

Filtering and Monitoring Policy

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Why do we exist?

Provide students the opportunity to re-engage in learning. Champion individual pathways to success, fostering confidence, building resilience and developing the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in their next steps of life.

How do we behave?

Work hard. Respect. Grow

What do we do?

We establish high-performing alternative provisions, which maximise attainment in core areas, value diversity, develop character and build cultural capital.

How Will Students Thrive?

Attendance: Students guided and supported to attend Thrive for full time education.

Curriculum: Access a curriculum which matches abilities of our learners.

Pathways: Aim to provide students with a successful pathway back to mainstream education and further careers.

What Is Filtering and Monitoring?

Filtering and monitoring systems are used to keep pupils safe when using school IT systems.

- Filtering Systems block access to harmful sites and content
- Monitoring Systems identify when a user accesses or searches for harmful content; alerts school to respond

No system is 100% effective; must be part of broader safeguarding procedures.

What staff need to know about filtering and monitoring

All staff should be clear on:

The expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring as part of their safeguarding training. For example, part of their role may be to monitor what is on pupils' screens

How to report safeguarding and technical concerns, such as if:

- They witness or suspect unsuitable material has been accessed
- They are able to access unsuitable material
- They are teaching topics that could create unusual activity on the filtering logs
- There is failure in the software or abuse of the system
- There are perceived unreasonable restrictions that affect teaching and learning or administrative tasks
- They notice abbreviations or misspellings that allow access to restricted material

Senior leaders and all relevant staff need to be aware of and understand:

- What provisions the school has in place and how to manage these provisions effectively
- How to escalate concerns when they identify them

They are also responsible for:

- Buying-in the filtering and monitoring system the school uses
- Documenting what is blocked or allowed, and why
- Reviewing the effectiveness of your provision, making sure that incidents are urgently picked up, acted on and outcomes are recorded
- Overseeing reports
- Making sure staff are trained appropriately and understand their role

Designated safeguarding lead (DSL)

The DSL should take lead responsibility for online safety, including understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place - this is part of their role in taking the lead responsibility for safeguarding including:

- Overseeing filtering/monitoring reports
- Acting on safeguarding concerns
- System checks

What the director of ICT needs to do

The Director of ICT should:

- Assign roles/responsibilities for filtering/monitoring
- Review provision annually
- Block harmful content without disrupting learning
- Ensure monitoring strategies meet safeguarding needs