



EDClass Camera On Policy

POL027

Issue number 4

Approved by Sam Warnes

EDClass ‘Camera On’ Policy

Executive Summary and Institutional Status

Under the **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE - Annex C)**, and the **Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 (Section 36)**, alternative and remote educational provision cannot rely on passive, unmonitored digital worksheets. Commissioning bodies must ensure pupils receive structured, timetable-driven education led by UK-qualified teachers with real-time visual oversight, proactive safeguarding, and immediate interactive support.

Also, because EDClass is formally accredited by the Department for Education (DfE) under the **Online Education Accreditation Scheme (OEAS)** and operates as a recognised educational institution and alternative provision, we are legally bound to uphold the exact same statutory safeguarding standards, attendance verification duties, and regulatory compliance as a physical school.

Active visual and audio engagement—seeing and hearing every student—is not a technical preference; it is the central mechanism through which EDClass and commissioning bodies discharge their non-negotiable statutory duty of care.

- ✓ **For Commissioning Schools and Local Authorities:** Line-of-sight monitoring fulfils statutory obligations under OEAS Category 2 and KCSIE. Real-time visual checks secure identity auditing, prevent proxy log-ins, generate auditable attendance registers, and provide early detection of welfare concerns.
- ✓ **For Parents and Carers:** Delivers certainty that your child is in a secure, professionally supervised digital classroom. Continuous visual contact allows qualified staff to spot distress, manage hazards, and protect the privacy and wellbeing of every household.
- ✓ **For Students:** Being visible and audible proves you are safe, ensures attendance and academic progress are officially credited to you, and enables teachers to respond to visual cues in real time. It establishes a structured learning environment free from distractions, off-screen risks, or digital peer harassment.

Maintaining an active camera is the direct operational bridge connecting live academic delivery with continuous, statutory child protection.

Live Instructional Architecture and Timetable Structuring

To replicate the rigor and support of a compliant physical classroom, EDClass operates structured live teaching and live timetabled models supported by mandatory camera engagement:

- ✓ **Real-Time Live Teaching and Targeted Intervention:**
 - ✓ **EDLive (Core Live Timetabled Lessons):** Interactive and Live teaching in a timetabled virtual classroom delivery led by qualified UK teachers featuring direct line-of-sight webcam supervision, collaborative whiteboards, and live academic discussion.

- ✓ **EDTeach (Breakout Seminars and Catch-Up):** live and targeted teaching sessions in a timetabled session with small-group seminars, booster interventions, and academic catch-up sessions designed to close knowledge gaps and accelerate progress or address gaps in learning
- ✓ **EDInclude (1-to-1 Live Support):** On-demand instructional coaching, real-time audio/text clarification, and live technical troubleshooting during scheduled learning blocks.
- ✓ **Live Timetable Architecture and Platform Configuration:**
 - ✓ **Statutory AM and PM Roll Calls:** Formal, scheduled registration slots configured daily to meet statutory attendance reporting requirements.
 - ✓ **Structured Period Allocation:** Daily timetabled periods mapped with precise start/finish times, subject allocations, and teacher-led instructional blocks.
 - ✓ **Cohort and Provision Structuring:** Formal classification of timetables based on learner needs:
 - ✓ *Full-Time (FT) vs. Part-Time (PT) schedules.*
 - ✓ *Short-Term (ST) intervention vs. Medium/Long-Term (MT/LT) placements.*
 - ✓ *Rotational Seat Allocations* across split-week timetables or internal inclusion units via **EDInclude**.
 - ✓ **Assigned Subject Pathways:** Direct allocation of bespoke curriculum pathways across Core Subjects (English, Maths, Science) and vocational options.
 - ✓ **Automated Schedule Notifications:** Real-time system alerts pushed to learners and commissioning staff for lesson transitions, pending sessions, and missed registration triggers.

