

FORTIX AI

AI CCTV for Schools & Multi-Academy Trusts

The 2026 Buyer's Guide for Headteachers, MAT COOs, and Estates Leads

2026 Edition

fortixai.com

Why AI CCTV, and why now

UK schools and MATs face a widening safeguarding remit while budgets stay flat. AI video analytics extends existing CCTV: instead of recording for after-the-fact review, cameras generate real-time alerts on the incidents that matter — weapons, aggression, vaping, and out-of-hours intrusion — freeing staff to intervene early.

Six use cases mapped to safeguarding

- **Weapon and knife detection** at entrances, receptions, and gates.
- **Anti-social behaviour and fights** on corridors, playgrounds, and MUGAs.
- **Vape and smoke** detection in toilets (camera-free sensors) and on hotspots (camera-based).
- **Perimeter and out-of-hours intrusion** across gates, sports fields, and outbuildings.
- **Safeguarding zone monitoring** around primary gates, SEND areas, and staff-only zones.
- **Attendance and footfall analytics** for duty of care and dining/space planning.

Edge vs Cloud for education

Edge keeps video on the school network — only alerts leave site. Ideal where data protection is highest priority or where a single school has strong local IT. **Cloud** gives a MAT a single portal across every school, faster rollouts, and no hardware to manage locally. Most MATs settle on a hybrid.

12-point vendor evaluation checklist

- UK-hosted infrastructure with clear data flows
- Compatible with existing IP and ONVIF cameras
- Configurable privacy zones (classrooms, changing areas)
- Sub-3 second alerts to SLT, DSL, and site team
- Role-based access for safeguarding vs facilities
- Model accuracy transparent, tested on UK footage
- Audit trail for every alert and action taken
- Integrates with VMS, access control, and SIEM
- Edge and Cloud deployment options
- GDPR-aware DPIA templates provided
- Transparent pricing per camera, no lock-in
- UK-based support and onboarding

Building the business case

Frame savings on incident response time, safeguarding investigations, and out-of-hours guarding. Combine with grant-funded safeguarding capex where available. Pilot on one site, measure alert volume and staff response, then scale across the trust.

Sample MAT-wide rollout plan

- Weeks 1-2: pilot site chosen, DPIA drafted, cameras audited.
- Weeks 3-4: pilot live, 2-3 detection models enabled.
- Weeks 5-8: review alert quality with SLT and DSL.
- Weeks 9-16: roll out to next 4-6 schools on Cloud.
- Ongoing: quarterly review, add models as needs evolve.

Next steps

Book a 20-minute discovery call with Fortix AI. We'll review your existing CCTV, propose a pilot site, and share a fixed-scope pilot quote within 48 hours. Visit fortixai.com/proposal or reply to the email that sent you this guide.