PHOTOGRAPHING, FILMING AND RECORDING STUDENTS' POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Kala Primary School Administration Office staff.

PURPOSE

To explain to parents/guardians:

- how Kala PS collects, uses and discloses photographs, video and recordings of students
- when parent/carer consent is required before photographing, filming and recording students
- how consent can be provided and withdrawn.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the general collection, use and disclosure of photographs, video and recordings (images) of students.

The policy does not cover the:

- use of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV). The use of CCTV is covered in the department's CCTV in Schools Policy.
- use and disclosure of photographs, video and recordings of adults.

POLICY

There are many occasions during the school year where Kala PS staff photograph, film or record students participating in school activities or events, for example: classroom activities, sports events, excursions etc.

We do this for many reasons including to celebrate student participation and achievement, showcase learning programs, document a student's learning journey/excursions/sports events and to communicate with our parents/guardians and school community via Compass posts. There may also be occasions where we take images to support student behaviour management or to fulfil legal obligations. Further detail is provided within this policy.

In addition to the above, there may be situations where a third party requests to take, use or disclose images of students.

This policy outlines the practices that Kala PS 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 It also explains the circumstances in which we will seek parent/carer consent and how consent can be provided and withdrawn.

Consent

The Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Consent Form is provided by Kala PS at enrolment. This form applies to standard uses of images for the time your child attends the school. Standard uses are defined in the following sections.

For non-standard uses, where consent is required, parents/guardians will be sent a consent form for that specific situation. Schools will also notify parents when implementing software that may include photos of students, giving parents an opportunity to discuss any concerns or preferences.

If at any time parents/guardians wish to withdraw their consent, they can by contacting the school office or 59292990 or kala.ps@education.vic.gov.au. If consent is withdrawn verbally, the school will make a written record of this. However:

- if the images have already been published and are in the public domain, it may not be possible to remove them
- the school can still collect, use and disclose images in circumstances where consent is not required (see below for more information).

Image use within the physical school environment

Kala PS may photograph, film or record students to use within the physical school environment, including:

- for display in school classrooms (e.g. in displays of student work, on noticeboards to celebrate achievements)
- on the TV in the foyer

A Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Consent Form will be given to parents/guardians on enrolment for the standard uses described above. Consent, if given, applies until it is withdrawn or changed. If a parent/guardian would like to withdraw or change their consent at any point in time, they must notify the school.

Image use within the school community

Kala PS may photograph, film or record students to use within the school community, including:

- in the school's online communication, learning and teaching tools e.g., emails, Compass, Class Dojo, that can only be accessed by students, parents/guardians and school staff with passwords.
- in the school's Compass posts to the school community
- in the school's Year 6 magazine or yearbook

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or changed. If a parent/carer would like to withdraw or change their consent at any point in time, they must notify the school.

Image use beyond the school community

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

- on the school's Website
- on the school's Facebook account

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We will notify you individually if we are considering using any images of your child for specific advertising or promotional purposes.

Media

The media, or the Department of Education'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 Kala PS receives such requests, our school will:

- provide parents/guardians with information about the organisation involved and when and for what purposes the photography, filming or recording will occur
- seek prior, express parent/guardian 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.

Research

On occasion, the school may agree to research projects being conducted at the school. If this occurs, parent/guardian consent will be sought for student participation, including any photography or recording of students.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

Parent or guardian consent is not required for a school to install CCTV. Our school's CCTV system is managed in accordance with the department's CCTV Installation and Management Policy. Further information about how CCTV is managed and operated is available in our CCTV Privacy Notice.

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, Kala PS will:

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

Official school photographs

Each year Kala PS 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/guardians
- used for school identification cards and student identity verification letters
- stored on CASES21 for educational and administrative purposes.

Kala PS will notify parents/guardians in advance of the official school photographs being taken to give them an opportunity to decide whether their child will be included in the photographs.

Parents/guardians who choose to opt out of having their child participate in official school photographs must contact school office or 5929 2990 or kala.ps@education.vic.gov.au, 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 guardian to purchase any photographs taken. However, the school will need to discuss with these parents/guardians alternative arrangements for identifying students in emergencies and for other essential purposes.

Images to manage student behaviour or fulfil our school's legal obligations, including child safety

On occasion, it may be necessary for school staff to photograph, film or record students and/or use images 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)
  - supporting students' social and emotional wellbeing, and health (duty of care)
- for identification purposes, when necessary to implement discipline and/or behaviour management policies.

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

Child Safe Standards

Kala PS will use student images reasonably, appropriately and sensitively, consistent with our obligations under the Child Safe Standards and our school's Child Safety and Engagement and Wellbeing Policy. If at any time a parent/guardian or student has a concern about the use of any images they should contact school office or 5929 2990 or kala.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

Curriculum-based activities

Photographs, film and recordings of students may be collected and used for curriculum-based activities (i.e. class work) as part of standard learning and teaching practices. Kala PS does not require or obtain consent for this. Access is limited to students and relevant teaching staff. Parents/guardians may have access to images of their own child in this context.

Professional development

Occasionally, teachers and classes may be recorded for professional development purposes to improve the delivery of educational services. Kala PS does not require or obtain consent for this, however the recordings will only be used internally and for the specific purpose of staff development.

Storage of images

Photographs, video and recordings of students taken by Kala PS will be stored in our secure document storage systems with restricted access. Any photographs, videos or recordings made on devices, including non-school issued devices, will be transferred to secure school systems and removed from the devices as soon as reasonably possible.

Images taken by the school community

Kala PS requests that parents/guardians, 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/guardians, students or their invited guests at school activities.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- On enrolment
- An annual reminder via Compass
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings, as required

- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- The department's Policy and Advisory Library: Photographing, Filming and Recording Students

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	27th February 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2029