

<p>Hambleton Primary Academy</p> <p>2023-2024</p>		<p>Monitoring and Filtering Policy</p>
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Monitoring and Filtering Policy for Hambleton Primary Academy

Introduction

Hambleton Primary Academy is committed to providing a safe and secure online learning environment for all pupils. This policy outlines the measures we take to monitor and filter internet access within the school network to protect pupils from inappropriate content and promote responsible digital citizenship.

Objectives

- Protect pupils from harmful or inappropriate online content, including pornography, violence, hate speech, cyberbullying, and malware.
- Encourage safe and responsible use of technology by pupils.
- Promote positive online behaviour and respect for others.
- Ensure compliance with relevant national and local safeguarding regulations.

Monitoring

- The academy utilises a real-time monitoring solution, Senso Safeguard Cloud, to proactively identify and address potential online safety concerns.
- Senso utilises a combination of artificial intelligence (AI) and human expertise to analyse online activity and flag potentially risky behaviour, inappropriate content searches, or cyberbullying attempts.
- This real-time monitoring allows for swift intervention by designated safeguarding leads when necessary.
- In addition to Senso, staff will also complete periodic spot checks on pupils' devices, with parental consent, to ensure they are not accessing inappropriate content or applications. These checks will be conducted in a sensitive and respectful manner, following proper safeguarding procedures.

It is important to note that:

- While Senso provides a powerful tool, it does not capture the entirety of online activity. Staff training will be provided on identifying and reporting any suspicious online activity that may not be flagged by the software.
- Spot checks are intended as a complementary measure and should not replace open communication with pupils about online safety.

Filtering

- The academy utilizes a layered approach to filtering inappropriate content.
 - **Google Workspace for Education:** We leverage Google Workspace for Education's built-in security features, including SafeSearch, which filters search results to exclude explicit content.

- o **Senso Safeguard Cloud:** This software further strengthens our filtering by blocking access to inappropriate websites and online content categories based on age-appropriate guidelines. These categories include:
 - Pornography and sexually explicit content
 - Violence and hate speech
 - Gambling and alcohol-related content
 - Social media platforms (unless used for educational purposes with teacher supervision)
 - File-sharing websites (unless authorised for educational purposes)
 - Known phishing and malware websites
- The filtering software will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness.

Staff Responsibilities

- All staff members are responsible for supervising pupils while using the internet.
- Staff must ensure pupils are accessing the internet for approved educational purposes only.
- Staff are expected to report any instances of suspected misuse, inappropriate content, or potential online threats to the designated safeguarding lead.
- Staff should be familiar with Senso's functionalities and report any flagged incidents for further investigation.
- Staff will complete periodic spot checks on pupils' devices, with parental consent, following proper safeguarding procedures.

Pupil Responsibilities

- Pupils must only access the internet for educational purposes as instructed by their teachers.
- Pupils must not attempt to bypass or disable the academy's filtering software.
 - o Pupils must bring their devices to spot checks when requested by staff, with parental consent.
- Pupils must report any inappropriate content or online safety concerns to a member of staff immediately.
- Pupils must treat others with respect and avoid cyberbullying or offensive behaviour online.

Acceptable Use Policy

- All pupils will be introduced to the academy's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) outlining responsible technology use expectations at the start of each school year.
- The AUP will emphasise online safety, responsible behaviour, and the consequences of misuse.

Communication

- This policy will be communicated to all staff, pupils, and parents/guardians through the academy website, newsletters, and information evenings.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss online safety with their children and reinforce the importance of responsible digital citizenship. They will also be informed about the spot check procedures and their right to consent.

Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology and regulations.

Additional Considerations

- The policy can be adapted to address specific technologies used within the academy, such as tablets or laptops.
- The academy may consider implementing additional monitoring tools for high-risk pupils on a case-by-case basis, following proper safeguarding procedures.
- Age-appropriate online safety lessons can be integrated into the curriculum to educate pupils about safe online behaviour and responsible digital citizenship.

By implementing this monitoring and filtering policy with a combination of Google Workspace for Education and Senso Safeguard Cloud, Hambleton Primary Academy strives to create a safe and secure online learning environment that fosters responsible technology use and protects the well-being of all pupils.

Monitoring and Review

Approved by:	Holly Wood - Headteacher	Date: September 2023
Last reviewed on:	September 2023	
Next review due by:	September 2024	