



# Use of Children's Images Policy

***Our Ambition: To be the highest performing MAT in the country  
Our Mission: To improve the communities we serve for the better***

Written by	The Principals' Review Committee
Date for Review	November 2021
Approving Body	Strategic Development
Signed	

***Vision:***

*Challenging educational orthodoxies so that every child makes good progress in core subjects;  
all teachers are committed to personal improvement and fulfil their responsibilities;  
all children receive a broad and balanced curriculum;  
all academies strive to be outstanding.*

# **The FORGE Trust Use of Children's Images\* Policy**

\*The word images is used here to include photographs, digital photographs, webcam, film and video recordings

## **Aims**

Across the FORGE trust, we aim to maintain a caring, supportive and disciplined learning environment where children benefit from the best possible education. All staff are committed to this aim. We would like to know if you think we are not meeting your expectations, so that we have an opportunity to respond. We would also like to know your opinion on the things we do well.

## **Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities**

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, belief, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. The FORGE Trust is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Policies are available on each of these that expand on this further.

All staff have equal access and inclusive rights to their work regardless of their age, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, belief, disability or ability. The FORGE Trust is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential. Policies are available on each of these that expand on this further.

## **Introduction**

The FORGE Trust believes that the responsible use of children's images can make a valuable contribution to the life and morale of each academy within the trust. The use of photographs in school publicity materials can increase pupil motivation and help parents and the local community identify and celebrate the school's achievements.

Each academy across the trust only use images that the Principal / Head of Academy consider suitable and which appropriately represent the range of activities the school provides and the values it adheres to. No images will be used which could be considered to put any child at increased risk.

Through this policy we aim to respect young people's and parents' rights of privacy and minimise the risks to which young people can be exposed through the misuse of images. The policy takes account of both data protection and child protection issues.

## **Data protection**

Photographs and video images of pupils and staff are classed as personal data under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998. We will not use images of identifiable individuals for school publicity purposes without the consent of either the individual themselves or, in the case of pupils, their parent, guardian or carer. A sample consent form used within the trust for pupils is attached at Appendix 1.

In seeking consent each academy will ensure that parents are clear why we are using a child's image, what we are using it for, and who might want to look at the pictures. Our consent form makes clear the period of time for which consent applies.

All images will be stored securely and used only by those who are authorised to do so. We will not re-use images of children after they have left the school; these images will be destroyed.

Each Academy within The FORGE Trust will make it clear to parents that any photographs they take may not be used on any social media sites, as they do not have the permission of any other persons who may be featured.

## **Child protection**

All academies within The FORGE Trust will only use images of children in suitable dress. The Principal / Head of Academy in collaboration with staff will decide if images of some activities – such as sports or arts – are suitable without presenting risk of potential misuse.

Any evidence of the use of inappropriate images, or the misuse of images, will be reported to the academies Designated Person, the LEA, Social Services and/or the police as appropriate.

Individual pupils will not be named in conjunction with their image and the trust will never use an image of a child who is subject to a court order.

## **Websites**

Each academy within The FORGE Trust will adopt the same principles as outlined above when publishing images on the internet as we would for any other kind of publication or publicity material. However, the trust recognises that there is no control over who may view images, and consequently a greater risk of misuse of images, via the internet. Each academy will therefore give specific consideration to the suitability of images for use on the academy / trust website.

Images, and accompanying details, will only be used in line with government guidance as outlined on the Department for Education Superhighway Safety website (<http://safety.ngfl.gov.uk/schools/>).

### **Webcams and mobile phones**

Webcams may be used to take images without people's knowledge. The FORGE Trust's policy is to signpost areas in which webcams are being used so that people know the webcam is there before they enter that area.

Mobile phones that can take and transmit images will not be permitted in areas of any academy within the trust, such as changing rooms or sports facilities, where they could be misused. Misuse will be regarded as a breach of trust discipline and dealt with accordingly.

**Personal mobile phones must not be used to take any images of children and should not be used at all in classrooms in view of the children.**

### **External photographers and events**

If an academy within the trust invites or permits an external photographer to take photographs within school, we will:

- Provide a clear brief for the photographer about what is considered appropriate in terms of content and behaviour
- Issue the photographer with identification which must be worn at all times
- Let children and parents know that a photographer will be in attendance at an event and ensure they consent to both the taking and publication of films or photographs
- Not allow unsupervised access to children or one-to-one photo sessions at events.

The same conditions will apply to filming or video-recording of events.

Photographs taken by journalists are exempt from the Data Protection Act as newspapers are subject to strict guidelines governing the press. However, wherever possible and practicable, we will secure parental permission before allowing journalists to take photographs of pupils.

**APPENDIX 1 – The FORGE TRUST SAMPLE CHILD PHOTOGRAPH  
CONSENT FORM**

**LOCATION(S) OF PHOTOGRAPH:** .....

**INTENDED USE:** .....

To the parent or guardian of:

**Name of child:** .....

The academy occasionally takes photographs of children for promotional purposes. We would like to use a photograph of your child for our publications or website.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we need your permission before we use any photographs we have taken. Please complete the declaration below and return it to us.

**I give permission for my child’s photograph to be used by the academy:**

- For general use
- For this single purpose only

**I understand that any photograph I take must not be used on any social media network.**

**I have read and understood the conditions of use on the back of this form.**

Signed: .....

Name: .....

Address:  
.....  
.....

Date: .....

***Please note that websites can be seen throughout the world and not just in the United Kingdom where UK law applies.***

## **Conditions of use**

1. This form is valid for this year only. Your consent will automatically expire after this time. We will not re-use any images after this time.
2. During this period, the photos will be kept in a secure location and only authorised staff will have access to them. After this period the photos will be privately destroyed.
3. We will only include a child's full name as photo captions for press releases if the child is not easily identifiable by a member of the public, eg not identified by a school uniform. Addresses will not be disclosed in detail. Personal e-mail, telephone or fax numbers will not be disclosed.
4. If we use an image of an individual pupil who is identifiable by their school, we will not use the name of that child in the accompanying text or photo caption without good reason.
5. If a pupil is named in the text of a publication, we will not use a photograph of that child to accompany the article unless we have specific consent. For example, we might want to include a picture and a full name of a competition prize winner. However, we will not include a picture and full name of a child in promotional literature.
6. We may use group or class images with very general labels, such as 'a literacy hour' or 'children exploring the environment'.
7. We will only use images of pupils who are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of such images being used inappropriately.