



Information Commissioner's Office
Promoting public access to official information
and protecting your personal information

Press Release

For immediate release

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Snap away on sports day, says ICO

Parents wishing to capture the moment their child crosses the finish line at their school sports day should not be deterred by data protection myths. The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is reminding parents that the Data Protection Act does not prevent them taking photographs of their children and friends participating in school events.

Deputy Commissioner, David Smith, said: "We recognise that parents want to capture significant moments on camera and we want to reassure them and other family members that they can take photographs of their children and friends at school events. Photographs taken for the family photo album are exempt from the Act and citing the Data Protection Act to stop people taking photos or filming their children at school is wrong."

The Information Commissioner's Office has produced [guidance](#) for local education authorities and those working within schools, colleges and universities explaining that the Data Protection Act is unlikely to apply in many situations where photographs are taken in schools. The Data Protection Act does apply to photographs taken for official use by schools and colleges and stored with personal details, such as names. In cases such as these, a common sense approach would suggest that if the photographer gains permission to take a picture, this will usually be enough to ensure compliance.

The [full copy of the guidance](#) can be viewed at www.ico.gov.uk

ENDS

If you need more information, please contact the Information Commissioner's press office on 020 7025 7580 or visit the website at: www.ico.gov.uk

Notes to Editors:

1. The Information Commissioner promotes public access to official information and protects personal information. The ICO is an independent body with specific responsibilities set out in the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003.
2. For more information about the Information Commissioner's Office subscribe to our e-newsletter at www.ico.gov.uk
3. Anyone who processes personal information must comply with eight principles, which make sure that personal information is:
 - Fairly and lawfully processed
 - Processed for limited purposes
 - Adequate, relevant and not excessive
 - Accurate and up to date
 - Not kept for longer than is necessary
 - Processed in line with your rights
 - Secure
 - Not transferred to other countries without adequate protection
4. This piece of guidance is part of a series aimed at making data protection simpler.