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| Policy Title:                | <b>Online Safety: Filtering and Monitoring Arrangements Statement</b>                       |
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| Member of Staff Responsible: | Chief Executive Officer                                                                     |
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| Change Record |          |                                                  |
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| Version       | Date     | Description                                      |
| 1.1           | 11/03/24 | New schools added                                |
| 1.2           | 03/02/25 | Amendments to Section 1 and 3                    |
| 1.3           | 16/03/26 | Update to software at Highfields Primary Academy |
| 1.4           |          |                                                  |

## ONLINE SAFETY: FILTERING AND MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

### 1. Introduction

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025 lays out that Governors and Trustees have a responsibility to ensure that they secure online safety for children in their schools through appropriate monitoring and filtering arrangements:

*“Whilst considering their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn, governing bodies and proprietors should be doing all that they reasonably can to limit children’s exposure to risks from the school’s or college’s IT systems. As part of this process, governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that their school or college have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and regularly review their effectiveness. They should ensure that the leadership team and relevant staff have an awareness and understanding of the provisions in place and manage them effectively and know how to escalate concerns when identified.” KCSIE 2025*

And as a Trust, we recognise that:

- Technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues affecting young people.
- Online threats to childrens’ safety and wellbeing are widespread, increasing in number, increasing in sophistication and constantly evolving.
- Every academy needs to have appropriately robust filtering and monitoring arrangements in place which can effectively respond to potential online threats, thus keeping children safe when engaging in online activity.

### 2. Key Definitions

*Filtering* is concerned with controlling what people are able to access on the internet and is mainly concerned with blocking inappropriate content

*Monitoring* is concerned with looking at what staff and students are doing on school computers/devices and flagging up inappropriate words and terms.

### 3. Responsibilities

It is the job of the Trust Board to monitor and ensure that the following responsibilities are being discharged effectively by the relevant parties. With regards to this, the Trust Safeguarding Lead will work closely with the Trust’s CEO and Safeguarding Professional, and report back to the full Trust Board on a regular basis.

*The LGB is Responsible For:*

- Ensuring that the DSL’s remit covers online safety.
- Ensuring their own knowledge of online safety issues is up to date by undertaking training.
- Ensuring that all staff undergo training which covers online safety, including awareness of monitoring and filtering arrangements and how concerns are escalated.
- Ensuring that there are appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and that they are being carried out vigilantly in school, in line with KCSIE 2025.
- Ensuring that parents are engaged with the school in the pursuit of keeping children safe online.
- Ensure there is a nominated governor for online safety (online-safety).

- Having overall responsibility for monitoring the online safety policy and holding the headteacher to account for its implementation.
- Ensuring that children are taught how to keep themselves and others safe, including keeping safe online.

*The Headteacher is responsible for:*

- Supporting the DSL and the Deputy DSL(s) by ensuring they have enough time and resources to carry out their responsibilities in relation to monitoring and filtering online activity.
- Ensuring that the DSL provides regular staff updates and training about online safety, which includes information about monitoring and filtering arrangements and how concerns are escalated
- Ensuring that the DSL works with appropriate IT staff to carry out monitoring and filtering arrangements with vigilance in line with KCSIE 2025.
- Ensuring that the DSL engages with parents to keep them up to date with how the school is keeping pupils safe online and what they can do at home to minimise risks to their child associated with their online activity.

*The DSL is responsible for:*

- Taking the lead for online safety in the school, including filtering and monitoring arrangements.
- Acting as the named point of contact within the school on all online safeguarding issues.
- Undertaking training so they understand the risks associated with online safety and effective practice regarding filtering and monitoring arrangements.
- Providing regular staff updates and training about online safety, which includes information about monitoring and filtering arrangements and how concerns are reported and escalated.
- Ensuring appropriate referrals are made to external agencies, as required.
- Maintaining records of reported online safety concerns as well as the actions taken in response to concerns.
- Informing parents about the ways in which the school is keeping children safe online and advising them how to minimise risks associated with their child's online activity at home.
- Reporting to the LGB about online safety.

*ICT Technicians are responsible for:*

- Providing technical support and advice in the development and utilisation of monitoring and filtering software.
- Working closely with the DSL to ensure that monitoring and filtering arrangements are carried out vigilantly in line with 2025.

*The Trust Network Manager is responsible for:*

- Providing strategic support to each academy with regards to the most effective monitoring and filtering software for their context.

*The Trust Safeguarding Professional is responsible for:*

- Co-ordinating the sharing of best practice and the quality assurance of safeguarding and child protection arrangements, including monitoring and filtering arrangements, across the Trust.
- Working closely with the Trust Safeguarding Lead and CEO in order to provide the Trust Board with accurate information regarding the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements, including monitoring and filtering arrangements, across the Trust.

## Academy Arrangements

For each academy, answers to the following questions are summarised below:

1. What software system(s) filter and monitor content?
2. Who regularly checks that filtering and monitoring is happening effectively and takes any required follow-up action as a result of the monitoring?

### *Erasmus Darwin Academy*

1. Filtering and monitoring takes place via a software package called **Smoothwall**.
2. The Safeguarding team at Smoothwall monitor the safeguarding and alert the DSL and DDSL. The DSL and DDSL monitor the notifications and take any action deemed appropriate. A regular filtering test takes place to ensure harmful content is filtered appropriately. The DSL is alerted to any concerns/violations via a Smoothwall alert.

### *Highfields Primary Academy*

1. Filtering takes place via a software package called **Surfprotect**. Monitoring takes place via a software package called **Securus**.
2. **Entrust** monitor the software and alert the DSL (Headteacher) of any concerns.

### *Holly Grove Primary Academy*

1. Filtering currently is via software package called **Surfprotect** and monitoring takes place via a software package called Securus.
2. The Safeguarding team at Securus are providing a fully managed digital monitoring service and will monitor, grade and produce reports so we can review the data easily (we can access these at anytime). They make the DSL aware of any safeguarding concerns immediately. The Head teacher (Deputy DSL) and Safeguarding Lead (DSL) also have access to the software and can review.

### *Ridgeway Primary Academy*

1. Filtering takes place via a software package called **Surfprotect**. Monitoring takes place via a software package called **Securus**.
2. The Deputy DSL monitors the filtering software making adjustments where necessary. He also manually checks the Securus monitoring software and highlights any violations/concerns to the Co-Headteachers.

### *The Friary High School*

1. Filtering and monitoring take place via a software package called **Smoothwall**.
2. The Safeguarding team at Smoothwall monitor the safeguarding and alert the DSL and DDSL. The DSL, Deputy DSLs and the IT team monitor the notifications and take any action deemed appropriate.

### *Henry Chadwick Primary School*

1. Filtering takes place via a software package called **Surfprotect**. Monitoring takes place via a software package called **Smoothwall**.
2. The Head teacher (DSL) and the IT team monitor the notifications and take any action deemed appropriate.

### *Queen's Croft High School*

1. Filtering takes place via a software package called **Surfprotect**. Monitoring takes place via a software package called **Smoothwall**.
2. The DSL and the IT team monitor the notifications and take any action deemed appropriate.