



Online Safety Policy 2025-2026

Background

Schools must be highly aware of online safety and make both staff and students aware of the dangers of using electronic communication as well as its undoubted benefits. The DfE non-statutory guidance 'Teaching online safety in Schools' June 2019 is a helpful document for assisting teachers in the delivery of online safety education.

The DfE's statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (September 2025) outlines the responsibilities that Schools and colleges have in safeguarding children including reference to online safety.

The document requires Schools to ensure that:

- Students are taught about safeguarding, especially against online abuse such as bullying and sexual abuse by exploitation online.
- They have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place on the School's ICT systems so that no student can access harmful content. Whilst the DSL has a responsibility under KCSIE 2025 for filtering and monitoring, they are reliant on the School's IT Network Manager (currently Cloudfusion) to ensure that the School's filtering and monitoring systems are in place and in accordance with DfE guidance.
- They are careful that 'over blocking' does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.
- They develop methods whereby staff are alerted to changes in children's behaviour which could indicate that they may need help or protection from child protection issues via the internet or social media.
- Staff should use their judgement and act proportionately, which may include making a referral to the Channel programme under the School's prevent duty.
- To protect and educate students and staff in their use of technology.
- To have the appropriate mechanisms to intervene and support any incident where appropriate. The briefing paper states that the breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:
 - Content – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful material.
 - Contact – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users.
 - Conduct – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm.

Regarding the online safeguarding of students, inspection will include:

- Look for evidence that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place to protect students from potentially harmful online material.
- Discuss online safety in their discussions with students (covering topics such as online bullying and safe use of the internet and social media).

- Will investigate what the School does to educate students in online safety and how the School deals with issues when they arise.

Personal data held or processed by the School Under the General Data Protection Regulation Schools are responsible for higher standards of online safety and security of all personal data that they process. Inspectors will consider Schools' compliance with these regulations when conducting School inspections.

Introduction

Today's students are growing up in a world where online and offline life is almost seamless. This offers many opportunities but also creates challenges, risks and threats that need students need to be guided through. At Northleigh (the School), we try to equip our students with the knowledge to be able to use technology to their best advantage in a safe, considered, and respectful way.

Our School community recognises the importance of treating online safety as an ever-present serious safeguarding issue, and its teaching is a whole School issue and the responsibility of all staff. It is important to protect and educate both students and staff and have supportive mechanisms, policies, and protocols in place to protect and support the School community.

Inspections review online safety measures in Schools and there are numerous Acts of Parliament which relate when considering the safeguarding of both staff and students in Schools.

The safeguarding aspects of online safety are evident in all our ICT/safeguarding policies and procedures throughout the School. It is essential that this constantly developing area of technology is kept under review. It is also critical to ensure the safety and security of all personal data that the School holds and processes. Under the General Data Protection Regulation, the School is responsible for exacting standards of safety and security of personal data that may be processed. This policy links all the ICT, safeguarding and other policies and procedures to reflect how the School deals with online issues daily.

This policy is aimed at making the use of electronic communication at the School as safe as possible. This policy applies to all members of the School community (including staff, students, volunteers, parents/carers, visitors, community users) who have access to, and are users of, School ICT systems both in and out of School. The School's current Filtering Provider is DNS and current Monitoring Provider is Securus.

Action plan

The School will deal with any online safety incidents which arise by invoking this policy, other ICT policies and the associated behaviour policies which include dealing with anti-bullying. The School will, where known, inform parents/carers of incidents of inappropriate online behaviour that take place inside or out of School and take appropriate action. Any breaches of safety of personal data held by the School that may arise will be dealt with as soon as they come to light and the appropriate authorities notified.

The following sections outline:

- The roles and responsibilities for online safety of individuals and groups within the School, and how they will receive education/training to fulfil those roles.

- How the infrastructure is managed.
- How online safety is considered in the curriculum.
- The protocols on using digital images.
- The protocols on data protection.
- The protocols for handling electronic communication.
- Awareness of and dealing with inappropriate use of electronic media.

Roles and Responsibilities – Trustees

Filtering and monitoring are important parts of the online safety picture at the School and the trustees must ensure that appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place on the School's ICT resources in line with Department for Education guidelines. The trustees are reliant on the School's IT Network Manager (currently Cloudfusion) to ensure that School filtering and monitoring systems are in place. Moreover, the trustees must have a whole School approach to online safety, which includes policies and procedures on mobile technology use in the School. Some students have access to the internet through smart devices unfiltered by the School. The School's policy on confiscation of inappropriate items will be used if it is found that such devices are being use inappropriately on the premises.

