



Internet Filtering & Monitoring Policy

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Date of next review: September 2027

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy outlines the guidelines and procedures for filtering and monitoring internet usage within the Inspiring Learners Multi Academy Trust. This policy applies to all employees, pupils, contractors, and any other individuals accessing the internet through the Trust network.

As a Trust, working with our external service provider (Foresight) to follow the recently published DfE publication of Filtering and monitoring standards and guidance (updated 2026) and working to meet the cyber security standards.

2. Responsibilities

Senior Leader with responsibility for IF&M	Natanya O'Hara (Bollin - DSL) Kathryn Manion (Tyntesfield - DSL) Kate Baskeyfield (Kingsway – DSL)
Governor/Trustee with responsibility for IF&M	Kylie Spark (Head of Trust, trustee) Owen Napier (Chair of Governors at Bollin and Digital Strategy responsibility on behalf of the Trust Board)

3. Filtering Guidelines

3.1 Website Content Filtering:

- The Trust will implement content filtering solutions to restrict access to websites containing illegal, inappropriate or harmful content.
- Content filtering will be based on predefined categories such as adult content, violence, hate speech, drugs, gambling, etc. Regular maintenance and updates of these categories will be performed to ensure effectiveness.
- Attempts to bypass content filtering measures are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary actions.

3.2 Software and Application Filtering:

- The Trust will implement software and application filtering to prevent the installation or use of unauthorized or potentially harmful software or applications.
- Filtering will be based on a list of authorized software and applications that align with ILMAT's educational objectives and security policies.
- Attempts to install or use unauthorized software or applications are strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary actions.

3.3 Social Media and Communication Filtering:

- The Trust will implement filtering measures for social media platforms and communication channels to ensure appropriate use.
- Access to social media websites and communication channels may be restricted during core educational hours to minimize distractions.
- Any communication that violates the Trust's acceptable use policy, promotes discrimination, harassment, or involves illegal activities will be strictly prohibited.

4. Monitoring Guidelines

4.1 Network Traffic Monitoring:

- The Trust reserves the right to monitor network traffic, including internet usage, to ensure compliance with this policy.
- Network traffic monitoring will be performed using appropriate tools and technologies. The collected data will be used confidentially and for authorized purposes only.
- Any suspicious or unauthorized network activity may be subject to investigation, and appropriate actions will be taken if policy violations are detected.

4.2 User Activity Monitoring:

- The Trust may monitor user activity on school-owned devices or devices connected to the Trust network.
- User activity monitoring may include but is not limited to tracking websites visited, application usage, and communication content.
- User privacy will be respected, and monitoring will be conducted in accordance with relevant data protection laws and regulations.

5. Reporting and Consequences

- Any employee, pupil, or individual who suspects a policy violation or encounters inappropriate content should report it immediately to their supervisor, teacher, or designated IT personnel.
- Violations of the filtering and monitoring policy may result in disciplinary actions, including but not limited to warnings, temporary suspension of network privileges, or termination of employment or enrolment, depending on the severity and frequency of the violation.

6. Education and Awareness

- The Trust will provide regular training and awareness programs to employees, pupils, and relevant stakeholders to educate them about the importance of responsible internet usage and the potential risks associated with inappropriate online behaviour and will include annual training on our Filtering and Monitoring Policy.
- Users will receive guidance on understanding and adhering to this policy and the impact it has on maintaining a safe and productive educational environment.

7. System Monitoring

The Trust recognises its responsibility to protect pupils from harmful online content and behaviour through the effective use of filtering and monitoring systems. These systems are regularly reviewed and evaluated to ensure they remain effective, proportionate and appropriate to the age and needs of pupils.

In line with KCSIE 2026, the senior leader with responsibility for filtering and monitoring, working alongside the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and relevant technical staff, will undertake and record a formal review of filtering and monitoring arrangements at least annually, ensuring that safeguarding risks are identified, addressed and reported through appropriate governance and oversight processes.

8. Policy Review

This filtering and monitoring policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its alignment with relevant laws, regulations, and best practices. Any necessary updates will be made to enhance its effectiveness and address emerging trends or challenges.