



Section 12 of the Strategic Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

Online Safety and Filtering and Monitoring

The importance of safeguarding children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material is recognised and understood, along with the fact that technology is a significant component in many safeguarding and wellbeing issues.

To address this and in light of the 4 categories of risk outlined below, we adopt a whole school approach involving a number of measures with the aim of:

- having robust processes (including filtering and monitoring systems) in place to ensure the online safety of pupils, staff, volunteers and governors
- protecting and educating the whole school community in safe and responsible use of technology, including mobile and smart technology
- setting clear guidelines for the use of mobile phones for the whole school community
- establishing clear mechanisms to identify, intervene in and escalate any incidents or concerns, where appropriate

The approach to online safety is based on addressing the following four categories of risk:

- **Content** – being exposed to illegal, inappropriate or harmful content, such as pornography, fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, antisemitism, radicalisation and extremism
- **Contact** – being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users, such as 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
- **Conduct** – personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm, such as 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; and
- **Commerce** – risks such as online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing and/or financial scams

KCSiE 2024 outlines the need for staff and governors to receive training covering online safety (including Filtering and Monitoring) and that it is essential that there is a whole school approach towards online safety, spanning training, curriculum content and teaching, communication with parents/carers and school IT resources / devices / network (including appropriate filtering and monitoring). The Governing Body will retain strategic oversight of this and ensure that appropriate processes and procedures are established and maintained.

The Governing Body will:

- ensure that the school has appropriate filtering and monitoring systems in place and review their effectiveness

- review the DfE's filtering and monitoring standards, and discuss with IT staff and service providers about what needs to be done to support the school to meet these standards
- ensure the DSL takes lead responsibility for understanding the filtering and monitoring systems in place as part of their role
- ensure that all staff undergo safeguarding and child protection training, including online safety and that such training is regularly updated and is in line with advice from the safeguarding partners
- ensure staff understand their expectations, roles and responsibilities around filtering and monitoring as part of safeguarding training

In relation to filtering and monitoring, we will adhere to DfE filtering and monitoring standards on school devices and school networks, and in so doing will:

- identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage filtering and monitoring systems
- review filtering and monitoring provision at least annually
- block harmful and inappropriate content without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning
- have effective monitoring strategies in place that meet their safeguarding needs

Appropriate filtering and monitoring of inappropriate content is provided by Smoothwall SWG. This provides real-time content aware analysis by scanning the copy, content and context of every page for unwanted material. Daily reports for all breaches are sent from the Smoothwall server to the school office and are monitored daily by the school business manager (SBM) and/or the Headteacher. In addition, all reports are sent to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC) Schools IT Team for review. Any alerts are investigated by the SBM or Headteacher. Maintenance of the Smoothwall is provided by the ERYC and are kept up to date for security updates, policies, block lists and any other features.

The DSL will ensure that all staff / governors receive online safety training as part of induction and that ongoing online safety training and updates for all staff will be integrated, aligned and considered as part of our overarching safeguarding approach.

The DSL, supported by relevant colleagues, will take the lead role in overseeing and have responsibility for online safety and the management of this is a safeguarding issue. The DSL will keep the DSG updated as appropriate of any incidents and the DSG will report on online safety practice and incidents, including outcomes, on a regular basis to the wider Governing Body.

Market Weighton Infant School have established mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any concerns where appropriate. Staff should report any concerns about individual children through the recording systems outlined in this document in Section 5.

Adherence to the standards will be regularly reviewed (at least annually) and involve discussion with IT staff and service providers and the nominated governor and SLT member for this area of safeguarding as well as the DSL (who will lead and retain responsibility for this). This will be supported by an annual risk assessment that considers and reflects the risks faced by our school community.

As part of their oversight role, our Governing Body will ensure staff safeguarding and child protection training includes online safety which, amongst other things, includes an understanding of the expectations, applicable roles and responsibilities in relation to filtering and monitoring.

Filtering breaches or concerns identified through internal monitoring will be recorded and reported to the DSL, who will review and respond as appropriate.

The DSL will respond to online safety concerns in line with Safeguarding / Child Protection and any other associated policies, including our Anti-Bullying Policy and Behaviour Policy.

Internal sanctions and / or support will be implemented as appropriate and where necessary, concerns will be escalated and reported to relevant partner agencies in line with local policies and procedures.

Market Weighton Infant School uses a wide range of devices and technology systems to facilitate internal and external communication, teaching and information storage. The school's Acceptable User Policy underpins the operation of all school owned devices and systems along with safety and security measures in place. This policy is reviewed annually and can be found on the school server.

All communication with pupils and parents / carers will take place using school provided or approved communication channels, for example, school provided email accounts and phone numbers and /or agreed systems such as Microsoft Teams. The school telephone should be the first method of communication when phoning a parent / carer, but if this is not available (for example, when a member of staff has to work from home), calls should only be made when the number is withheld. Any pre-existing relationships or situations which mean this cannot be complied with will be discussed with the DSL.

Any access to materials believed to be illegal, will be considered as a safeguarding issue and appropriate action taken to address concerns.

Curriculum

As part of the school wide commitment to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, Market Weighton Infant School will ensure that pupils are taught about online safety as part of broader teaching about safeguarding in line with the DfE's '[Teaching online safety in school](#)' guidance. Through our [online safety programme](#), our children are taught the knowledge and skills they need to stay safe online in an age appropriate manner. Their understanding grows as they progress through the school because we implement a progressive framework of safety awareness based upon the 8 different aspects of online education as set out in the UK Council for Internet Safety (UKCIS) '[Education for a Connected World Framework](#)'.

These are:

1. Self-image and Identity
2. Online relationships
3. Online reputation
4. Online bullying
5. Managing online information
6. Health, wellbeing and lifestyle
7. Privacy and security
8. Copyright and ownership

Through a partnership approach and ongoing communication, Market Weighton Infant School will support parents / carers to be aware of the importance of children being safe online and to be alert to the potential benefits. This is achieved through website information, newsletters, curriculum information, information evenings / afternoons and one to one discussion.

Equality Analysis Impact

This policy was written with reference to and in consideration of the school's Equality Policy.

Does the policy have an adverse effect on employees, pupils or the wider community and therefore have a significant effect in terms of equality? **No**

Does the policy have an adverse effect upon a group with protected characteristics? (sex, race, religion or belief, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity, age) **No**

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be made to the headteacher.

Reviewed: Autumn Term 2024

Next review: Autumn Term 2025