



1. Understanding Filtering and Monitoring:

Filtering and monitoring in primary schools refer to the implementation of tools and strategies to ensure a safe online environment for students. Filtering restricts access to inappropriate content, while monitoring keeps track of online activities to prevent potential risks.

2. Importance of Filtering and Monitoring:

- **Child Safety:** Protects children from harmful or explicit content, ensuring a secure online experience.
- **Cyberbullying Prevention:** Identifies and addresses instances of cyberbullying, fostering a positive and respectful digital atmosphere.
- **Maintaining Focus:** Blocks distractions, helping students stay focused on educational tasks during school hours.

3. Filtering Techniques:

- **Keyword Filtering:** Blocks websites and content containing specific keywords related to inappropriate or harmful topics
- **Category Filtering:** Restricts access to websites based on categories such as violence, gambling, or adult content.
- **URL Filtering:** Blocks or allows specific websites by their URLs, ensuring precise control over website access.

4. Monitoring Strategies:

- **Real-time Monitoring:** Tracks students' online activities in real-time, allowing immediate intervention if inappropriate behaviour is detected – this is our current main system in school.
- **Usage Logs:** Maintains logs of websites visited, time spent online, and applications used, offering insights into students' digital behaviour – search history will be randomly checked on devices.
- **Alert Systems:** Notifies administrators instantly when predefined rules are violated, enabling quick response to potential threats.

5. Benefits for Students:

- **Safe Learning Environment:** Fosters a secure space where students can explore the internet for educational purposes without exposure to harmful content.
- **Digital Literacy:** Teaches students responsible online behaviour and helps them develop essential digital literacy skills.
- **Focused Learning:** Enhances concentration by minimising distractions, ensuring a more productive learning experience.

6. Collaboration with Parents:

- **Parental Controls:** Educates parents about filtering and monitoring tools at home, encouraging consistent online safety practices between school and home.
- **Open Communication:** Promotes open dialogue between parents, teachers, and students about internet safety, creating a supportive network for online learning.

7. Challenges and Solutions:

- **Over blocking:** Addressed by regularly updating filtering systems to allow access to legitimate educational resources while maintaining a safe environment.

8. Staff roles and responsibilities

- **All staff:** It is vital that all staff members are aware of the potential risks that the internet poses and take steps to minimise these in line with our online safety policy. This should include; only allowing children access to predetermined websites, checking on children while using devices to ensure content and behaviour is appropriate and reminding children of their Acceptable Use Agreement.
- **DSL/Online Safety Lead:** responsibility for children's overall online safety, point of contact for any concerns about online safety.
- **Computing Lead:** will work alongside the DSL/OSL to ensure the computing curriculum provides children with the knowledge and skills to stay safe online.
- **IT Support:** support school with the technical aspects of filtering and monitoring and online safety.

9. Conclusion:

Filtering and monitoring in primary schools play a pivotal role in creating a secure online space where students can explore, learn, and grow responsibly. By combining technological solutions with education and communication, we can empower the next generation to navigate the digital world safely and confidently.