

# **ST TIERNEY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL ROSLEA**



## **PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES POLICY**

**August 2022**

# **Guidance on Photographs of Children**

## **1. Introduction**

This document provides guidance on the appropriate use of images of children in St Tierney's Primary School. It covers still, video and electronic photographic images wherever they are used. The school wish to make full and proper use of photographic images while meeting the law and preserving the safety of children. Concerns focus on issues around rights of privacy, child protection and copyright ownership. These guidelines address these issues and give advice on good practice.

## **2. Typical Uses of Photographs**

- Performing arts including dance and movement, concerts, drama performances, parents evenings.
- Sports days and sports fixtures and the use of photographic equipment by parents and carers.
- Media including newspapers especially when some editors require children's names when publishing photographs.
- Displays in the school of children's activities.
- Publications by the school, CCMS & Education Authority.
- The school website.

## **3. Ownership**

Human Rights Legislation and the Data Protection Act 1998 give people new rights and it is the right to 'privacy' that is the issue when using photographs.

## **4. Good Practice**

The following advice represents good practice in the use of photographic images involving children.

1. When taking a picture the school must obtain the consent of the person in the picture or from their parent or carer.
2. Follow the commitment made in the consent forms:
  - Not to name the child.
  - Not to use the photograph out of context.
  - Not to use the photograph to illustrate sensitive or negative issues.
3. When photographing children:
  - Ensure that parents and carers of young people have signed and returned the school consent form for photography (see Appendix 1).
  - Ensure all children are appropriately dressed.

- Avoid images that only show a single child with no surrounding context of what they are learning or doing.
- Photographs of three or four children are more likely to also include their learning context.
- Use photographs that represent the diversity of the young people participating.
- Report any concerns relating to any inappropriate or intrusive photography to the Principal.
- Remember the duty of care and challenge any appropriate behaviour or language.
- Do not use images that are likely to cause distress, upset or embarrassment.

Regularly view stored images and delete unwanted material.

## **5. Parental Permission**

The use of images of children requires consent of the parent/carer. Permission should always be obtained by using the form in **Appendix 1**, when a child joins the school and on an annual basis thereafter. The form covers the school when using the photographs in publications and on the school web-site. Each year as part of a standard communication, ask parents if they wish to change their permission.

When a parent does not agree to their child being photographed, the Principal must inform staff and make every effort to comply sensitively.

For example if a child whose parents have refused permission for photography is involved with a sports event, e.g football match, it may not be appropriate to photograph the whole team. Careful liaison with parents is therefore essential. With discussion it may be possible to agree other options. The parent may accept a team photograph if names are not published.

## **6. Teacher Training and Portfolios**

During teacher training, with newly qualified staff and Childcare training it is normal that the member of staff has to compile a portfolio with photographs of children during lessons. Staff should act responsibly in compiling these images. A member of staff should be present when these photographs are being taken and consider their appropriateness.

## **7. Displays in Schools**

Still photographs shown on displays and video clips available during open / parents' evenings should depict children in an appropriate way. They should not display images of children in inappropriate or revealing clothing so appropriate levels of integrity and decency are maintained. Do not use photographs or images likely to cause embarrassment.

## **8. Parents Evenings, Concerts, Presentations**

To allow the appropriate recording of children's images by parents / carers:

- Ensure that children are appropriately dressed.
- Obtain parental permission with the form in Appendix 1.
- Be aware of any child who should not be photographed.
- Monitor the use of cameras and anyone behaving inappropriately.

## **9. Children Photographing Each Other**

This practice can occur extensively during offsite activities particularly during trips out of school. In residential visits staff should maintain the supervision and management control the same as in the school situation. There may be incidents where children take inappropriate photographs, perhaps showing friends and other children inappropriately dressed. Staff should endeavour to discourage this practice, but ultimately parents are responsible for monitoring their child's use of cameras and subsequent use of their images involved (see also action 12).

## **10. Newspapers**

Several scenarios can occur:

### **1. Team photographs:**

- When everyone is prepared to allow team photographs and full names to be published. In this situation publication can occur.
- If a parent is not happy to have a child's name printed on a photograph then consideration could be given to publishing the photograph with no names. The Principal should make every effort to ensure, in conjunction with the newspaper editors, that this occurs.