- Trustees will ensure compliance with the Data Protection Act and GDPR.
- Trustees will ensure that students are taught about online safety, for example through personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) and through relationships and sex education (RSE).
- Trustees are responsible for the approval of the Online Safety Policy, for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy and for dealing with issues when they arise.
- Trustees receive online safety training/awareness.

Roles and Responsibilities – Head of Centre

- The Head of Centre is responsible for ensuring the online safety of members of the School community and will manage the education of students and training of staff in online safety and awareness of potential child protection issues in students.
- The Head of Centre will take appropriate action if it is felt that any student or member of staff of the School may be becoming radicalised or there are any child protection issues.
- The Head of Centre together with the Data Protection Officer, is responsible on a day-to-day basis for ensuring compliance with the Data Protection Act and GDPR for the processing of personal data.
- The Head of Centre together with the Network Manager (currently Cloudfusion) will be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of a serious online safety allegation being made against a member of staff, including the Head of Centre.
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006 empowers the Head of Centre to such extent as is reasonable, to regulate the behaviour of students when they are off the School site and empowers members of staff to impose disciplinary penalties for inappropriate behaviour. This is pertinent to incidents of cyber-bullying, or other online safety incidents covered by this policy, even though they may take place out of School, but are linked to membership of the School.

Roles and Responsibilities – Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead (SDSL)

- Leads and coordinates the works with key staff which consists of DSL's, Network Manager, IT Lead, Wellbeing Team and the Safeguarding Trustee.
- Takes day-to-day responsibility for online safety issues and has a leading role in establishing and reviewing the School's Online Safety Policy and other related policies, including the safe processing of personal data.
- Ensures that all members of staff are aware of the procedures that need to be followed in the event of an online safety incident taking place.
- Provides training and advice for staff to ensure that all teaching is carried out in an age-appropriate way and that staff are trained in how to stay safe online.
- Will access training and professional development as deemed appropriate or necessary in response to education and/or technological developments and by reviewing national and local guidance documents.
- Liaises with the local authority (LA) and reports to the Chair of Trustees any suspicions of students who may be becoming radicalised. The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead is trained in online safety issues and will be aware of the potential for serious child protection issues to arise from:
 - Sharing of personal data.
 - Access to illegal/inappropriate materials.
 - Inappropriate online contact with adults/strangers.
 - Potential or actual incidents of grooming.
 - Cyber-bullying.
 - Sexting.
 - Suspicions of radicalisation.

This is not an exhaustive list.

Roles and Responsibilities – Network Manager

The Network Manager is responsible for identifying and recommending:

- That the School's ICT infrastructure is secure and is not open to misuse or malicious attack.
- That appropriate filters and monitoring systems are in place, passing relevant information on to Safeguarding Lead and Wellbeing Team where necessary.
- That the School meets the online safety technical requirements outlined in the School policies and as deemed appropriate by DfE guidance (Digital and Technology Standards in Schools and Colleges (DfE) 2023).
- Users may only access the School's networks through a properly enforced password protection scheme.
- The Head of Centre and Trustees re informed of any breaches in the processing of personal data.
- The Head of Centre and Trustees are informed of any suspicions of students who may be becoming radicalised.

Roles and Responsibilities – Teaching and Support Staff

All staff receive online safety training and understand their responsibilities, as outlined in this policy. An audit of the online safety training needs of all staff will be carried out regularly. Training will be offered as a planned programme of formal online safety training available to all staff. All new staff will receive online safety training as part of their induction programme, ensuring that they fully understand the School's Online Safety Policy and Acceptable User Agreements.

The School ensures that all staff receive regular updated online safety training, at least every two years.

Teaching and support colleagues are responsible for ensuring that:

