ST. ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs C Martin

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Anne's, the safety and wellbeing of all children remains our highest priority. As technology continues to develop, particularly in relation to artificial intelligence (AI), image manipulation and the sharing of photographs online, schools are having to carefully review how images and videos of children are captured and used.

In line with the approach now adopted by an increasing number of schools, we have held off for as long as possible but have now had to make the decision that parents and visitors will no longer be permitted to take photographs or videos during school assemblies, performances, liturgies, concerts and other school events.

We appreciate that many families enjoy capturing special moments involving their children, and we understand that this change may be disappointing. However, there are several important reasons for this decision:

- We have a responsibility to safeguard all children, including those for whom photographs or videos must not be shared due to specific safeguarding, legal or family circumstances.
- Once images are taken on personal devices, the school is unable to control how they are stored, shared or distributed.
- Advances in AI technology and image manipulation mean that photographs and videos can be altered, copied or used in ways that could place children at risk.
- Social media and online platforms can allow images to be shared widely and permanently, often beyond the original intended audience.
- A consistent approach helps us to ensure that the privacy and safety of every child is protected at all times.

To ensure families are still able to celebrate and remember these events, school staff will take a selection of photographs, where appropriate, and these will be shared securely with parents via **Teams**. This will allow families to enjoy photographs of key moments whilst ensuring that safeguarding, privacy and data protection requirements are upheld.

To manage events effectively and ensure that staff can focus on supervising and supporting our children, the photographs taken will be a **selection of images from the event**. Whilst we will do our best to capture as many children as possible, we are **unable to guarantee that every child will appear in a photograph** or that every child will be photographed at every event. We hope parents will understand that our priority remains the safe and successful running of these occasions whilst providing families with a snapshot of the experience.

However, to do this, there are **3 separate photo and film permissions set on Arbor**, that parents need to be aware off and either accept or decline as soon as possible. Please do read these very carefully and carefully consider the impact of these.

1. **XCET Photo and Film- External Publicity and Media.**

I give permission for photographs of my child to be used in external publicity and shared with external media (for example: school or Trust websites, prospectuses, virtual tours, diocesan or education-related publications, and local newspapers). I understand that photographs used in publicity materials may continue to be used beyond this academic year and beyond my child's time at the school until those materials are updated or replaced.

2. **XCET Photo and Film- Internal School/Trust Use**

I give permission for photographs and videos of my child to be used within the School and Trust community, both printed and digital (for example: lesson materials, displays, newsletters, sharing student photos from school events with families, through a secure access folder, internal presentations and Trust communications).

(Please note that photos of children are used for class displays and therefore by declining this, no photos of your child will be displayed around the school. Please be aware that there will be no photographs of your child for the Year 6 leavers book).

3. **XCET Photo and Film- Taking Photos/ Videos**

I give permission for the school to take photographs and video recordings of my child during school activities for educational, pastoral and safeguarding purposes.

(Please note that photos are taken for evidence of children's learning and therefore by declining this, no photos will be taken. Please be aware that there will be no photographs of your child for items such as the celebration assemblies, learning floor books and displays.)

We appreciate your understanding and support as we implement this change. By working together, we can ensure that all children remain safe, protected and able to enjoy these important milestones with confidence.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and cooperation with this.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Martin

Frequently Asked Questions

How will I receive photographs of my child?

The school will take a selection of photographs during events and celebrations. These photographs will be shared with parents through their child's class Teams page (If you have given permission via Arbor), which is password protected and only accessible to members of that class. Once these are set up, access details will all be sent to parents.

Will there be photographs of every child?

Whilst we will make every effort to capture a range of photographs that celebrate the event and the children involved, we cannot guarantee that every child will appear in the photographs shared. Please note that a lot of the photos will not include the child's full-face image.

Will this apply to all school events?

Yes. The policy will apply to assemblies, concerts, performances, celebrations, sports events, and any other school-organised activities where parents are invited.

What if I want a keepsake of a special event?

We understand how important these memories are. The school will endeavour to capture and share a range of photographs from events so that families can enjoy and remember these special occasions.

How will the photographs be stored and shared securely?

Photographs taken by the school will be stored in accordance with our data protection procedures and shared securely through class Teams pages that require authorised access. We ask that all photos on teams are not shared on any social media and are for personal, family use only.

What if my child does not have photo permission?

The school will continue to follow parental consent preferences and existing photo permissions. Children whose parents have not given consent for their image to be used will not be included in photographs that are shared.

Can grandparents or other family members take photographs if they attend?

No. The policy applies equally to all visitors attending school events, including parents, grandparents, carers and other family members.

Other sources of information:

New guidance for parents and carers as AI-manipulated images of children become a growing concern - National Crime Agency