Live Safeguarding and Welfare Monitoring (EDSafe Integration)

An active camera feed provides the visual baseline required to maintain continuous safeguarding during live lessons:

- ✓ **Real-Time Identification of Harm, Distress and Neglect:** While teachers deliver live lessons in **EDLive** or small-group seminars in **EDTeach**, active camera feeds allow staff to continuously observe physical presentation and emotional state. Teachers and safeguarding officers can immediately identify visible injuries, signs of neglect, extreme lethargy, sudden emotional distress, or non-verbal indicators of abuse that remain entirely hidden in text-only or camera-off environments.
- ✓ **Immediate Environmental Hazard Detection:** Continuous video oversight verifies that the pupil's physical workspace is safe, appropriate, and free from immediate domestic hazards, unsafe domestic situations, or unverified adults/third parties present off-screen.
- ✓ **Immediate Threat Intervention and DSL Escalation:** If a welfare concern, disclosure, or emergency is observed live on stream, staff immediately pause the session, transition the student to a private support channel (**EDNurture**), and instantly dispatch an automated red alert to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and commissioning school via the **EDClass Mobile App** and CPOMS.

Pedagogical Assessment and Adaptive Teaching

Visual feedback is central to responsive, high-impact instruction:

- ✓ **Reading Non-Verbal Learning Cues:** Teachers rely on facial expressions, eye contact, and body language to gauge comprehension, confusion, frustration, or cognitive fatigue.
- ✓ **Targeted Academic Scaffolding:** Visual feedback allows educators to intervene immediately during live instruction—adapting explanations in real time, offering timely scaffolds, or directing the learner to a targeted catch-up seminar in **EDTeach** without waiting for the student to struggle in silence or self-advocate in text.

Verification of Physical Presence and Timetable Integrity

A structured timetable requires verified, auditable physical attendance:

- ✓ **Combatting "Ghost Logins" and Proxy Attendance:** A live timetable is meaningless if a student logs in and walks away. Active webcams ensure the learner is physically present, focused on instructional material, and actively participating rather than multitasking, sleeping, or allowing an unauthorised proxy to complete work in their place.
- ✓ **Statutory AM/PM Registration Verification:** Satisfies Section 36 of the *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026* by providing visual audit evidence for official attendance marks across every scheduled slot, preventing "Present Unverified" unauthorised absence markings.

Classroom Culture, Behavioural Regulation and Child-on-Child Protection

Visual line of sight establishes the behavioural norms and safety standards of a physical classroom:

- ✓ **Enforcing a Mobile-Free, Structured Space:** Visual oversight ensures students adhere to statutory mobile phone prohibitions under DfE guidance (*Mobile Phones in Schools*), eliminating off-screen recording risks, covert digital distractions, and secondary-device exploitation.
- ✓ **Preventing Digital Harassment and Safeguarding Peers:** Active visibility deters disruptive, aggressive, or inappropriate conduct during group interactions, ensuring the virtual classroom remains a secure, regulated, and supportive learning environment for all participants.

Core Statutory Mandates

Requirement 1: Compulsory Camera Usage (Visual Safeguarding and Identity Verification)

- ✓ **Mandate:** Learners must keep their webcams active, unblocked, and properly positioned for the entire duration of every scheduled live session.
- ✓ **Statutory Mapping:** DfE OEAS Category 2 (Standards 2.1 and 2.4); KCSIE (Part 1, Part 2 and Annex C); Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 (Section 36); Education

Act 2002 (Section 175); Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (Schedule 1, Part 3).

✓ **Operational Rationale:**

- ✓ *Proving They Are Safe:* Conducts continuous welfare checks to confirm the learner is in a safe space free from immediate domestic hazards or unverified external risks.
- ✓ *Proving It Is Them:* Eliminates account sharing and satisfies legal attendance audits by verifying the enrolled student is the person present.
- ✓ *Proving They Are Learning:* Enables teachers to read non-verbal engagement cues, evaluate comprehension, and deliver targeted academic interventions.

Requirement 2: Prohibition of Mobile Phones and Secondary Smart Devices

- ✓ **Mandate:** Mobile phones, smartwatches, and secondary connected devices must be switched off and stored completely out of physical reach during sessions.
- ✓ **Statutory Mapping:** DfE Statutory Guidance: *Mobile Phones in Schools*; KCSIE (Part 1, Part 5 - Child-on-Child Abuse and Online Safety); Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR.
- ✓ **Operational Rationale:**
 - ✓ *Eradicating Illicit Capture:* Prevents non-consensual photography, video recording, or screenshotting of peers and staff, neutralising deep fake generation and cyberbullying risks.
 - ✓ *Mitigating Unmonitored Access:* Eliminates backchannel messaging, grooming risks, and social media disruption during structured instruction.
 - ✓ *Maximising Focus:* Secures cognitive engagement in line with statutory behavioural standards.