- They have an up-to-date awareness of online safety matters and of the current School's Online Safety Policy.
- They have read, understood, and signed the relevant Staff Internet Acceptable User Agreement as well as other related policies such as the Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct) and Child Protection and Safeguarding policies.
- They report any suspected misuse or problem to the SDSL/Head of Centre/Chair of Trustees as appropriate for investigation/action/sanction.
- They report any suspected breach of processing any personal data to the Head of Centre and/or Data Protection Officer/Chair of Trustees.
- Digital communications with students, which are conducted through Microsoft 365, are on a professional level in line with the Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct) Policy and only carried out using official School systems.
- Students understand and follow the School's Online Safety Policy and the Student Internet Acceptable User Agreement.
- Students have a good understanding of research skills and the need to avoid plagiarism and uphold copyright regulations.
- They monitor ICT activity in lessons and in extra-curricular and extended School activities.
- They are aware of online safety issues related to the use of mobile phones, cameras and hand-held devices and that they monitor their use and implement current School policies regarding these devices.
- They are aware of the online safety issues pertaining to electronic communication and social media usage.
- They are alert to, and report to the Head of Centre and/or DSL, any suspicions of students who may be becoming radicalised.
- In lessons where internet use is pre-planned, students should be guided to sites checked as suitable for their use and that processes are in place for dealing with any unsuitable material that is found in internet searches.

Roles and Responsibilities – Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers play a crucial role in ensuring that their children understand the need to use the internet/mobile devices in an appropriate way.

- Parents and carers will be responsible for endorsing (by signature) the Student Internet Acceptable Use Agreement.
- Research shows that many parents and carers do not fully understand the issues and are less experienced in the use of ICT than their children. The School will, therefore, take every opportunity to help parents/carers understand these issues through: – Sending information on internet safety and the importance of monitoring internet use at home to all parents/carers.

Online Safety in the Curriculum

Online safety is taught in specific areas of the curriculum but is also emphasised whenever students are using computers online. Staff always consider age-appropriateness when speaking of online safety and will be aware of those students who may be particularly vulnerable, e.g.

looked after children or those with special needs. The School may use external resources and external visitors to assist in lessons, but appropriate members of staff will check in advance to ensure that they will enhance lessons and that materials used are appropriate for them.

Relationships and Sex Education

Students are taught about:

- Online safety and harm.
- Positive, healthy, and respectful relationships online.
- The effects of their online actions.
- How to recognise and show respectful behaviour online. Computing in the curriculum
- Principles of online safety.
- Where to obtain help and support if they are concerned about any online content or contact.

Computing in the Curriculum

- Principles of online safety.
- Where to obtain help and support if they are concerned about any online content or contact.

Life Skills in the Curriculum

- Media literacy online.
- Distinguishing fact from fiction online.

Online Safety throughout the Curriculum

Key online safety messages will be reinforced as part of a planned programme of personal development, including:

- How to evaluate what they see online – to be critically aware of the materials/content they access online and be guided to validate the accuracy of information.
- How to recognise persuasion techniques.
- How to recognise acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour – to understand the need for the acceptable computer usage agreement and to adopt safe and responsible use of ICT, the internet, and mobile devices both within and outside School.
- How to identify online risks.
- How and when to seek support.
- To recognise how their data is taken and used from them daily across all their devices and how it is in their best interests to maintain a positive digital presence.
- To understand that free services are seldom 'free' and evaluate if these are services, they want to use at all.
- The need to acknowledge the source of any information used and to respect copyright when using material accessed on the internet. Where students are allowed to search the internet freely, e.g. using search engines, staff are vigilant in monitoring the content of the websites the students visit.

It is accepted that from time-to-time, for good educational reasons, students may need to research topics (e.g. racism, drugs, and discrimination) that would normally result in internet searches being flagged. In such a situation, staff should notify the IT Lead that this is happening so that any safeguarding alerts will not be escalated.

Management of Infrastructure

The School will be responsible for ensuring that the School infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible, and that policies and procedures approved within this policy are implemented. The School will also ensure that the relevant people will be effective in carrying out their online safety responsibilities:

- Personal data is held and processed in compliance with the Data Protection Act and GDPR. Personal data must not be sent over the internet or taken off the School site unless safely encrypted or otherwise secured.
- Servers, wireless systems, and cabling will be securely located and physical access restricted.
- All users will have clearly defined access rights to School ICT systems appropriate to their role. Access rights available to groups of users are given and monitored by the Network Manager.
- Access to areas where data is stored will only be granted to those with a valid reason to do so. Access to sensitive areas will only be given after being granted permission by the Head of Centre.
- All users will be provided with a username and password by the Network Manager.
- In the event of a serious security incident, the police may request, and will be allowed access to, passwords used for encryption.
- Users are made responsible for the security of their username and password, must not allow other users to access the systems using their log on details and must immediately report any suspicion or evidence that there has been a breach of security.
- Any filtering issues should be reported immediately to the Network Manager.
- School ICT technical staff regularly monitor and record the activity of users on the School ICT systems.
- Appropriate security measures are in place to protect the servers, firewalls, routers, wireless systems, workstations, handheld devices etc from accidental or malicious attempts which might threaten the security of the School systems and data.
- Only the School's employees are allowed to use School owned laptops and/or any other School owned devices that may be used out of School, e.g. School mobile phones
- The School infrastructure and individual workstations are protected by up-to-date virus software.

