



Photograph Policy

September 2025

Signed (Chair of Trustees):	
Date:	September 2025
Date of Review:	September 2026

Arbor Academy Trust reviews this policy annually. The Trustees may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the Government introduces new regulations, or if the Trust receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved. This document is also available in other formats e.g. e-mail and enlarged print version, on request to the School Offices and is displayed on the schools' websites.

Photograph Policy

Arbor Academy Trust is obliged to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 when it takes or publishes photographs of its pupils. The academy trust will always try to act in the best interest of the pupils and, as far as it legally can, it will take parental preferences into account.

The Data Protection Act gives children rights over their own data when they are considered to have adequate capacity to understand. Most children will reach this level of understanding at around age 12. For this reason, for most pupils in a secondary school, it will normally be up to the individual child to decide whether or not to be photographed. Where the school considers that the child does not have the capacity to make such a decision the school will act as it considers to be in the best interests of the child and in doing so will take account of any stated parental preference.

If you wish to express a preference for the school to avoid taking or publishing photographs of your child in certain circumstances, then please indicate your preferences using the attached form. If no preferences are expressed, then we will act in accordance with the principles expressed in this policy.

Ordinarily the following rules will apply to photographs in this school:

Photographs for Internal Use

- The school will take photographs for its own use. Usually these will be unnamed photographs and will generally be for internal school use but may also include photographs for publication, such as photos for the prospectus, or to show as slides at an event for parents. Unnamed photographs may also be used on display boards which can be seen by visitors to the school.
- When the photograph is taken, the pupils will be informed that a photograph is being taken and told what it is for so that they can object if they wish.
- If the school wants to use named photographs, then it will obtain specific consent first. For most pupils this will be pupil consent as explained above but parental wishes will be taken into account.

Media Use

- The school will give proper consideration to the interests of its pupils when deciding whether to allow external organisations to take photographs or to film.
- When the Media are allowed to be present in school or at school events, this will be on the condition that they observe this policy.
- Where the media are allowed to be present at a particular event the school will make sure that pupils and their parents or carers are informed of the media presence. If no objection is received, then the school will assume that unnamed photographs may be published.
- If the Media entity wants to publish named photographs, then they must obtain specific consent from those pupils with capacity to consent or the parents of those without capacity. The school will require the media entity to check with the school before publication so that the school can check that any objections have been taken into account.

Family Photographs at School Events

- It shall be at the discretion of the Academy Trust whether photographs may be taken at a school event.
- Family and friends taking photographs for the family album will not be covered by Data Protection legislation.
- Where the Academy Trust decides to allow such photography, the family and friends will be asked not to publish any photographs showing children other than their own on the internet.

Expression of Parental Preferences

Name of Child _____

Please tick any that apply:

Unnamed Photographs:

- ☐ I would prefer that unnamed photographs of my child are not used in school.
- ☐ I would prefer that unnamed photographs of my child are not used for school use for wider publication:
 - ☐ School prospectus and similar information
 - ☐ School website
 - ☐ Display boards
- ☐ I would prefer that an unnamed photograph of my child does not appear in any external publication.

Named Photographs:

- ☐ I would prefer that named photographs of my child are not used in school.
- ☐ I would prefer that named photographs of my child are not used in any school publication.
- ☐ I would prefer that named photographs of my child are not used on the school website.
- ☐ I would prefer that named photographs of my child do not appear in any external non-school publication.

I understand that the school will try to take my preferences into account but that the school must comply with Data Protection Act 1998 which will give my child rights in his / her own data when he / she has adequate capacity and understanding to make decisions about the publication of his / her photographs for him / herself.

Signed _____

PRINT NAME _____

Relationship to child _____