Requirement 3: Readiness to Learn and Professional Dress Code

- ✓ **Mandate:** Learners must attend sessions dressed in non-revealing, appropriate attire (e.g., standard school uniform or neutral, fully covered casual clothing) seated in an upright, attentive posture.
- ✓ **Statutory Mapping:** DfE OEAS Category 3 (Standard 3.2); DfE Statutory Guidance: *Behaviour in Schools*; KCSIE (Annex C - Professional Boundaries).
- ✓ **Operational Rationale:**
 - ✓ *Professional Mindset:* Transitions the pupil psychologically into a formal classroom setting.
 - ✓ *Decency and Protection:* Shields pupils and staff from accidental or intentional indecent exposure on live feeds.
 - ✓ *Equality:* Establishes a uniform, distraction-free environment across the virtual classroom.

Requirement 4: Dedicated Environment and Background Neutrality

- ✓ **Mandate:** Sessions must take place in a quiet, appropriate study space (strictly never from a bed), using neutral settings or blurred virtual backgrounds.
- ✓ **Statutory Mapping:** DfE OEAS Category 2 and Category 4; *Working Together to Safeguard Children*; Human Rights Act 1998 (Article 8); Data Protection Act 2018.
- ✓ **Operational Rationale:**
 - ✓ *Privacy Protection:* Blurs domestic surroundings to preserve the confidentiality of the home environment.
 - ✓ *Vulnerability Mitigation:* Prevents third parties, sensitive household items, or unsafe home dynamics from being visible to peers or educators.

Statutory and Legislative Reference Framework

Primary Legislation and Statutory Guidance	Status and Legal Timeline	Statutory Scope	Specific Statutory Wording and Mandatory Provisions
DfE Online Education Accreditation Scheme (OEAS) Standards	Launched in 2023; inspected continuously by Ofsted on behalf of the DfE.	Category 2 (Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare) and Category 3 (Quality of Education and Behaviour).	<i>Category 2 (Standard 2.1 and 2.4):</i> "The provider must ensure that active supervision and real-time oversight are maintained during all live virtual sessions... Robust visual verification mechanisms must be implemented to safeguard pupil welfare and prevent unverified access." <i>Category 3 (Standard 3.2):</i> "Providers must establish and maintain an environment and culture conducive to learning that mirrors the high behavioural and dress expectations of physical school settings."
Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)	Statutory guidance under Section 175 of the Education Act 2002; updated annually (in force 1 September).	Line-of-sight safeguarding, physical harm/distress detection, child-on-child abuse prevention, online risk categorisation (Content, Contact, Conduct, Commerce).	<i>Part 1 and Annex C:</i> "Where remote education takes place, schools and colleges should ensure appropriate line-of-sight supervision... Staff delivering live sessions must be in a position to assess the child's wellbeing, identify visual indicators of harm, neglect, or distress, and ensure the physical learning environment is safe." <i>Annex C:</i> "Staff and children must be appropriately dressed... sessions must take place in an appropriate environment, not from bedrooms where possible, using neutral or blurred backgrounds to protect privacy and maintain professional boundaries."
Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026	Enacted / Royal Assent 29 April 2026; commencement across 2026.	Mandatory attendance tracking, monitoring physical whereabouts, verifying engagement in alternative provision.	<i>Section 36:</i> "Educational bodies and accredited providers have a statutory duty to continuously track pupil attendance, engagement, and physical whereabouts during remote education provision... Failure to visually verify an enrolled pupil during scheduled provision precludes verified attendance certification."
DfE Statutory Guidance: Mobile Phones in Schools	Established via the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026; statutory enforcement effective 1 September 2026.	Phone-free learning spaces across all maintained, independent, and accredited remote settings.	<i>Section 1:</i> "All learning environments should be mobile phone-free by default... to remove distraction, promote cognitive engagement, and protect children from digital harassment and unauthorised recording during lesson time."
Education Act 2002 (Section 175) and Independent School Standards Regulations 2014	Primary legislation in active statutory force.	Duty of governing bodies to safeguard and promote pupil welfare; robust identity verification.	<i>Section 175(1):</i> "The governing body of a maintained school shall make arrangements for ensuring that their functions relating to the conduct of the school are exercised with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of pupils at the school." <i>Schedule 1, Part 3:</i> "The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils... including robust verification of identities."
Working Together to Safeguard Children	Primary multi-agency statutory guidance; active legal force.	Multi-agency welfare checks, environmental safety assessment, and rapid domestic risk mitigation.	<i>Chapter 1:</i> "Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility... Practitioners should be alert to the child's physical circumstances, emotional presentation, and immediate environment, intervening promptly whenever risk or vulnerability is observed."

