

La Petite Ecole Bilingue considers that the use of photography in all its forms – conventional, video and digital is a positive force for learning, care and development, and in broad terms wish to do nothing which might seek to curtail its beneficial use.

However, we acknowledge that there are potential difficulties arising principally from the abuse of photography, and some legal complications concerning permissions, authority and European Law.

Nonetheless, in this policy we seek to make some simple guidance for the school and all its users, staff, parents, governors and visitors.

## DEFINITION

Throughout this policy the words "parent /carers" shall be defined as the legal guardians of the child, who have parental responsibility for them.

### The right to privacy

The parent/carer of any child attending the school has the right for whatever reason to insist that their child is NOT recorded photographically in any way.

To facilitate this, on entry to the school, each parent/carer is required to sign a permission form (copy attached) which makes it clear that this is to be the case.

Under no circumstances will anyone take a photograph that includes a child whose parents/carers have expressly refused permission.

For this reason, and to remove all doubt, ALL visitors to the school who wish to take still or moving photographs must ask permission from the HT or his/her representative on each occasion.

Photographs of children, which show their faces, will not be published on the Internet, as stills, mpegs or streamed video without parents' separate and express permission.

Photographs published outside the school will never include the child's name unless specific permission has been sought and granted by the appropriate parent/carer.

### The right to specific exclusion

There are occasions during the year where parents may wish to photograph and especially video a group of children – the Winter Show / Party for example.

As parents will have signed the permission forms, it will be assumed that they have no objection to other outside individuals taking pictures.

If they wish to object, they must notify the school, as they will be deemed to have consented.

### **The right to decency**

The school will do nothing to reduce a child's dignity, nor permit anything to take place which demeans or belittles a child, or which in any way makes them more vulnerable.

Photographs are taken by staff of activities and individuals taking part, as a record, and as entertainment, and for education of children themselves. Students take photographs for their own records and pieces of work.

Children will never be photographed in a state of undress, in less than normal indoor clothing, whatever the circumstances. This is non-negotiable.

They will not be photographed when distressed, nor when their behaviour could be held up to ridicule.

The use of material taken in school for any entertainment purpose.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The use of cameras and videos is one which has the potential for significant disagreement where many parents / carers are involved, and feelings can run high. The school Owners delegate the powers of decision in any dispute to the head teacher who will have their total support in any backing for this purpose, as he /she will be acting within the letter or spirit of this policy.