

Filtering and monitoring

Learn about our school's filtering and monitoring systems and how you can help to keep students safe online. Know what to do if you have concerns about the content that students are accessing.

What is filtering and monitoring?

Filtering systems block access to harmful websites and content.

Monitoring systems:

- Identify when someone searches for or accesses certain types of harmful online content on school devices
 - Identify who is searching for or accessing the harmful content
 - Alerts the school about it so we can intervene and respond
 - **Don't** block access to harmful content
-

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 considered 'safe' e.g. youtube

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

- Monitoring what students are accessing on devices during school hours (e.g. by looking at their screens when using computers during lessons)
- Alerting **Franck Lavie (DSL)** if you become aware that content is not being filtered

If you have concerns about what a student is accessing online, always raise it with **Franck Lavie (DSL) and complete a CPOMS**.

Inappropriate content includes:

- Illegal content (e.g. child sexual abuse)
 - Discriminatory content (e.g. sexist, racist or homophobic content)
 - Sites that promote drugs or substance abuse
 - Extremist content (e.g. the promotion of terrorism)
 - Gambling sites
 - Malware and/or hacking software
-

- Pornography
 - Pirated material (copyright theft)
 - Sites that promote self-harm, suicide and/or eating disorders
 - Violent material
-

What systems do we use?

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2024 states that all schools should have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place.

We have the following systems in place:

- Our overall internet and firewall are maintained by **Coventry City Council** and they have their own filtering called **Smoothwall**.
- On-premises, we use and maintain **Impero** and **Lightspeed** to filter and monitor the systems. This filters words and websites by working with IWF (Internet Watch Foundation).
- We can also add our own custom-blocked words or websites and also allow websites which are safe to access.
- The lightspeed system also works away from the school network as this is logged and reported in the cloud (online system).
- Impero is checked daily and Lightspeed is checked once a week by the IT admin.

Any purposely inappropriate use of the system is reported to Franck Lavie where a Computer Security Incident Form is filled in and actioned.

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 **IT Admin** if you and/or students:

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

If you become aware of pupils accessing concerning content at any time, report this to **Franck Lavie (DSL)** as soon as possible.

Sources

This factsheet was produced by [The Key Safeguarding: thekeyssupport.com/safeguarding](https://thekeyssupport.com/safeguarding)

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education, GOV.UK – Department for Education](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>
- [Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges, GOV.UK – Department for Education](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filtering-and-monitoring-standards-for-schools-and-colleges)
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filtering-and-monitoring-standards-for-schools-and-colleges>
- [Appropriate filtering, UK Safer Internet Centre](https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/teachers-and-school-staff/appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring/appropriate-filtering)
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/teachers-and-school-staff/appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring/appropriate-filtering>
- [Appropriate monitoring, UK Safer Internet Centre](https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/teachers-and-school-staff/appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring/appropriate-monitoring)
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/teachers-and-school-staff/appropriate-filtering-and-monitoring/appropriate-monitoring>