Primary Legislation and Statutory Guidance	Status and Legal Timeline	Statutory Scope	Specific Statutory Wording and Mandatory Provisions
Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR and Human Rights Act 1998	Primary legislation in active statutory force.	Regulating visual/biometric data, image capture rights, Article 8 right to respect for private/family life.	<i>UK GDPR (Art 6 and 9):</i> "Processing of special category and visual data must have a clear legal basis and proportionality... Third-party individuals in private domestic settings must be protected from unlawful image capture." <i>Human Rights Act 1998 (Art 8):</i> "Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence."

Stakeholder Responsibilities

Commissioning Schools and Local Authorities

- ✓ Ensure every commissioned pupil is provided with a compliant computing device, functioning HD webcam, dedicated audio peripherals, and sufficient internet bandwidth.
- ✓ Communicate and enforce this policy across administrative staff, teaching bodies, pastoral leaders, DSLs, IT departments, parents, and students prior to onboarding.
- ✓ Attend scheduled automated platform reviews and proactively address documented camera non-compliance cases.
- ✓ Maintain joint safeguarding accountability with EDClass for all dual-registered learners.

School Staff and Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)

- ✓ Monitor real-time safeguarding feeds and review automated welfare notifications immediately upon transmission.
- ✓ Intervene immediately when EDClass logs flags regarding student welfare, signs of physical injury, domestic hazards, or unverified absences.
- ✓ Model professional digital standards, ensuring background privacy and professional presentation during joint platform sessions.

IT Departments and Technical Teams

- ✓ Deploy devices meeting or exceeding the minimum hardware specifications detailed in this document.
- ✓ Configure operating system permissions to ensure webcam and microphone access cannot be disabled by non-administrative user accounts.
- ✓ Implement network traffic prioritisation for real-time video streaming protocols and maintain secure data ingestion into authorised cloud environments (e.g., dedicated secure AWS S3 storage).
- ✓ Ensure technical support is accessible to resolve hardware faults before scheduled learning blocks commence.

Parents and Carers

- ✓ Support the learner in establishing a quiet, dedicated, and neutral study environment (outside of bedrooms).
- ✓ Ensure secondary smart devices and mobile phones are collected, silenced, and placed out of reach during lesson hours.
- ✓ Reinforce the requirement that the camera must remain active, unblocked, and centred on the student's face throughout the timetable.

Learners

- ✓ Log in punctually with webcam and microphone active, positioned to provide an uninhibited view of your face and upper torso.
- ✓ Follow behavioural, dress, and conduct codes identically to a physical school classroom.
- ✓ Never record, photograph, screenshot, or distribute live streams, teachers, or peers.

Statutory Action Plan: Non-Compliance and Camera-Off Escalation Flow

When a learner disables their camera, obscures their video feed, or fails visual verification during a live session, staff must execute this standardised protocol to preserve OEAS Category 2 audit compliance:

[Camera Inactive / Obscured / Refused]



[Step 1: Direct In-App Warning and Tech Check (0–2 Mins)]

└▶ Camera Restored ▶ Return to Live Lesson

▼ (Refused / Tech Unresolved)

[Step 2: Transfer to Isolated Virtual Waiting Room (2–5 Mins)]

└▶ Camera Restored ▶ Return to Live Lesson

▼ (Refused / Camera Remains Off)

[Step 3: Termination of Live Session Connection]



[Step 4: Statutory Attendance and DSL Incident Notification]



[Step 5: Evidentiary Audit Trail Stored for DfE / Ofsted]

✓ **Step 1: Direct In-App Prompt and Tech Check (0–2 Minutes)**

The educator issues a direct in-platform prompt requesting immediate camera activation and verifies whether a hardware malfunction is occurring.

- ✓ *Outcome (Camera Enabled):* Continue instruction.
- ✓ *Outcome (Refused / No Response):* Proceed to Step 2.

