

Appropriate Filtering for Education settings

Substantive changes 2023



Page	Section	Change	Comments
1	Introduction	Inclusion – references to DfE and Welsh Government guidance	
1	Illegal Online Content	Inclusion - 'filters for illegal content cannot not be disabled'	To ensure that users cannot remove filters for illegal content
2	Inappropriate Online Content	Inclusion - Gambling	Addition of gambling category
2	Inappropriate Online Content	Update - as the data controller, schools should understand their filtering providers data retention policies	Clarity that the school remains the data controller and should understand their filtering provider data retention policies
2	Inappropriate Online Content	Inclusion – 'Given the extent of personal data involved with some filtering solutions, Schools and Colleges should consider undertaking a data protection impact assessment and ensure that this aligns with the organisational policies.'	Recommendation that schools should undertake a Data Protection Impact Assessment
2	Filtering System Features	Update - Context appropriate Age appropriate, differentiated filtering, based on age, vulnerability and risk of harm– also includes the ability to vary filtering strength appropriate for staff	Clarification that filtering should be differentiated based on vulnerability as well as age and also for staff.
2	Filtering System Features	Include - Any changes to the filter system are logged enabling an audit trail that ensure transparency and that individuals are not able to make unilateral changes	To ensure that any changes to the filtering system are recorded for transparency and to protect those staff responsible for managing the system
3	Filtering System Features	Addition to the App and Mobile content - Providers should be clear about the capacity of their filtering system to manage content on mobile and web apps	For providers to be clear about the extent of functionality of their filtering system to minimise the risk of misunderstanding as to system performance

3	Filtering System Features	Update - the ability for school owned devices to receive the same or equivalent filtering to that provided in school	Clarification that filtering should apply to school owned devices when away from school site
3	Filtering System Features	Inclusion - Safe Search – the ability to enforce 'safe search' when using search engines	Clarification that the filtering system can enforce the use of 'safe search' functionality
3	Risk Assessment	Inclusion of 'at least annually or whenever any substantive changes occur'	Advice about frequency of schools and colleges conducting a risk assessment
4	Checks and Documentation	New Section	Guidance for schools to check and record testing of their filter systems in recognition of updated statutory guidance (England)
4	Filtering on Mobile devices	New Section	Encouragement for schools to check filtering is operating as expected across all devices, specifically mobile devices