



WILLIAMSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy

1. BACKGROUND

This policy outlines the practices that Williamstown Primary School has in place for the collection, use and disclosure of images of students to ensure compliance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic). It also explains the circumstances in which Williamstown Primary School will seek parent/carer consent and how consent can be provided and/or withdrawn.

2. PURPOSE

- To explain to parents/carers how Williamstown Primary School will collect, use and disclose photographs, video and recordings of students, how parent/carer consent can be provided and how it can be withdrawn.

This policy applies to the general collection, use and disclosure of photographs, video and recordings (“images”) of students. It does not cover the use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV). The use of CCTV is covered in our school’s CCTV policy.

3. DEFINITIONS

School means Williamstown Primary School.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

As a general rule, use relates to images which are shared and distributed only within the school for school purposes (i.e. Compass), whilst disclosure is used for images which are shared and distributed outside of the school staff and are available to other students, parents/carers and the wider school community.

Williamstown Primary School will ensure that parents/carers are notified upon enrolment and at the commencement of each school year of the ways in which our school may use images of students. There are many occasions during the school year where staff photograph, film or record students participating in school activities or events, for example classroom activities, sports events, concerts, excursions, camps etc. We do this for many reasons including to celebrate student participation and achievement, showcase particular learning programs, document a student’s learning journey/camps/excursions/sports events, and to communicate with our parents/carers and school community in newsletters.

Williamstown Primary School will use student images reasonably, appropriately and sensitively, consistent with our obligations under the Child Safe Standards and our school’s Statement of Commitment to Child Safety. If at any time a parent/carer or student has a concern about the use of any images they should contact the school principal.

In addition to the processes outlined below, parents/carers can contact the school office (by email at williamstown.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) at any time to withdraw their consent for any future collection, use or disclosure of images of their child. However:

- if the images have already been published and are in the public domain, it may not be possible for consent to be withdrawn.
- There may be occasions when the school will record whole of school or large group events (such as school concerts, graduation, sporting events, etc.) and make these recordings available to families. If your child participates, they may appear in these recordings which will be available to the whole school community.
- The school can still collect, use and disclose images in circumstances where consent is not required (see below for more information).

Official school photographs

Each year, Williamstown Primary School will arrange for a professional photographer to take official school photographs of students. This will generally involve both class photos and individual photos being taken.

Official school photographs may be:

- Purchased by parents/carers.
- Stored on CASES21 for educational and administrative purposes.
- Utilised by school staff for identification purposes.

Williamstown Primary School will notify parents/carers in advance of the official school photographs being taken to give them an opportunity to decide whether their child will be included in the official school photographs.

Parents/carers who choose to opt-out of having their child participate in official school photographs must contact the Principal before the date photos are scheduled to be taken to advise that their child will not participate. There is no obligation on any parent or carer to purchase any photographs taken.

Images for use and disclosure within the school community and ordinary school communications

From time to time Williamstown Primary School may photograph, film or record students to use within the school community, including:

- In the school's communication, learning and teaching tools (for example, emails, Google classroom) that can only be accessed by students, parents or school staff with passwords.
- For display in school classrooms, on noticeboards, etc.
- To support student's health and wellbeing (e.g. photographs of pencil grip to assist in OT assessments).
- Other (e.g. for Art Show class pieces, end-of-year presents, class year books).

A consent form will be distributed to parents/carers on enrolment and will last the duration of the child's enrolment, unless otherwise informed by the parents/carers.

Images to be used or disclosed outside the school community (External use or disclosure by the school)

Photographs, video or recordings of students may also be used in publications that are accessible to the public, including:

- On the school's website
- In the school's newsletter
- On the school's social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram)
- In school documentation (such as curriculum descriptions)

Media

The media, or the Department of Education and Training's media team, may seek to photograph, film or record students for a news story or school event. This may include broadcast media, online or social media or print media, including newspapers and magazine publications.

When our school receives such requests Williamstown Primary School will:

- Provide parents/carers with information about the organisation involved and when/for what purposes the photography, filming or recording will occur.
- Seek prior, express parent/carer consent in writing.

Students will only be photographed, filmed or recorded by the media at school if express consent is provided for that specific media event. Neither the school nor the Department own or control any photographs, video or recordings of students taken by the media.

Other external collection, use or disclosure

If there is a situation which will involve the collection, use or disclosure of images of students by or to third parties which is not otherwise covered by this policy, Williamstown Primary School will:

- provide parents/carers with information about the event or activity, the organisation involved and when the photography, filming or recording will occur
- seek prior, express parent/carer consent in writing.

School performances, sporting events and other school approved activities

Williamstown Primary school requests that parents/carers, students and invited guests who photograph, film or record school activities only do so for their own personal use and do not publish the images in any form, including on social media, without the prior consent of persons whose children also appear in the images.

Neither the school nor the Department own or control any images of students taken by parents/carers, students or their invited guests at school activities.

Images to manage student behaviour or fulfil our school's legal obligations

On occasion it may be necessary for school staff to photograph, film or record students when necessary to:

- Fulfil legal obligations, including to:
 - Take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm to students, staff and visitors (duty of care).
 - Provide a safe and suitable workplace (occupational health and safety law).
- For identification purposes, when necessary to implement discipline and/or behaviour management policies.

Williamstown Primary School does not require or obtain consent from parents/carers or students to photograph, film or record students for these reasons. However, when Williamstown Primary School photographs, films or records a student for any of these purposes, staff will only collect and use such images in a way that is reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.

Staff use of personal devices

School staff may use their own personal devices to capture images of students for reasonable and legitimate educational purposes. If this occurs, staff are expected to upload the images to the school's DET Google Drive and to delete the images from their device within a school term of the images being captured.

Resources:

- School Policy and Advisory Guide: [Photographing and Filming Students](#)

5. REVIEW AND POLICY HISTORY

This policy is due for formal review in October 2022 although it may be changed at any time as required after discussion with School Council and the Principal or if guidelines change.

Policy History

Version Approval Date	Summary of changes	VRQA Requirement	DET Mandated Policy	School Council Input
October 2019	Comprehensive review	Yes	No	Consultation not required. Approval not required.