



Preston & Wingham Primary Schools Federation



Learning together, we grow kind hearts
and healthy minds.

Parent Guide: How Our School Uses Filtering and Monitoring to Keep Children Safe Online

Keeping Children Safe Online

As part of our commitment to safeguarding, the school uses internet filtering and monitoring systems provided through **Schools Broadband's Netsweeper filtering platform**. These systems help us create a safe online environment for pupils while allowing access to appropriate educational resources.

What is Internet Filtering?

Filtering is a preventative safeguarding measure. It helps block access to websites and online content that may be:

- Illegal
- Harmful to children
- Violent or extremist
- Racist or discriminatory
- Inappropriate for a school setting
- Related to gambling, drugs, or other age-restricted content

The system automatically checks and categorises websites and can block content that is considered unsuitable for pupils.

What is Monitoring?

Monitoring is different from filtering.

While filtering blocks access to inappropriate content, monitoring helps identify potential safeguarding concerns by recording and reviewing online activity on school devices and networks. Monitoring systems can alert staff to behaviour that may indicate a pupil is at risk, such as:

- Searching for harmful or inappropriate content
- Cyberbullying activity
- Concerns relating to self-harm
- Online safety risks
- Attempts to access blocked content

Alerts are reviewed by appropriate staff, including safeguarding leads where necessary.

How Netsweeper Supports Safeguarding

The Netsweeper system used through Schools Broadband:

- Filters web content in real time.
- Blocks access to inappropriate websites.
- Applies different levels of filtering for different age groups.
- Produces reports to help staff identify patterns of concern.
- Supports the school's safeguarding and online safety procedures.
- Helps schools meet requirements outlined in **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)** and the **Prevent Duty**.

Is My Child Being Watched All the Time?

No. Monitoring systems are not used to invade pupils' privacy or routinely read personal communications. Their purpose is to help identify safeguarding concerns and protect children from harm.

Any information collected is managed in line with safeguarding responsibilities, school policies, and data protection requirements. Staff only access information where there is a legitimate safeguarding, welfare, or security reason.

Why Does the School Use These Systems?

Schools have a statutory responsibility to safeguard children online as well as offline. The Department for Education states that schools should have appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place to protect pupils from illegal, inappropriate, and harmful content.

How Parents Can Help

Parents play an important role in keeping children safe online. We encourage families to:

- Talk regularly about online safety.
- Discuss responsible internet use.
- Monitor and support children's online activity at home.
- Report any concerns to the school.
- Encourage children to speak to a trusted adult if they see something online that worries them.

Further Information

If you would like further information about the school's filtering and monitoring arrangements, please contact the school's **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs Clements or Ms Douglas (Wingham)**.

Together, we can help ensure that children use technology safely, responsibly, and confidently.