

## Filtering and monitoring

### What is filtering and monitoring?

Filtering and monitoring systems are used to keep pupils safe when using your school's IT system.

- Filtering systems: block access to harmful sites and content.
- Monitoring systems: identify when a user accesses or searches for certain types of harmful content on school and college devices (it doesn't stop someone accessing it). Your school is then alerted to any concerning content so you can intervene and respond.

No filtering and monitoring system is 100% effective, so you need to use it alongside your existing safeguarding systems and procedures.

### Expectations, roles and responsibilities

<p><b>Governing bodies and proprietors</b></p>	<p>Overall strategic responsibility for filtering and monitoring and need assurance that the standards are being met. They should identify and assign:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a member of the senior leadership team and a governor, to be responsible for ensuring these standards are met</li> <li>• the roles and responsibilities of staff and third parties, for example, external service providers</li> <li>• Ensure that the child protection policy includes how your school approaches filtering and monitoring on school devices and school networks</li> </ul>
<p><b>Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)</b></p>	<p>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. Day to day management of filtering and monitoring systems requires the specialist knowledge of both safeguarding and IT staff to be effective. The DSL should work closely together with IT service providers to meet the needs of your setting. Your IT service provider may be a staff technician or an external service provider.</p>
<p><b>Senior Leadership Team</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• procuring filtering and monitoring systems</li> <li>• documenting decisions on what is blocked or allowed and why</li> <li>• reviewing the effectiveness of your provision</li> <li>• overseeing reports</li> <li>• Speak to your IT lead about what your school is already doing to filter and monitor harmful online content.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Check that your current filtering and monitoring system blocks harmful and inappropriate content</a> without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning, and what you'll do if it doesn't</li> <li>• Schedule an annual review meeting with your safeguarding and IT teams, (and the responsible governor) to keep on top of your provision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Teachers</b></p>	<p>Should understand 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's on pupils' screens.</p> <p>Need to report safeguarding and technical concerns, such as if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They witness or suspect unsuitable material has been accessed</li> <li>○ They are able to access unsuitable material</li> <li>○ They are teaching topics that could create unusual activity on the filtering logs</li> <li>○ There is failure in the software or abuse of the system</li> <li>○ There are perceived unreasonable restrictions that affect teaching and learning or administrative tasks</li> <li>○ They notice abbreviations or misspellings that allow access to restricted material</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support staff</b></p>	<p>Need to report safeguarding and technical concerns, such as if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ They witness or suspect unsuitable material has been accessed</li> <li>○ They are able to access unsuitable material</li> <li>○ They are teaching topics that could create unusual activity on the filtering logs</li> <li>○ There is failure in the software or abuse of the system</li> <li>○ There are perceived unreasonable restrictions that affect teaching and learning or administrative tasks</li> <li>○ They notice abbreviations or misspellings that allow access to restricted material</li> </ul>
<p><b>IT Service provider</b></p> <p><i>Add in name</i></p>	<p>Device monitoring can be managed by IT staff or third party providers, who need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make sure monitoring systems are working as expected</li> <li>• provide reporting on pupil device activity</li> <li>• receive safeguarding training including online safety</li> <li>• record and report safeguarding concerns to the DSL</li> </ul>