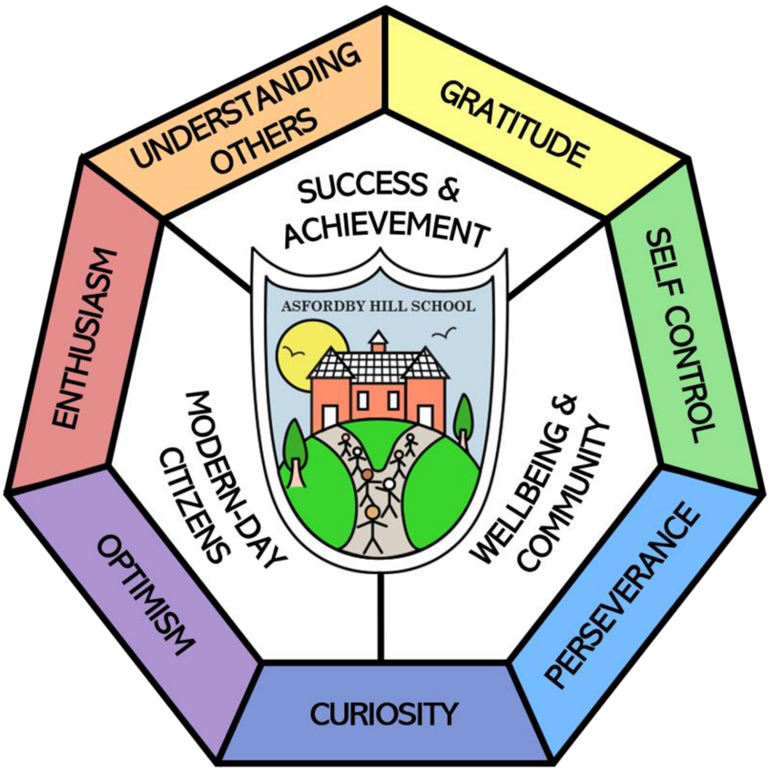
ASFORDBY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Individual Value; Valuing Individuals



Online Safety, Filtering and Monitoring Policy

Policy Links: KCSIE, PREVENT, Staff Code of Conduct, Computing Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy, PSHE	
Statutory	**Recommended**
Date Reviewed: September 2023	**Date to Review:** September '24
Committee Responsible for Review: **QEHS**	**DATE FSAP Agreed: 13.2.24**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount when adults, young people or children are using the internet, social media or mobile devices;
- provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to online safety; and
- ensure that, as an organisation, we operate in line with our values and within the law in terms of how we use online devices.

The policy statement applies to all staff, volunteers, children and young people and anyone involved in Asfordby Hill Primary School's activities.

2. Introduction

The use of technology has also become a significant component of many safeguarding issues, including cyberbullying, child sexual exploitation, radicalization and sexual predation. Unfortunately, technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. An effective approach to online safety empowers a school to protect and educate the whole school community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incident where appropriate.

2a.The Prevent Duty

Schools and registered childcare providers in England and Wales are required to, under 'The Prevent Duty', to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools and should ensure that suitable filtering is in place.

2b. Keeping Children Safe in Education

The Department for Education's statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)' obliges schools in England to "ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place. Children should not be able to access harmful or inappropriate material from the school or college's IT system" however, schools will need to be careful that over blocking does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding."

Furthermore, under KCSIE, as part of safeguarding and child protection training, all staff should understand their responsibility in relation to online safety which includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring, including as part of their induction. Additionally, online safety updates (as part of other child protection and safeguarding updates) are required to be provided to staff at least annually.

Updated KCSIE guidance (2023) now places emphasis that the designated safeguarding lead (DSL) must take lead responsibility for online safety as part of their safeguarding and child protection responsibility - this includes understanding the filtering and monitoring systems and processes in place.

2c.OfSTED

Whilst internet filtering has always been provided by schools, it is the 'strengthened measures' that are now a key part of Ofsted online safety during inspections.

It is important to recognise that no filtering systems can be 100% effective and need to be supported with good teaching and learning practice and effective supervision.

The appropriateness of any filters and monitoring systems are a matter for individual schools and colleges and will be informed in part by the risk assessment required by the Prevent Duty.

3. Online Safety, Filtering and Monitoring

3a. Online Safety Risks

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable and ever evolving, but can be categorized into four areas of risk:

1. ***Content:*** being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful content, for example: pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation, and extremism
2. ***Contact:*** being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example: peer to peer pressure, commercial advertising and adults posing as children or young adults with the intention to groom or exploit them for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes
3. ***Conduct:*** online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending and receiving explicit images (e.g. consensual and non consensual sharing of nudes and semi-nudes and/or pornography, sharing other explicit images and online bullying
4. ***Commerce:*** risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and or financial scams. If you feel your pupils, students or staff are at risk, please report it to the Anti-Phishing Working Group (https://apwg.org/)

3b. Filtering and Monitoring

Department for Education (DfE)

The DfE makes it clear the standards that schools should meet as regards filtering and monitoring in schools:

- roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems should be identified and assigned;
- filtering and monitoring provision should be reviewed at least annually;
- the filtering system should block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning; and
- monitoring strategies should be effective and meet the safeguarding needs of the school.

