

Walmer Science College

A Specialist College for Science and Mathematics

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Dear Parent/Carer

September 2007

Consent form for use by Kent County Council Schools

This letter explains why we need to ask you for your consent to any photographs of your child while at school. When you have read the letter, you should fill in and return the form attached to let us know your wishes.

Generally, photographs for school and family use, and those that appear in the press are a source of pleasure and pride, which we believe can enhance self-esteem for children and young people, and their families, and so are to be welcomed.

However, we live in an age in which digital technology has vastly increased the use, and potential misuse, of photography, and there has been publicity surrounding concern about the safety of filming school events, and about the risk of a child being identified by a photograph in the local press, and as a result being targeted for abuse.

On advice from the Kent Police, the Kent Local Education Authority and others, we have taken the view that the risk of a child being identified by a stranger is so small that, provided reasonable steps are in place in terms of school security, planning to ensure an appropriate photograph, and to protect the full name and contact details of children, the practice of photography for school events by families and the media, should continue. In any case, the widespread use of mobile telephones as digital cameras would make banning virtually impossible to impose and police.

The DfES broad rule of thumb for schools is that "if the pupil is named, avoid using the photograph. If the photograph is used, avoid naming the pupil". For our own school publications, we will follow this advice for photographs to be used for circulation beyond the school. The press however like to reflect the local community by naming children who appear, and may decline to photograph events if this facility is denied to them.

We are mindful of the fact that for some families, there may be reasons why a child's identification is a matter of particular anxiety, and if you have special circumstances either now, or at any time in the future which would affect or change your consent on this issue, you need to let your child's class teacher know.

If your child is old enough to express their own view, you may want to consult with them about the categories of consent, and we invite you to use this letter to explore their feelings about being photographed at school.

Please complete the form attached. Talk to Mr Milliken if you are unclear.

Yours sincerely

S Heaton
Headteacher



Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



Science



Consent form for use by Kent County Council Schools

To Name of the child's
Parent or carer: _____

Name of child: _____

School: _____

Tutor Group _____

Occasionally, we may take photographs of the children at our school. We may use these images in our school's prospectus or in other printed publications that we produce, as well as on our website. We may also make video or webcam recordings for school-to-school conferences, monitoring or other educational use.

From time to time, our school may be visited by the media who will take photographs or film footage of a visiting dignitary or other high profile event. Pupils will often appear in these images, which may appear in local or national newspapers, or on televised news programmes.

To comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, we need your permission before we can photograph or make any recordings of your child. Please answer the questions 1 to 4 below, then sign and date the form where shown.

PLEASE RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Please circle your answer

1. May we use your child's photograph (unidentified) in the school prospectus and other printed publications that we produce for promotional purposes? **Yes / No**
2. May we use your child's image (unidentified) on our website? **Yes / No**
3. May we record your child's image (unidentified) on video or webcam? **Yes / No**
4. Do you consent to your child being photographed or filmed in press events agreed by the school? **Yes / No**
5. Do you consent to your child's full name being published with a press photograph? (At the present time, some local newspapers will not agree to publish a photograph without a full name). **Yes / No**

Please note that websites can be viewed throughout the world and not just in the United Kingdom where UK law applies.

Unidentified above means we will only use the first name. Please also note that the conditions for use of these photographs are on the back of this form.

I have read and understood the conditions of use on the back of this form.

Parent's or carer's
Signature: _____ Date: _____

PTO...

Name (in block capitals): _____

Conditions of school use

1. This form is valid for five years from the date you sign it, or for the period of time your child attends this school. The consent will automatically expire after this time. It is your responsibility to let us know if you want to withdraw or change your agreement at any time.
2. We, the school, will not use the personal details or full names (which means first name and surname) of any child in photographic image on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in any of our other printed publications.
3. We will not include personal e-mail or postal addresses, or telephone or fax numbers on video, on our website, in our school prospectus or in other printed publications.
4. If we use photographs of individual pupils, we will not use the name of that child in the accompanying text or photo caption, unless we have your agreement.
5. If we name a pupil in the text, we will not use a photograph of that child to accompany the article.
6. We may include pictures of pupils and teachers that have been drawn by the pupils.
7. We may group or class photographs or footage with very general labels, such as a “science lesson” or “making Christmas decorations”.
8. We will only use images of pupils who are suitably dressed, to reduce the risk of such images being used inappropriately.
9. **As the child’s parents / carer, we agree that if we take photographs or video recordings of our children which include other pupils, we will use these for personal and family use only.** I / we understand that where consent has not been obtained from the other parents for any other use, we would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 if we used our recordings for any wider purpose.

S Heaton
Headteacher