

## Further Questions & Answers: ONVU Learning Cameras at Discovery Schools Trust

### Purpose and Principles

#### Q: Why are ONVU Learning cameras being used in classrooms?

A: The cameras are used solely to support teacher professional development. They are a tool for self-reflection, lesson study, and coaching, helping teachers to improve their practice in a non-intrusive, teacher-led way. This is not about surveillance or performance management — it's about empowering teachers to grow in confidence and skill.

### Privacy, Consent & Safeguarding

#### Q: Are parents asked for consent for their child to be recorded?

A: No. Under UK GDPR, schools can rely on the lawful basis of 'public task' to process data for educational purposes. As this initiative supports teaching quality and learning outcomes, we are not required to seek parental consent. However, we are committed to transparency and safeguarding, which is why we are sharing this information openly.

#### Q: Can I request that my child is not recorded?

A: While we understand some parents may have concerns, it is not practical or necessary to exclude individual pupils from recordings used for teacher reflection. The cameras are not focused on pupils, and the footage is not used to assess or monitor children.

#### Q: How are vulnerable pupils, including adopted or previously looked-after children, protected?

A: We take safeguarding extremely seriously. The system is designed to protect all pupils' privacy. Recordings are not shared externally, and only the teacher can access them. No footage is used for behaviour management, safeguarding investigations, or disciplinary action unless there is a serious safeguarding concern — in which case, standard safeguarding protocols would apply.

### Recording, Access & Retention

#### Q: Are the cameras recording all the time?

A: No. The cameras only record when the teacher chooses to schedule a recording. They are not constantly recording or live streaming.

### Q: Who can see the recordings?

A: Only the classroom teacher can view their own recordings. They can choose to share short clips (5–15 minutes) with a mentor or coach for professional dialogue. These clips are archived in the teacher’s secure ONVU account and are not visible to anyone else.

### Q: Can school leaders or external advisors access the footage?

A: No. Senior Leadership Teams (SLT) cannot access any footage unless a teacher voluntarily shares it for coaching or development purposes. There are no “vetted external advisors” with access to footage. The system is designed to be teacher-owned and teacher-led.

### Q: How long are recordings kept?

A: Full lesson recordings are automatically deleted after 30 days. If a teacher chooses to save a short clip for reflection, it is stored for up to one year in their personal ONVU account.

### Q: Who is responsible for managing the system?

A: The system has two trained administrators who manage technical support only. Both have signed a strict Code of Conduct, and the system keeps a full audit trail of all access and activity.

## Data Protection & Security

### Q: How is the system compliant with data protection laws?

A: The use of ONVU Learning is fully compliant with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The Trust has conducted a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to assess and mitigate any risks to pupil and staff privacy. A summary of this DPIA is available to parents upon request.

### Q: What safeguards are in place to protect the data?

A: **Access Control:** Only the classroom teacher can access their recordings. No one else — including SLT, IT staff, or external parties — can view the footage unless the teacher chooses to share it.

**Encryption:** All video data is encrypted both in transit and at rest.

**Audit Trails:** The system logs all access and actions, ensuring full accountability.

**Data Minimisation:** Only short clips (5–15 minutes) are saved, and only when the teacher chooses to do so.

**Retention Limits:** Full recordings are deleted after 30 days. Archived clips are deleted after one year.

**Administrator Oversight:** The system is managed by two designated administrators who have signed a Code of Conduct and cannot access teacher recordings.

## Q: What happens if there is a data breach?

A: In the unlikely event of a data breach, the school will follow its Data Breach Response Policy, which includes notifying affected individuals and reporting to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if required.

## Q: Can parents request to see footage of their child?

A: No. These recordings are not part of a pupil's educational record and are not used for pupil assessment or monitoring. Therefore, we will not be releasing the footage unless it is under specific circumstances.

## Use of Footage

### Q: Will recordings ever be used for behaviour management, safeguarding, or disciplinary purposes?

A: No. The system is strictly for teacher development. It is not used for behaviour tracking, safeguarding investigations, or staff performance management. Any exception would only occur in the event of a serious safeguarding concern, and even then, only under the school's safeguarding policy.

### Q: Will the school use recordings to create a "bank of best practice" lessons?

A: No. While ONVU Learning offers this feature, Discovery Schools Trust will not use this feature, if this is something that we wish to consider in the future, then parents will be informed. Teachers may choose to share a clip with a mentor or colleague, but this is entirely voluntary and remains under the teacher's control.

## Supporting Pupils

### Q: How are pupils supported if they feel anxious about the cameras?

A: Teachers explain the purpose of the cameras in age-appropriate ways, emphasising that they are for teacher learning, not for watching pupils. If a child expresses discomfort, the teacher will respond sensitively and appropriately.

### Q: How is this managed for pupils with additional needs?

A: Teachers are trained to consider the needs of all learners, including those with SEND or safeguarding sensitivities. The use of the camera is always guided by professional judgement and care.

## Final Note

We understand that introducing new technology can raise questions. Please be assured that this initiative is grounded in trust, professionalism, and a commitment to improving teaching and learning. It is not about surveillance — it is about supporting teachers to be the best they can be.