



# CCTV Policy

## PURPOSE

This Policy explains the management, operation and use of the closed circuit television (CCTV) system at Berwick Lodge Primary School.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to the installation of CCTV cameras on school grounds and the use and disclosure of any footage produced by those cameras.

This policy is consistent with:

- Victorian government [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) (applies to all Victorian government schools)
- the Department's [Crime Prevention in Schools](#) policy
- Victorian privacy law

## POLICY

Schools have an obligation to ensure the school environment is safe and secure, and fulfil duty of care to students, staff and visitors. The CCTV system exists to assist our school to fulfil these obligations and to prevent and manage other inappropriate behaviour on school grounds.

CCTV provides enhanced capability to protect our school's assets against vandalism and theft. CCTV strengthens our school's security by providing an appropriate level of surveillance on school grounds and assists our school to take all reasonable steps to prevent reasonably foreseeable harm on school premises (duty of care). The presence of CCTV cameras deters misconduct and inappropriate behaviour and reassures students, staff and visitors that they are protected when on school grounds.

This policy describes how our CCTV system does this, consistent with Victorian privacy law.

## Use of CCTV

Consistent with our school's obligations set out above, Berwick Lodge Primary School may use CCTV cameras to:

- prevent and verify incidents involving
  - criminal behaviour – of anyone on school grounds
  - staff misconduct

- other inappropriate behaviour – including of students, staff, visitors or members of the public. For example, this means the school may use CCTV footage of incidents to help inform decisions about student management
- verify other incidents – involving students, staff and visitors (e.g. incidents in which a person has sustained injury, loss or damage on school premises)
- to provide the Principal with visual coverage during emergencies

CCTV cameras are NOT:

- hidden or covert
- located in private areas such as toilets, changing rooms or staff rooms
- used to monitor student or staff work performance

### **Location of CCTV cameras in our school**

In our school, CCTV cameras are located around the:

- School main building
- BER Building
- Portables / 5&6 Building
- Gymnasium / Basketball Courts
- Ovals
- After School Care Building

A notice is located near the CCTV camera which alerts people to the presence of the camera and this CCTV Policy.

### **Access to CCTV footage**

CCTV footage is only accessed for the purposes set out in this policy (see 'Use of CCTV footage') and only by the following people:

1. the Principal or nominee, including people explicitly authorised by the Principal
2. central and regional Department staff, when required to assist the school for an above purpose
3. any other people permitted by law.

### **Showing footage to staff, students and/or their parents involved in incidents**

When using CCTV for the purposes listed in this policy under the heading 'Use of CCTV' and only when appropriate, the Principal may show specific footage of an incident to those directly involved, including relevant staff, students and/or their parents.

This means that any person on school premises may be captured on CCTV footage of an incident that the Principal may subsequently show to staff, students and/or their parents.

The school cannot give copies of CCTV footage to staff, students, parents or any other parties.

## **Disclosure of CCTV footage**

Our school may only disclose CCTV footage externally (i.e. external to the Department) as described in this policy or otherwise when permitted by law.

## **Storage of Footage**

CCTV footage is kept for no more than 130 days. If our school has not used CCTV footage in any of the ways set out above, and there has been no request to view or access footage during this period, the footage is deleted.

Where CCTV footage has been used to verify an incident or where it is required to be retained for legal reasons, our school will manage and securely retain the footage in accordance with records management requirements as issued by the Public Records Office of Victoria.

## **Responsibility for Implementation**

The Management Sub-Committee will be responsible for implementing and continuous monitoring of the policy.

## **Date Passed by School Council**

The CCTV Policy was passed by School Council on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

## **Proposed Date of Review**

The Management Sub-Committee will be responsible for coordinating and planning the review of the CCTV policy, under the auspices of School Council. In line with Department of Education and Training requirements this policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

## **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Policy last reviewed	November 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2024