any objections to this policy should be addressed to the Headteacher.

### **Mobile Phones and Camera Technology**

Mobile phone and camera technology has become more sophisticated over recent years and will continue to evolve. Wireless connections in particular extends the capabilities of mobile phones further and allow access to new content and services,

such as the internet, social networking sites and instant messaging. Most mobile phones offer camera, video and audio recording as standard.

We are aware of the potential risks posed directly and indirectly to children through the use of mobile phone / camera technology on school premises. We have therefore adopted the following Code of Conduct in order to reduce risks.

In order to minimise risk at St Michael's School:

- Staff will only use mobile phones in office areas, the staff room or areas away from the children while school is in session;
- Visitors will be advised of the ban on the use of camera phones in school and, wherever possible, will be accompanied by a member of staff during the duration of the visit;
- Children who bring a mobile phone on to the school premises hand their phone in at the school office at the beginning of the school day and collect it at the end of the school day.

### **Parental Consent**

The governors of St Michael's School will seek the consent of parents / guardians regarding the use of photographs of children. The consent will include agreement on:

- How and where the photographs will be used and
- the period of consent.

The consent form in Appendix A has been produced by the Oxfordshire Schools Safeguarding and Child Protection team and refers to the areas covered in this policy.

### **Monitoring and Review**

Our policy and practice are regularly reviewed by staff and Governors via the Governors' Personnel Committee

	Staff	Personnel Committee	Governing Body
Policy approved by	21.09.11	06.10.11	05.10.11
Policy reviewed by	28.09.15	08.10.15	07.10.15

**APPENDIX A: CONSENT FORM for use of photographic images**

To: Name of the child's  
Parent(s) or Guardian: .....

Name of child: .....  
School: .....

Occasionally, we may take photographs of the children at our school. These images may be used in our school prospectus, in other printed publications that we produce, on our school website, or on project display boards in school. We may also make video or webcam recordings for school-to-school conferences, monitoring or other educational use.

Occasionally our school may be visited by the media who will take photographs or film footage of a high profile event, or to celebrate a particular achievement. Pupils will often appear in these images, which may appear in local or national newspapers or n televised new programmes. **(See over/Conditions of Use for more information on use of images by the media).**

In order that we can protect your child's interests, and to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, **please read the Conditions of Use on the back of this form before answering questions 1-4 below and signing and dating this form. Please return the completed form (one for each child) to school as soon as possible.**

1. May we use your child's photograph in the School prospectus and other printed publications that we produce for promotional purposes, or on project display boards, etc?  Yes  No
2. May we use your child's image on our school Website?  Yes  No
3. May we record your child's image on video?  Yes  No
4. May we allow your child to appear in the media as part of school's involvement in an event?  Yes  No

**(Please note conditions of use on the back of this form).**

**I have read and understand the conditions of use attached to this form.**

Parent's or Guardian's signature:.....

Name (block capitals please):.....

Date: .....

## **CONDITIONS OF USE**

1. This form is valid for the period of time your child attends this school. Your consent will automatically expire after this time.
2. The school will not re-use any photographs or recordings after your child leaves this school without further consent being sought.
3. The school will not use the personal details or full names (which means first name **and** surname) of any child or adult in a photographic image, on video, on our website, in the school prospectus or in any of our other printed publications.
4. The school will not include personal e-mail or postal addresses or telephone or fax numbers on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in other printed publications.
5. If we use photographs of individual pupils, we will not use the full name of that child in any accompanying text or caption.
6. If we use the full name of a pupil in text, we will not use a photograph of that child to accompany the article.
7. We may include pictures of pupils and teachers that have been drawn by pupils. We may use group or class photographs or footage with very general labels, such as 'a science lesson'.
8. We will only use images of pupils who are suitable dressed.
9. Parents should note that websites can be viewed throughout the world and not just in the United Kingdom, where UK law applies.

### **Notes on Use of Images by the Media**

If you give permission for a child's image to be used by the media then you should be aware that:

- The media will want to use any printed or broadcast media pictures that they take alongside the relevant story;
- It is likely that they will wish to publish the child's name, age and the school name in the caption for the picture (possible exceptions to this are large group or team photographs);
- It is possible that the newspaper will re-publish the story on their website, or distribute it more widely to other newspapers or media organisations.