

Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges (March 2023)
Summary for schools – KCSIE 2023 Update

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Definitions	
Filtering	Ensures children are safe when accessing the internet, limits children’s exposures to the risks of seeing inappropriate materials, including terrorist and extremist material. There is balance to be had in relation to overblocking so that children cannot learn how to access and manage risk for themselves. Filtering applies across all online devices, including mobile devices. No system can be 100% effective.
Monitoring	Monitoring technology identifies when a user access or searches for certain types of harmful online content. Content that has been categorised and highlighted to the school. The school can then intervene and act to safeguard the child.
Standards	
<p>Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges - Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p><i>Note: schools should already be meeting these standards</i></p>	
1. You should identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage your filtering and monitoring systems	Identified groups with responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SLT - Staff - DSL and DDSLs - Technical staff - Trustees/governors - Internet service providers.
2. You should review your filtering and monitoring provision at least annually	Schools should identify current provision, gaps and needs of staff and pupils, this covers a range of issues, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - risks of the profile of your pupils - school’s filtering systems - digital resilience of pupils - teaching requirements, eg RSE and PHSE - use of chosen technologies including BOYD - school policies - what is in place and how are checks handled.
3. Your filtering system should block harmful and inappropriate content, without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning	The provision of a safe environment for pupils to learn, coupled with understanding of the filtering system, its limitations and how risk is mitigated. The filtering system should not unreasonably impact teaching or school administration or restrict pupils for learning how to assess and manage risk. Other points to consider include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Filtering provider is a member of IWF Eliminating Child Sexual Abuse Online – Internet Watch Foundation (iwf.org.uk) - filtering system is up-to-date, operational and applied to all users, school owned devices and devices using school broadband connections - Filtering system should be age and ability appropriate, handle multi-lingual web content, common misspellings and abbreviations - identify techniques that allow users to get round school systems

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide alerts when any web content has been blocked - check filtering will work on mobile devices and apps - identify sources, time/date of attempted access and search term or content being blocked - staff should understand the filtering systems, when and how to report and be alert to any unreasonable restrictions that may affect their teaching, notice any misspellings or abbreviations that circumvent filtering.
<p>4. You should have effective monitoring strategies that meet the safeguarding needs of your school or college</p>	<p>Have a variety of monitoring strategies in place to minimise safeguarding risks on internet connected devices and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physically monitoring by staff watching screens of users - live supervision by staff on a console with device management software - network monitoring using log files of internet traffic and web access - individual device monitoring through software or third-party services . <p>The DSL is expected to take the responsibility of any safeguarding/child protection matters picked up through monitoring.</p> <p>Monitoring systems should be able to identify the user(s) concerned, including guest account.</p> <p>Monitoring system should be able to identify and alert DSL to any behaviour associated with the 4 areas of online safety risk set out in KCSIE – content, conduct, contact and commerce.</p>
<p>Advice and references: KCSIE 2023 paragraphs 141 – 143 – filtering and monitoring KCSIE 2023 paragraph 136 – four areas of online safety risk UKSIC: Approved advice Appropriate Filtering and Monitoring - UK Safer Internet Centre SWfL: Testing tool to check on effectiveness of filtering system Check Your Internet Connection Blocks Child Abuse & Terrorist Content (swgfl.org.uk)</p>	