Schools in Ireland have been instructed to review their use of CCTV systems for monitoring staff performance or conduct, as it is unlikely to be justifiable.

The Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools has issued its 91 members with legal advice surrounding the use of CCTV cameras, which was drawn up after discussions with the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner.

According to the advice, schools must consult with students and parents, and outline policies in relation to the use of the cameras. Where the CCTV is installed, there should be signs at the site explaining the reason for the specific use.

A spokesperson from the ODPC told Data Protection Ireland "recognisable images captured by CCTV are personal data. A data controller, including a school, needs to be able to justify recording such personal information.

"Key issues [to consider] include the proportionality of the system — why is it being installed? Where will the cameras be located and what images will be captured? There are also issues of transparency. Have the students (and, indeed, staff members) been informed and consulted?"

"Entering a school building does not deprive anyone of their data protection rights, so schools must ensure that they give appropriate consideration to issues such as consent, access, secure storage etc before

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