



## PHOTOGRAPHY IN SCHOOL – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Upon our return to school in September, we reluctantly made the decision to ban photographs/videos of the children taken during assemblies and other activities on school premises. This decision was not made lightly but made due to the increasing need for vigilance with children's safety and the importance of safeguarding the children within our school.

In the past we permitted photographs and video filming with the expressed stipulation that these images were taken for personal use only and were not posted on social media or the internet; however a small minority of people disregarded this request and this resulted in images of children being placed in the public domain without prior consent.

We really do want parents/carers to be happy but our primary duty is to ensure the children's safety; balancing these two factors and trying to find a solution has not been easy. However, after seeking guidance from the ICO (Information Commissioner), NSPCC and child protection consultants, we feel we have been able to introduce a suitable system.

Attached to this letter is a policy which you would need to complete if you want to photograph your child after school assemblies and events during school hours. By signing the policy, you are agreeing to adhere to it fully.

In short the policy allows **permitted parents/carers** to photograph their own child(ren) at permitted times. For example, no group/class photographs will be permitted or filming of performances using a camera or mobile device but an individual photograph of your child would be permitted to be taken after the assembly/performance.

The images taken during these permitted times must be for personal use only. The burgeoning use of social networking sites poses a very real risk. However, we have to trust that parents/carers will adhere to the request that images of their children are not circulated or posted on Facebook, Instagram, social network and internet group chat/discussion forums and Snapchat etc.

Failure to adhere to this would result in us having to ban individuals from taking photographs or reconsider this policy, which is something we really don't want to do, having endeavoured to find a suitable solution.

With Christmas approaching ever nearer, we have very little time to put the planned changes in place before the commencement of our performances. Therefore a swift reply and return of the attached policy is necessary if you want to take a photograph of your child after their performance (5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016).

We do appreciate your understanding of this very important matter and hope you agree that the measures we have introduced provide a suitable compromise, whilst allowing us to maintain a high level of safeguarding for your child(ren). This policy will be regularly reviewed by senior leaders and the governing body.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. S Brett  
Head teacher