



Archbishop Cranmer C of E Academy

'Striving for life in all its fullness' John 10:10

Monitoring and Filtering Standard 2023-2024

Introduction:

Archbishop Cranmer CE Primary Academy recognises the paramount importance of ensuring the safety of children when accessing the internet within the school environment. To meet the regulatory requirements of schools (and registered childcare providers) in England and Wales, as stipulated by the Revised Prevent Duty Guidance, it is imperative to establish appropriate levels of filtering and monitoring. This standard highlights our school's monitoring and filtering strategies in alignment with the Department for Education's statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education, including the use of risk assessments, system features, and checks to ensure that monitoring and filtering are effective.

1. Regulatory Framework:

Schools in England and Wales are mandated to safeguard children from exposure to terrorist and extremist material while using the internet in school. This obligation includes implementing suitable filtering and monitoring measures. Schools must also assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism or supporting extremist ideas that align with terrorist ideologies.

2. Self-Review Systems:

To assist us in evaluating our online safety policies and practices, we use the 360-degree safe self-audit tool.

3. Filtering and Monitoring Standards:

The Department for Education has issued Filtering and Monitoring Standards in March 2023 to guide schools and colleges in England. These standards cover filtering and monitoring aspects, role assignments, and the requirement for annual reviews.

4. Data Protection and Integration:

Due to the significant personal data involved in monitoring solutions, we are continually conducting a data protection impact assessment. We integrate the chosen monitoring strategy within organisational policies and data sharing agreements.

Monitoring Strategies:

We were supported by our IT provider when selecting an appropriate monitoring strategy which was informed by a risk assessment and specific circumstances. We have reviewed and refined relevant policies whilst implementing a monitoring strategy.

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1. Physical Monitoring:

Physical monitoring involves direct supervision of children on a one-to-one ratio while using technology. This method may be suitable for low-risk scenarios but has limitations, including resource intensity and adaptability to larger groups or mobile device usage.

2. Internet and Web Access Monitoring:

Some Internet Service Providers or filtering providers offer logfile information that details website access and search term usage. Regular monitoring of this information can help identify and address issues concerning access or searches.

3. Active/Pro-active Technology Monitoring Services:

Higher-risk situations may necessitate the use of Active or Pro-active monitoring technologies that actively monitor device usage through keywords and other indicators.

Monitoring Content:

Regardless of the monitoring strategy, it is essential to ensure that the system or strategy covers specific content categories, including illegal content, bullying, child sexual exploitation, discrimination, drugs/substance abuse, extremism, gambling, pornography, self-harm, violence, and suicide.

Monitoring Strategy/System Features:

Monitoring systems align with school policies and adhere to specific principles, including age-appropriateness, auditability, BYOD capability, data retention policies, device coverage, flexibility, group/multi-site management, harmful image detection, impact assessment, monitoring policy communication, multiple language support, prioritisation of alerts, remote monitoring, and reporting.

Staff Capacity and Capability:

Monitoring systems require capable and competent staff with sufficient capacity to manage them effectively. The responsibility for monitoring and filtering lies with the school leadership/governors and Designated Safeguarding Lead. All staff are given adequate training in line with any changes to KCSIE.

Risk Assessment:

Annual online safety risk assessments will be conducted and documented, assessing risks for both children and staff. These assessments will include mitigating actions and activities.

Checks and Documentation:

Regular checks of filtering and monitoring systems will be conducted and documented, with specific attention to significant changes, incidents, and at least annual assessments. These checks should include details about device, location, user, results, and actions taken.

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Monitoring on Mobile Devices:

Schools should ensure that monitoring systems work effectively on all devices, including mobile devices. Auditing mobile device estates, managing applications, and testing monitoring solutions on mobile devices are crucial steps to achieve this.

Conclusion:

Archbishop Cranmer CE Primary Academy acknowledges the importance of robust monitoring and filtering to ensure the safety of children when accessing the internet. This standard provides a comprehensive framework to meet regulatory requirements, perform risk assessments, and maintain effective monitoring and filtering systems. The school is committed to safeguarding children online, in line with the broader safeguarding approach, and will actively implement and review these standards to ensure their effectiveness.

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