Further guidance can be found here on how to meet the standards: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges/filtering-and-monitoring-standards-for-schools-and-colleges

Schools Broadband and Netsweeper

Schools Broadband is our internet service provider and they provide the school with Netsweeper, an advanced content filtering platform that allows schools to monitor, block and report harmful content online. Devices that do not require logging into, such as iPads, experience the highest level of restrictions placed onto the internet by Netsweeper. Other filters of varying levels of restriction are deployed when users log into a device (PC or Laptop, for example) through the user management system – Microsoft Azure – through “groups”, managed by our IT management company, which means that students experience higher levels of restriction, whereas staff experience a slightly lesser level of restriction. Varying levels of filtering can also be applied to specific devices through IP address filtering.

All blocking of websites through the filters are at the discretion of the headteacher and written approval must be obtained before the IT management company are able to unblock any websites.

All internet usage is monitored by Schools Broadband and Netsweeper, and regular reports are provided to the IT management company, designated safeguarding lead and the ICT/computing lead who are able to take action accordingly.

Monitoring Systems

Daily, all classroom staff and volunteers working with children will monitor children's usage of internet within lessons, remaining vigilant to ensure the safety of the children. Staff will report any breaches of filtering or concerns through the agreed reporting systems.

Annually, leaders will monitor filtering by completing a check that filters are working effectively using South West Grid for Learning resources (http://testfiltering.com/) and conduct a wider filtering and monitoring check (including logging into various stakeholder accounts to check that filters work appropriately at all levels) and ensure that record is kept (FILTERING AND MONITORING CHECKLIST MASTER.docx).

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Appendix A provides detail of who assumes each of the roles below.

4a. The Governing Body

i. The Governing Body should ensure that online safety is a running and interrelated theme whilst devising and implementing their whole school approach to safeguarding and related policies and procedures. This will include considering how online safety is reflected in relevant policies, the curriculum, teacher training, the role of the designated safeguarding lead (and deputies) and any parental engagement.

ii. The elected safeguarding governor assumes responsibility for online safety, filtering and monitoring as part of their wider safeguarding role.

4b. Headteacher

i. The headteacher and appropriate members of the senior leadership team, are responsible for ensuring that this policy is adhered to, and that:
    - Their school has appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place, whilst considering their responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and provide them with a safe environment in which to learn.
    - They consider the age range of their pupils, the number of pupils, how often they access the IT system and the proportionality of costs vs risks.
    - Leaders conduct a risk assessment as required by the Prevent Duty.
    - The school keeps updated of statutory changes of government policy, and that the school meets all legal requirements for online monitoring and filtering.
    - The school implements the relevant statutory arrangements for online monitoring and filtering.

ii. The headteacher is responsible for approving requests to the IT management company to unblock sites and is responsible for ensuring that a record is kept of changes to filtering systems by the IT management company.

4c. Designated Safeguarding Lead / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

i. The designated safeguarding lead will assume lead responsibility of online safety as part of their wider child protection and safeguarding responsibilities, including taking action when online safety related safeguarding concerns are reported.

ii. They will provide online safety updates (as part of other child protection and safeguarding updates) to staff at least annually.

iii. They will include online safety in their wider safeguarding reporting to governors.

iv. They will lead an annual check of filtering and monitoring and keep a record.

4d. IT Management Company and IT Service Provider

i. The IT Service Provider assumes technical responsibility for:
   - maintaining filtering and monitoring systems;
   - providing filtering and monitoring reports; and
   - completing actions following concerns or checks to systems.

ii. The IT Management Company maintains responsibility for sending filtering and monitoring reports to the DSL, and IT and computing leader. They maintain responsibility for receiving written approval from the headteacher before unblocking websites as part of the filtering systems when requested to by other staff members and keeping a written record of all changes to filtering systems.

4e. IT and Computing Lead

i. The IT and computing lead will ensure that all teaching and support staff are knowledgeable in relation to online safety and receive appropriate training where needed to deliver and teach online safety effectively.

ii. They will ensure that online safety is taught as part of the wider computing curriculum at school and regularly review the effectiveness of this.

4f. All other staff

i. All other staff will be vigilant in their duty to safeguard children in terms of monitoring children’s usage of the internet in school.

ii. They will ensure that they follow the school’s code of conduct with regard to appropriate use of the internet and that they alert leaders to any breaches in filtering and monitoring systems promptly.

iii. They will report any safeguarding concerns through the school’s agreed procedures – this includes children accessing content through the internet that poses a risk to them (see section 3, online safety risks, for a non-exhaustive list).

Appendix A: Table of Assumed Roles

Role	Who?
Governing Body Designated Safeguarding Governor	All members of the governing body Tanya Davis
Headteacher	Phil Millward
Designated Safeguarding Lead Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead	Phil Millward Nicola Bailey
IT Service Provider IT Management Company	Schools Broadband ICTTechie – James Crowhurst
IT and Computing Lead	Declan Forde
All Other Staff	All other teaching, support and non-teaching staff - including office and premises staff.