

Safeguarding Friday Focus: Filtering & Monitoring

Catherine Goodyear (Assistant Headteacher, Strategic Safeguarding Lead) has lead responsibility for online safety.

What is filtering? Filtering systems block access to harmful websites and content. The school employs London Grid for Learning (LGFL) to do this for us. LGFL monitors several watch lists (including Internet Watch Foundation, Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit, Child Sexual Abuse Material) and adjusts access accordingly on a daily basis.

What do monitoring systems do?

- Identify when someone searches for or accesses certain types of harmful online content on school devices and networks
- Identify who is searching for or accessing the harmful content & alerts the school about it so we can intervene and respond

The school has SECURUS to monitor the usage of all school IT equipment. We also have Net Support to help staff monitor and control students' use of computers in the classroom.

Catherine Goodyear and Georgia Matson get email alerts when something of concern happens regarding students; if the matter is serious (e.g. threats to kill, suicide) the Co-DSLs receive a telephone call too. We get monthly reports showing trends and patterns. The most common misuse is students typing in swear words and racist terms.

Peter Collins monitors the staff usage aspect of SECURUS.

We're all responsible for filtering and monitoring. No filtering and monitoring software is perfect:

- It might not be aware of all the websites that contain inappropriate content
- Abbreviations or misspellings in a search engine may slip past the software
- Inappropriate content may be found on websites previously considered 'safe'

You can help to make sure the internet is used appropriately by:

- Monitoring what pupils are accessing on devices during school hours (e.g. by looking at their screens or using Net Support)
- Alerting **Safeguarding and ICT Helpdesk** if you become aware that content is not being filtered or if you become aware that a student has accessed something they shouldn't have been able to see.

Inappropriate content includes:

Sites that promote self-harm, suicide and/or eating disorders
Sites that promote drugs or substance abuse
Gambling sites
Pornography
Illegal content (e.g. child sexual abuse)

Discriminatory content (e.g. sexist, racist or homophobic content)
Extremist content (e.g. the promotion of terrorism)
Malware and/or hacking software
Pirated material (copyright theft)
Violent material

How to raise questions or concerns. Our filtering and monitoring system is designed to protect students online. It shouldn't have an impact on teaching and learning or school administration.

Contact ICT Helpdesk & Safeguarding if you and/or students:

- Cannot access content that you need to carry out your work
- Have access to content that should be blocked

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