

## **School Filtering and Monitoring 2023 (Addendum to Online Safety Policy)**

### ***Introduction***

The Department of Education Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023 Statutory Guidance firmly puts the responsibility for the provision and operation of web filtering and monitoring solutions on school leadership rather than on the IT team.

The filtering of internet content provides an important means of preventing users from accessing material that is illegal or is inappropriate in an educational context. The filtering system cannot, however, provide a 100% guarantee that it will do so. It is therefore important that the school has a filtering policy to manage the associated risks and to provide preventative measures which are relevant to the situation in this school. St Peter at Gowts C of E Primary school IT service is provided by Ark ICT.

### ***Overview***

Our IT provider Ark work closely with the DSL and SLT at St Peter at Gowts C of E Primary School to ensure that:

- The service is maintained and accessible for all school sites to use
- All relevant safeguards are being met
- School is taking necessary precautions to ensure the service provided is appropriate
- provides investigation of any web filtering related issues including:
- Access to websites containing inappropriate or potentially harmful material are blocked

Ensure access to websites containing educational or related material deemed appropriate for school

Schools (and registered childcare providers) in England and Wales are required “to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering” (Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales) Furthermore, it expects that they “assess the risk of [their] children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology”. Department for Education’s statutory guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ obliges schools and colleges 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 colleges 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.”

As part of our support from Ark, we use a filtering and monitoring platform called Securly. Securly ensures that the school meets the requirements in the new KSIE guidance 2023 and DFE guidance. (please see attached documentation produced by securly).

### ***Aims and Objectives***

Each school will have its own unique demands and use of the internet. However, all schools must ensure they appropriately safeguard staff and pupils through an effective online filtering and monitoring regime.

### ***What actions do we take as a school?***

It is the responsibility of the DSL to monitor the usage of online activity in school and this is achieved through the immediate notifications sent to the DSL and Head Teacher when any flagged content access is attempted as well as weekly reports.

- Securly sends immediate alerts to the DSL (Vicky Cook) and Head Teacher (Emily Mayer) every time a flagged attempt is made with details of this. **Both DSL and Head Teacher check these alerts and request the teacher investigates them or can explain the access. This is then discussed in the weekly DSL supervision meeting (see below).**
- Securly also sends a weekly overview of all records. **The DSL and DDSLs review this document every week as part of their supervision meeting and make any recommendations to the staff team following this.**

### ***Roles and Responsibilities***

The responsibility for the management of the school's filtering and monitoring policy will be held by the DSL supported by ARK ICT. They will manage the school filtering, in line with this policy and will keep records/logs of changes and of breaches of the filtering systems.

To ensure that there is a system of checks and balances and to protect those responsible, changes to the schools filtering service must:

- be logged in change control logs
- be reported to a second responsible person (Headteacher)

All users have a responsibility to report immediately to the DSL any infringements of the school's filtering policy of which they become aware or any sites that are accessed, which they believe should have been filtered. Users must not attempt to use any programmes or software that might allow them to bypass the filtering/security systems in place to prevent access to such materials

### ***Education/Training/Awareness***

Pupils will be made aware of the importance of filtering systems through the E-Safety education programme. They will also be warned of the consequences of attempting to subvert the filtering system. Staff users will be made aware of the filtering systems through:

- signing the AUP
- induction training
- staff meetings, briefings, Inset

Parents will be informed of the school's filtering policy through the Acceptable Use agreement and the e-safety policy.

### ***Changes to the Filtering System***

Users who gain access to, or have knowledge of others being able to access, sites which they feel should be filtered (or unfiltered) should report this in the first instance to the DSL

who will decide whether to make school level changes (as above). If it is felt that the site should be filtered (or unfiltered), the DSL should contact ARK ICT with the URL.