



Filtering and Monitoring

Schools should provide a safe environment for children to learn and work, including online. This is in order to meet the safeguarding obligations, as laid down by the DfE and contained in the statutory guidance for schools and colleges on safeguarding children, "Keeping Children Safe in Education." Filtering and monitoring are both important parts of safeguarding pupils and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

Filtering

An active and well managed filtering system is an important part of providing a safe environment for pupils to learn. To ensure that our school meets the standard required, we pay an annual subscription to "Surf Protect" from Exa Education.



Surf Protect implements appropriate filtering that provides safe learning experiences for our pupils and fulfils the DfE's statutory requirements for schools and colleges. This includes filtering content linked to:

Harmful and inappropriate content

Illegal child sexual abuse material

Unlawful terrorist content

Adult content

The filtering system is applied to all school owned devices, all users (including guests) and all devices using the school broadband connection.

However, no filtering system can be 100% effective, so effective monitoring is also an essential part of keeping children safe.

Monitoring

In order to monitor any content that is being accessed by any of our school community, school pays an annual subscription to Securus.



The Securus software monitors all devices attached to our network against both their proprietary library of words and phrases and, if required, our own school customised library.

Should any online/offline activity in applications and browsers identify any violation against these libraries, a screenshot called a 'capture' is taken. The screen 'capture' includes information about what word or phrase has appeared on the screen, what category it comes under, which user was logged onto the device and the date and time that the 'capture' was taken. All captures are sent to the Securus cloud dashboard, where they are monitored regularly by the designated safeguarding lead.