### **2. Photo Opportunities:**

- When the school invites a newspaper to celebrate an event, the Principal should make every effort IN ADVANCE to ensure that the newspaper's requirements can be met.
- Almost without exception, this means the paper will prefer to publish the full names of anyone in a photograph they print. The only exception to this might be (as above) in a larger group shot (e.g.: a group of more than 10 children).
- However newspapers usually prefer to work with smaller groups of children – e.g.: three or four and for this number names would definitely be required.
- It is not acceptable to invite a newspaper to take photographs and then refuse to provide any names. Newspapers will not print anonymous photographs. Schools must give thought to this beforehand and parental permission / opinion must be their key guidance.
- This might mean offering only those children whose parents are happy for publication of photographs and names for inclusion in any photo opportunities.
- Otherwise schools must be prepared to forego newspaper publicity.

## **11. Use of Internet / Intranet Sites**

Many schools have an internet / intranet facility. St Tierney's Primary School will follow the good practice as set out in this policy and will ensure that the school only uses appropriate images that follow this guidance. For example, if a child has successfully completed a swimming award, it would be appropriate to show the child in a tracksuit rather than a swimsuit.

## **12. Mobile Phones**

In accordance with St Tierney's Primary School Use of the Internet Policy, mobile phones are not allowed in school. On trips out of school where mobile phones which contain photographic capabilities, photographs are not to be taken in changing rooms, toilets etc.

## **13. Review of Guidelines**

The Photographic Images Policy will be reviewed annually and amended in the light of any new legislation and in line with DENI circulars.

## **14. The Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors formally adopt these guidelines as policy and good practice.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **15. Further information on all aspects of child protection is available from:**

- 1. EA Child Protection Officer – 028 8241 1480**
- 2. Social worker @ the Gateway Team (Western Trust) – 028 7131 4090**
- 3. PSNI @ the Public Protection Unit – 0845 600 80000**

St Tierney's Primary School  
8 Eshnadarragh Road, Mullaghconnolly, Roslea, Co. Fermanagh BT92 7JS



Principal: Mrs Elaine Murray  
Tel: 028 6775 1493

Email: [info@sttierneysps.roslea.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@sttierneysps.roslea.ni.sch.uk)  
Web : [www.sttierneyspsroslea.com](http://www.sttierneyspsroslea.com)

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### ***Consent Form For Photography and Images of Children***

Dear Parent (s)

During your child's time at St Tierney's Primary School we may wish to take photographs of activities that involve your child. The photographs may be used for displays, publications and on a web-site by us, by the EA, CCMS or by local newspapers.

Photography or filming will only take place with the permission of the Principal and under appropriate supervision. When filming or photography is carried out by the news media, children will only be named if there is a particular reason to do so (e.g. they have won a prize), and home addresses will never be given out. Images that might cause embarrassment or distress will not be used nor will images be associated with material on issues that are sensitive.

Before taking any photographs of your child, we need your permission. Please **answer the questions below, sign and date the form and return it to the school**. You can ask to see images of your child held by the school. You may withdraw your consent at any time.

Name of child (Block Capitals) :		
Name of person responsible for the child:		
I understand that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the local media may take images of activities that show the school and children in a positive light e.g. Primary One pictures of new starters, drama and musical performances, sports and prize giving;</li><li>photographers acting on behalf of the school may take images for use in displays, in publications or on a website;</li><li>embarrassing or distressing images will not be used;</li><li>the images will not be associated with distressing or sensitive issues; and the school will regularly review and delete unwanted material.</li></ul>		
Having read the above statement, do you give your consent for photographs and other images to be taken and used? (please tick the appropriate box)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b> , I give my consent for pictures to be taken and used
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> , I do not give my permission for pictures to be taken and used
Signature of Parent:		
Date :		

**NB** There may be other circumstances, falling outside the normal day to day activities of the school, in which pictures of children are requested. The school recognises that in such circumstances specific consent from parent or guardian will be required before photography or filming of children can be permitted.

If you wish to attend school functions and take photographs of your and other people's children please take appropriate images, be sensitive to other people and try not to interrupt or disrupt concerts, performances and events. Thank you.

Please return the form to the School Office.