



Kimbolton School
Cambridgeshire

Splaat Photo Frequently Asked Questions

**Professional photography and secure family
access at Kimbolton School**

In response to questions from families, this guide explains why Splaat has been introduced, how photography will be managed, and the choices available to parents.

At a glance

- Splaat covers the whole School, from Pre-School upwards.
- Photographers attend on specific, planned dates and work to a School-managed brief; they will not be on site continuously or wander around freely.
- Your School photography preference in Engage and your registration with Splaat are separate choices.
- The personalised gallery requires consent to facial matching, but wider registration is optional. Individual portraits and formal class or sports-team photographs can still be accessed without it.
- There is no obligation to buy an annual package; individual photographs can be purchased instead.

Purpose and scope

Why has the School introduced Splaat?

The aim is to bring photography previously provided through several different companies into one more controlled arrangement. This reduces the number of organisations storing and processing pupil images, gives the School clearer oversight and offers families one place to access photographs that were previously sold through several routes. It also supports the School's wider review of how identifiable pupil images are used online.

Were parents consulted before the change?

The School sought feedback from a small number of families through focus groups but did not consult the whole parent body, as it would not ordinarily do so when appointing a new supplier. We did carry out a thorough selection and due-diligence process covering Splaat's suitability, safeguarding procedures, data-protection arrangements and professional credentials. We recognise that the wider context and available choices should have been explained more fully before

Which pupils and activities does it cover?

The arrangement applies across the whole School, from Pre-School upwards. Splaat will cover sport, formal class and sports-team photographs, plays, performances, selected events and selected informal or internal activities. The annual individual school portrait is also available through Splaat, with a separate portrait-only access route for families who do not want the wider service.

Will photographers be wandering around School or attending most days?

No. Splaat photographers will attend on specific, planned dates for agreed purposes and to a brief managed by the School. The overall frequency of professional photography will be no greater than under the School’s previous combined programme of portrait, sport, event, prospectus and website photography.

What safeguarding arrangements apply?

Photographers are subject to enhanced DBS checks, relevant safeguarding training and the School’s signing-in, supervision and photography procedures. They work only within the scope agreed by the School. A pupil’s wishes will also be respected wherever reasonably possible; no child will be forced to pose for a photograph.

What is meant by ‘day-to-day school life’?

This means selected informal activities—not continuous photography. The images are similar to those the School has long taken during prospectus and website shoots. The difference is that relevant photographs can now be shared privately with families, instead of being placed in a broad or general gallery.

Permissions, registration and participation

What is the difference between Engage permission and Splaat registration?

The photography preference recorded with the School through Engage determines whether a pupil may be photographed by the School and photographers working on its behalf. Registration with Splaat is separate and optional: it enables Splaat’s matching technology to identify a pupil in event and informal photographs and deliver relevant images to that family’s private gallery.

Choice	What it controls
Engage photography preference	Whether the pupil may be photographed under the School’s arrangements
Splaat wider registration	Consent to facial matching, enabling event, sport, performance and informal images to be identified and delivered to the family gallery.
Portrait/group access	A separate route for individual portraits and formal class or sports-team photographs, without wider registration or facial matching.

Do I have to register with Splaat?

No. Wider registration is optional. However, to use the personalised family gallery, you must consent to facial matching because this is how Splaat identifies photographs of your child and delivers them privately to you. There is no option to use that gallery without facial matching. If you do not register, your separate Engage photography preference remains unchanged unless you ask the School to change it.

Does registration mean signing away my child's rights?

No. Registration does not waive your child's data-protection rights. Photographs and personal data remain protected by UK data-protection law, and families retain the relevant rights over how that data is processed.

Can I opt into sport and group photographs but opt out of informal photography?

There is not currently a category-by-category choice within the wider personalised Splaat service. However, formal class photographs and formal sports-team photographs are treated separately and can still include a pupil—and be made available to the relevant class or team—where the School's Engage permission allows this. Wider Splaat registration or facial matching is not required for those formal group photographs.

Can I obtain the annual individual portrait without wider registration?

Yes. Email team@splaatphoto.co.uk and ask for portrait-only access, giving the details needed to identify your child and process any purchase. Splaat can arrange this without requiring consent for the wider programme.

How can I obtain a formal class or sports-team photograph without wider registration?

Formal class and sports-team photographs follow the established group-photo approach and are made available to the relevant class or team. Contact team@splaatphoto.co.uk for access. A pupil does not need to be enrolled in facial matching for the photograph to remain usable or available.

What happens if I withdraw the School's photography permission?

The School will instruct photographers not to photograph your child and will manage this as sensitively as possible—for example, by arranging an alternative role or positioning a photograph without drawing unnecessary attention to the pupil. The aim is not to exclude a child from the underlying activity. Please contact the School if you wish to change your Engage preference so the practical implications can be discussed.

Facial matching, data protection and security

How is facial matching used?

Where a family chooses the wider service, Splaat uses secure matching technology to identify photographs in which their child appears and deliver them to that family's private gallery. This is used for identification and delivery; it is not the same as generative AI creating or altering a pupil's image.

What checks did the School carry out?

Before appointment, the School considered Splaat's safeguarding and data-protection arrangements, including image storage, access controls, retention and deletion, and response to a security incident. No online service can be described as entirely risk-free, but using one approved provider gives the School greater oversight than distributing images across several suppliers and general galleries. These arrangements will continue to be monitored.

How long are photographs retained?

Splaat operates defined retention periods rather than keeping photographs indefinitely. Its current privacy information explains the applicable periods and deletion arrangements. Parents may contact Splaat directly for details relating to their account or a particular image

What if Splaat changes ownership or ceases trading?

Children's photographs and personal data would remain protected by UK data-protection law; they could not simply become freely available or be used for an unrelated purpose. If Splaat ceased trading, data without a continuing lawful reason to be retained would need to be securely deleted, subject to limited legal or regulatory requirements. If the business transferred to another organisation, any transfer would have to be lawful and the new organisation would inherit data-protection responsibilities.

What should I do if I entered the wrong email address or have an account problem?

Contact team@splaatphoto.co.uk promptly and copy the School if you would like assistance. Splaat can correct account details and investigate access or delivery concerns. Never forward a gallery invitation to someone else.

Will AI be used to alter pupils' images?

Not as part of the current family-gallery service. A possible later phase may explore adapting images for public-facing School communications so fewer directly identifiable pupil photographs need to be published online. That would be subject to further safeguards and specific additional permissions before introduction.