Protocols on Using Digital and Video Images

- When using digital images, staff inform and educate students about the risks associated with taking, using, sharing, publishing, and distributing images. They recognise the risks attached to publishing their own images on the internet, e.g. on social networking sites.
- If any incidents come to light about 'sexting', i.e. the sharing of sexual images of students under the age of 18, the Designated Safeguarding Lead should be advised in the first instance.
- Staff are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow School policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images.
- Staff and Students are allowed to take digital/video images to support educational aims, but must follow School policies concerning the sharing, distribution and publication of those images. Permissions for the use of images is coordinated by our Compliance Officer. Staff

should check permissions before distributing photos. Any images should only be stored on School equipment. Personal equipment, if used, should only store images for as long as is necessary to capture and then upload to the School systems, it should then be promptly deleted from the personal device.

- Photographs published on the website, or elsewhere, that include students will be selected carefully and will comply with good practice guidance on the use of such images. Written permission from parents or carers will be obtained, and the student where appropriate.

Personal data will be recorded, processed, transferred, and made available according to the Data Protection Act and in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation which state that personal data must be:

- Fairly and lawfully processed.
- Processed for limited purposes.
- Adequate, relevant, and not excessive.
- Accurate.
- Kept no longer than is necessary.
- Processed in accordance with the data subject's rights.
- Secure.
- Only transferred to others with adequate protection.

Staff will ensure that they comply with our Information Security Policy by:

- Taking care at all times to ensure the safe keeping of personal data, minimising the risk of its loss or misuse.
- Using personal data only on secure password protected computers and other devices and ensuring that they are properly 'logged-off' at the end of any session in which they are using personal data.
- Transferring data using encryption and secure password protected devices.
- Laptops/PC's should be locked if left unattended.

Protocols for Handling Electronic Communications

When using communication technologies, the School considers the following as good practice:

- The official School email service may be regarded as safe and secure and is monitored.
- Users need to be aware that email communications may be monitored.
- Users will be expected to know and understand School policies on email, teams chat, social media (and other relevant electronic devices protocols).
- Users must immediately report, to the nominated person, in accordance with the School policy, the receipt of any email or Teams communications that makes them feel uncomfortable, is offensive, threatening or bullying in nature. Users must not respond to any such email or teams chat but must follow the procedures in the Staff Behaviour (Code of Conduct) Policy, Staff Internet Acceptable Use Agreement and Student Internet Acceptable Use Agreement.
- The School operates a CCTV system, and recordings are kept for 30 days to ensure the safety and wellbeing, access to the footage is password protected.
- Any digital communication between staff and students or parents/carers (email, teams chat etc) must be professional in tone and content.

Unsuitable/Inappropriate Activities

Certain activities are referred to in the Acceptable Computer Usage agreements as being inappropriate in a School context and users must not engage in these activities in School or outside School when using School equipment or systems. The School policies on child protection, safeguarding and online safety must be followed if any apparent, suspected, or actual misuse appears to involve illegal or inappropriate activities, such as:

- Child sexual abuse images.
- Adult material which potentially breaches the Obscene Publications Act.
- Criminally racist material.
- Other criminal conduct, activity, or materials.
- Potential radicalisation of students.

Should any serious online safety incidents take place, the appropriate external authorities will be informed, e.g. Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), police etc or, for personal data breaches, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).

Review Date: September 2026

Appendix 1

The Online Safety Act 2024

The Act provides a new regulatory framework to make the use of internet services safer for individuals in the UK. It requires service providers to identify, mitigate and manage the risks of harm from content and activity that is illegal or harmful to children and gives new powers to the UK's communication regulator, Ofcom.

This means that online services must be designed and operated so that:

A higher standard of protection is provided for children than for adults.

Users' rights to freedom of expression and privacy are protected.

Transparency and accountability are provided in relation to those services.

Some services will be exempt from the Online Safety Act requirements, including new websites, some retail services, some services used internally by businesses and email services.