✓ **Step 2: Transfer to Isolated Virtual Waiting Room (2–5 Minutes) for Wellbeing**

The student is removed from the group and isolated in a private virtual room. The teacher/safeguarding officer issues the formal statutory warning:

"Line-of-sight visual safeguarding is mandatory under DfE/OEAS guidance. If your camera is not enabled within 60 seconds, this session will be terminated."

- ✓ *Outcome (Camera Enabled):* Return to live lesson.
- ✓ *Outcome (Refused / 60-Second Expiry):* Proceed to Step 3.
- ✓ **Step 3: Session Termination and Unverified Marking**

The educator terminates the live connection. Attendance is logged in the register as **"Present Unverified / Camera Non-Compliant"** (recorded as a statutory unauthorised absence).

- ✓ **Step 4: Statutory Attendance and DSL Notification**

An automated alert is dispatched immediately to parents/carers. A formal safeguarding and non-compliance record is logged directly onto the safeguarding portal (e.g., CPOMS) for the commissioning school's DSL.

- ✓ **Step 5: Evidentiary Audit Trail Generation**

Session logs, timestamps, IP addresses, chat transcripts, and intervention records are archived to provide a complete inspection trail for DfE and Ofsted OEAS audits.

Data Protection, Privacy and Cloud Storage Architecture

EDClass processes visual data in strict accordance with the **Data Protection Act 2018** and **UK GDPR**:

- ✓ **Purpose Limitation:** Video streams and system recordings are utilised exclusively for statutory safeguarding, identity auditing, and quality assurance.
- ✓ **Storage and Encryption:** Video data and associated audit metadata are ingested into secure, encrypted Amazon Web Services (AWS) S3 storage buckets with strict Role-Based Access Controls (RBAC).
- ✓ **Access Control:** Recorded material is restricted to verified safeguarding officers, DSLs, and senior leadership. Data is retained strictly in accordance with statutory child protection retention schedules.

Technical Specification Addendum for Commissioning IT Departments

To ensure stability, uninterrupted line-of-sight safeguarding, and low-latency video streaming, devices commissioned for EDClass must satisfy the following hardware benchmarks:

Computing Devices (Laptops / Workstations)

- ✓ **Processor:** Intel Core i5 or AMD Ryzen 5 (10th Generation or later equivalent).
Recommended: Intel Core i7 or AMD Ryzen 7.
- ✓ **Memory (RAM):** 8GB RAM minimum. *Recommended: 16GB RAM for multitasking.*
- ✓ **Storage:** 256GB SSD minimum.
- ✓ **Display:** 14-inch minimum, 1920x1080 Full HD resolution.
- ✓ **Operating System:** Windows 10/11 (64-bit) or macOS 11 (Big Sur) or later.
- ✓ **Connectivity:** Wi-Fi 6 (802.11ax) or stable Ethernet; Bluetooth 5.0.
- ✓ **Battery Life:** Minimum 5 hours continuous operational battery life.
- ✓ **Browser Compatibility:** Latest stable release of Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, or Apple Safari.

Webcams

- ✓ **Resolution:** 1080p Full HD minimum at 30 fps (integrated or external USB).
Recommended: 4K sensor for optimised low-light rendering.
- ✓ **Field of View (FOV):** 70 degrees or wider.
- ✓ **Features:** Autofocus, dynamic low-light correction, and support for hardware background blur.

Microphones and Audio Peripherals

- ✓ **Type:** Integrated multi-array or external USB / 3.5mm headset microphone.
- ✓ **Polar Pattern:** Cardioid or optimised omnidirectional.
- ✓ **Frequency Response:** 50Hz to 15kHz.
- ✓ **Sensitivity:** -38dBV/Pa or better.
- ✓ **Noise Suppression:** Built-in hardware/software background noise reduction.

Disclaimer

EDClass reserves the right to update these specifications as technology evolves. Schools are encouraged to review the latest requirements on the EDClass website before making any purchasing decisions. Maintaining an active, unbroken line of sight is not merely an operational policy—it is our primary safeguarding mechanism under UK law. By holding this standard, EDClass guarantees that commissioning schools, local authorities, and parents are fully compliant with statutory expectations while ensuring every learner remains safe, visible, and actively progressing in their education.