



Gladstone Road
Primary School

Online Filtering and Monitoring

Why do we need a Filtering and Monitoring system?

The internet is now used daily in education and has become fundamental. It acts as a key learning tool for children however, it can also be an area for concern due to the nature of potentially harmful content available online.

There are many reasons why filtering and monitoring are required. In school the purpose is to ensure that children do not access unsuitable/inappropriate content. One example is around radicalisation. [The Prevent Duty](#) is a statutory obligation for schools to keep children safe from the risk of radicalisation and extremism. As a school, we are aware of the risks posed by the online activity of extremist groups, and how social media is being used to encourage young people to travel to certain countries.

Content filtering works by applying specific parameters to content retrieved via the internet, restricting access to certain materials on websites, Apps, emails or other suspicious items. It can be a hardware or software solution and can often be part of a firewall setting.

Monitoring combined with content filtering alerts for any activities that need to be acted upon, but the information is also used to determine which sites and keywords need to be filtered out. For example, if a new craze appears, the monitoring and filtering system will help us know what associated terms the children are searching for, and what websites they are accessing.

To safeguard and promote the welfare of our children, we provide them with a safe environment in which they can learn and flourish, by ensuring that they are not exposed to any online risks associated with using the internet. We have comprehensive filtering and monitoring systems in place for all devices used in school, and regularly review their effectiveness.

We also use the Government recommended online safety review tool 360-degree-safe, to assess wider online safety policy and practice.

What Filtering & Monitoring System do we have in place?



Within School we have a physical Firewall (Smoothwall) that continuously monitors internet traffic.

This filtering includes all devices connected to the school's infrastructure (Wi-Fi & LAN) and can prevent users from accessing unsuitable/inappropriate content by presenting a 'Block Page'.

The Firewall then provides a detailed filtering report of the **username, time/date, URL & category** and saves it within the Firewall's reporting system. This information can be accessed upon request within the set retention time (6 months).

School also has Smoothwall Cloud Filtering in place which provides the same protection for non-domain devices such as iPads and Chromebooks.

What checks do we do to ensure this is kept up to date?

The school's Network Manager ensures the physical firewall is kept up to date and fully working by running regular software updates and physical checks on hard disks and network connections.

A Monitoring and Filtering Standards Annual Review is performed once a year to ensure we comply and offer the maximum protection for our online presence. This involves an interrogation of the school's firewall from a Government approved filtering testing resource. The results are then reviewed and if action is needed, this is implemented immediately. The results are published on the school website.

Filter Test Results for Gladstone Road School

Tests were performed at 06/06/2023 10:21

Your Connection

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Type | Organisation | Postcode |
| Schools | Gladstone Road School | YO12 7DD |
| Country | Region | IP Address |
| England | North Yorkshire | |
| Filtering Provider | Network | Reputation |
| Smoothwall | NYNET | Excellent |

Results Overview



Child Sexual Abuse Content



Terrorism Content



Adult Content



Offensive Language

Child Sexual Abuse Content



Blocked

Description

Tests whether you are blocking websites on the IWF Child Abuse Content URL list.

Results & Recommendations

It appears that your filtering solution includes the IWF URL Filter list, blocking access to Child Sexual Abuse content online

Terrorism Content



Blocked

Description

Tests whether you are blocking websites on the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit list (CTIRU).

Results & Recommendations

It appears that your filtering solution includes the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) URL filter list, blocking access to unlawful terrorist content online

Adult Content



Blocked

Description

Test whether your Internet filter blocks access to pornography websites

Results & Recommendations

It appears that your filtering solution includes blocking for online pornography

Offensive Language



Blocked

Description

Accesses a page containing offensive language to test if your filtering software blocks it

Results & Recommendations

It appears that your filtering solution includes blocking for offensive language

How does the search monitoring work?

The search monitoring aspect works by flagging up any attempted access to undesirable/unsuitable websites to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead. It notifies the DSL by email with a brief overview of the incident. The DSL can then log onto the Smoothwall monitoring system and further investigate the incident.

The monitor will flag certain search criteria like Adult Content, Bullying, radicalisation, abuse, criminal activity, suicide & substance abuse.