Platforms hosting online services will be required to remove content including:

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Controlling or Coercive Behaviour
- Cyberbullying
- Extreme Sexual Violence
- Extreme Violence against Animals or People
- Fraud
- Hate Crime and Speech
- Inciting Violence
- Illegal Immigration and People Smuggling
- Promoting or Facilitating Suicide
- Promoting Self-Harm
- Revenge Porn
- Selling Illegal Drugs or Weapons
- Sexual Exploitation
- Terrorism

Some content, while not illegal, may be harmful or age inappropriate for children. Therefore, online platforms are required to protect children from:

- Pornographic Content
- Online Abuse
- Cyberbullying and Online Harassment
- Promotion of Topics such as Suicide, Self-Harm or Eating Disorders

The Online Safety Act protects children by imposing a duty on user-to-user service providers to:

- Remove harmful content or ensuring that it does not appear in the first place
- Enforce age limits and age-checking measures so that children under the age limit cannot have social media profiles

- Ensure that risks and dangers to children's safety are more transparent, including publishing risk assessments
- Assist parents by making it easier to monitor children's online activities, with clear and accessible ways to report problems

What is a user-to-user service? These allow users to generate, upload or share content that other users might see or read – whether publicly or privately. These services include social media platforms, video sharing platforms, dating services and peer to peer services.

A service may still be user to user service even if only a small bit of it allows user-generated content to be shared, for example, if it has an online forum where users can interact and post.

A service with the ability to send direct messages to others – whether a dedicated instant messaging service or a website with user message functionality – will also be classed as a user-to-user service.

News sites and other websites which contain content but without the ability for users to post their own control would not fall within the definition of user-to-user services.

The Online Safety Act also brings in some new laws, including offences of:

- Epilepsy Trolling – sending flashing images with the intention of causing a fit
- Cyber Flashing – flashing indecent images within a message
- Sharing Intimate Images Online – including 'deepfake' pornography (pornographic images or videos using AI with the faces of real people who have never met)

Appendix 2

Filtering and Monitoring Guidance

Schools and colleges should provide a safe environment to learn and work, including when online. Filtering and monitoring are both important parts of safeguarding students and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

Keeping Children Safe in Education states, **'it is essential that children are safeguarded from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. An effective whole School and college approach to online safety empowers a School or college to protect and educate pupils, students, and staff in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate.'**

Part of this approach is to ensure that effective filtering and monitoring occur. KSCiE now states *that DSLs takes responsibility for F&M, but this can only occur with IT support, so the day to day management of filtering and monitoring systems requires the specialist knowledge of both safeguarding and IT staff to be effective.*

Filtering

The filtering of internet content provides an important means of preventing users from accessing material that is illegal or is inappropriate in an educational context.

The filtering system cannot, however, provide a 100% guarantee that it will do so, as online content changes dynamically and new technologies are constantly being developed. It is also noted in KCSiE that, **'whilst it is essential that governing bodies and proprietors ensure that appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place, they should be careful that "over blocking" does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regard to online teaching and safeguarding'**.

It is important, therefore, to understand that filtering is only one element in a larger strategy for online safety and acceptable use.

Monitoring

Monitoring user activity on School devices is an important part of providing a safe environment for students and staff. Unlike filtering, it does not stop users from accessing material through internet searches or software. Monitoring allows leaders to review user activity on School devices. For monitoring to be effective it must pick up incidents urgently, usually through alerts or observations, allowing leaders to take prompt action and record the outcome.

Requirements of Online Filtering and Monitoring

The School must ensure that internet systems are robust and appropriate for use. The School is required to ensure they meet the 'Digital and Technology Standards in Schools and Colleges' (DfE 2023). Both DSL and IT Lead should be aware of this document. The completion of the checklist in this document will evidence that each School is fulfilling its duties in ensuring an effective monitoring and filtering system is in place. This will then ensure all leaders can

consider any risk that both children and staff may encounter online. The main aspects included in the standards are as follows:

- a) Identify and roles and responsibilities.
- b) Review Filtering and Monitoring annually.
- c) Filtering system should block out inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning.
- d) Effective monitoring strategies should be in place that meet the safeguarding needs of the School.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees are responsible for ensuring that monitoring and filtering is implemented within each School.

Head of Centre

Responsible for ensuring these standards are met and:

- will support the Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL's) with the implementation of this system.
- documenting decisions on what is blocked or allowed and why.
- reviewing the effectiveness of provision.
- overseeing reports.

Ensure that all staff:

- understand their role.
- are appropriately trained.
- follow policies, processes and procedures.
- act on reports and concerns.
- sign a Safeguarding Declaration each year which includes adherence to our Acceptable Use Policy.

Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL's)

Lead responsibility for safeguarding and online safety, which should include overseeing and acting on:

- filtering and monitoring reports.
- safeguarding concerns.
- checks to filtering and monitoring systems.
- ensuring regular communications occur between School and IT service provider, which may include training.

External Service Provider

Responsibility for:

- maintaining filtering and monitoring technical systems.
- ensuring system provides monitoring reports to safeguarding staff.
- completing actions following concerns or checks to technical systems.

Other Staff

Other staff must ensure that they follow the School's policy regarding appropriate use of the internet and that they use the School reporting mechanisms to alert leaders to any breaches in filtering and monitoring systems.

Review of Filtering and Monitoring System

To understand and evaluate the changing needs and potential risks of your School, Schools should review filtering and monitoring provision, at least annually.

Additional ongoing checks to filtering and monitoring should also be performed when:

- a safeguarding risk is identified.
- there is a change in working practice, like remote access or BYOD (bring your own device).
- new technology is introduced.

The review should ensure that leaders and trustees understand:

- the risk profile of students, including their age range, students with special educational needs and disability (SEND), pupils with English as an additional language (EAL).
- what filtering system currently blocks or allows and why.
- any outside safeguarding influences, such as county lines.
- any relevant safeguarding reports.
- the digital resilience of students.
- teaching requirements, for example, RHSE and PSHE curriculum.
- the specific use of chosen technologies, including Bring Your Own Device (BYOD).
- what related safeguarding or technology policies in place.
- what checks are currently taking place and how resulting actions are handled.

The review should be conducted by members of the senior leadership team, the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), and the IT Lead and involve the responsible trustee.

Filtering System

The School's filtering provider must be:

- a member of Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).
- signed up to Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit list (CTIRU).
- blocking access to illegal content including child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

If the filtering provision is procured with a broadband service, it needs to meet the needs of the relevant School.

The system should:

- be operational and up to date.
- be applied to all:
 - o users, including guest accounts.
 - o School owned devices.
 - o devices using the School broadband connection.
 - o mobile and app use as well as web browser content.
- filter all internet feeds, including any backup connections.
- be age and ability appropriate for the users and be suitable for educational settings.
- handle multilingual web content (where appropriate system exists), images, common misspellings and abbreviations.

Updated 29.01.2026

- identify technologies and techniques that allow users to get around the filtering such as VPNs and proxy services and block them.
- provide alerts when any web content has been blocked.

The filtering systems should allow leaders to identify:

- device name or ID, IP address, and where possible, the individual.
- the time and date of attempted access.
- the search term or content being blocked.

As stated in KCSiE, South West Grid for Learning (swgfl.org.uk) has created a tool to check whether the School's filtering provider is signed up to relevant lists (CSA content, Sexual Content, Terrorist content, Your Internet Connection Blocks Child Abuse & Terrorist Content).

<http://testfiltering.com>

Monitoring System

DfE Keeping Children Safe in Education requires Schools to have "appropriate monitoring". The School must employ a monitoring strategy to ensure to minimise safeguarding risks on internet connected devices and may include some/all of those listed below. Technical monitoring systems do not stop unsafe activities on a device or online, so staff should:

- provide effective supervision, including physically monitoring watching screens of users, either actual screen or with device management software.
- take steps to maintain awareness of how devices are being used by pupils.
- report any safeguarding concerns to one of the DSL's.
- use log files to monitor internet traffic and web access.
- ensure individual devices are monitored through software or third-party services.

Device monitoring can be managed by IT staff or third-party providers, who need to:

- make sure monitoring systems are working as expected, including for any mobile or app technologies if used.
- provide reporting on pupil device activity.
- receive safeguarding training including online safety.
- record and report safeguarding concerns to one of the DSL's.

Leaders and IT Lead must make sure that:

- monitoring data is received in a format that staff, especially safeguarding staff, can understand.
- users are identifiable to the School, so concerns can be traced back to an individual, including guest accounts.

In addition, the following are useful resources and sources of information both statutory and for guidance that Schools may wish to access:

- Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring - UK Safer Internet Centre
- Data protection impact assessments | ICO
- Filtering and Monitoring | SWGfL
- Our Members (iwf.org.uk)
- Keeping children safe in education 2025 (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- Meeting digital and technology standards in Schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for Schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Updated 29.01.2026

- Meeting digital and technology standards in Schools and colleges - Cyber security standards for Schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

“This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe in line with the Equality Act 2010. It does not have an adverse effect on race, gender or disability equality.”