

What monitoring system do we have in place?

Classroom Cloud is an advanced classroom management and online monitoring platform designed to help teachers support pupils in using technology safely, responsibly and productively during lessons.

The system allows staff to monitor pupil devices in real time, helping to ensure that children remain focused and engaged with their learning.

Teachers are also able to provide immediate support and guidance where needed, creating a safe and well-managed digital learning environment.

Key features of Classroom Cloud include:

- Real-time viewing of pupil screens during lessons
- The ability to lock or control devices when necessary
- Sharing teacher screens and lesson content directly with pupils
- Sending messages, instructions and guidance instantly
- Restricting access to unsuitable or distracting websites and applications
- Supporting online safety and appropriate use of technology

Classroom Cloud is used across laptops, tablets and other school devices to enhance classroom management, reduce distractions and promote positive digital behaviour. The platform also supports schools in meeting safeguarding responsibilities by helping staff monitor online activity effectively and respond promptly where concerns arise.

By adopting Classroom Cloud across all Trust schools, we are ensuring a consistent, modern and effective approach to digital learning and online safety for all pupils.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Keeping Children Safe in Education:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

CPOMS: <https://www.cpoms.co.uk>

Classrom Cloud: <https://classroom.cloud/>

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Pickhurst Academy is part of the Chancery Education Trust.

Chancery Education Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



IT Filtering & Monitoring Information in our School

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**PLEASE TAKE THIS HOME
FOR INFORMATION**

IT Filtering & Monitoring Information

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Schools should provide a safe environment to learn and work, including when online.

Filtering & monitoring are both important parts of safeguarding pupils and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) states that all schools and colleges should:

“ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place and regularly review their effectiveness” and they: “should be doing all that they reasonably can to limit children's exposure to the above risks from school's or college's IT system”.

We have produced this leaflet to inform our school community and anyone who visits our schools, how we are striving to keep everyone safe.

What is filtering & monitoring?

Filtering systems: block access to harmful sites and content.

Monitoring systems: identify when a user accesses or searches for certain types of harmful content on school and college devices (it doesn't stop someone accessing it).



Your school is then alerted to any concerning content so you can intervene and respond. No filtering and monitoring system is 100% effective, so you need to use it alongside your existing safeguarding systems and procedures. What if I have a safeguarding and technical concern?

Report your concerns to the DSL or E-Safety Co-ordinator, such as if:

- You witness or suspect unsuitable material has been accessed
- You are able to access unsuitable material
- Staff are teaching topics that could create unusual activity on the filtering logs
- There is failure in the software or abuse of the system
- There are perceived unreasonable restrictions that affect teaching and learning or administrative tasks
- You notice abbreviations or misspellings that allow access to restricted material



What filtering system do we have in place?

To ensure our infrastructure/network is as safe and secure as is reasonably possible, we use a firewall and filtering system.

Pickhurst Academy utilises Smoothwall which is a hardware based solution and uses equipment installed onsite.

Smoothwall works by acting as an intermediary between a user's device and the internet. When someone tries to access a website, their request passes through the Smoothwall filtering system before reaching the destination. The system then checks the website against a database of categories, reputation scores, and filtering rules set by the organization. Depending on those policies, Smoothwall may allow access, block the website entirely, or log the activity for administrators to review later. In some cases, it can also trigger alerts if risky or concerning behaviour is detected.

One of the main ways Smoothwall operates is through URL categorization. Websites are sorted into categories such as education, gaming, social media, gambling, or adult content. Administrators can choose which categories are permitted and which are blocked for different groups of users. For example, a school may allow educational websites but block gaming and social networking sites during lesson hours. Policies can also differ depending on the age group or role of the user, meaning teachers may have broader access than students.

Typical categories it filters include:

- Adult content
- Violence or self-harm material
- Gambling
- Malware or phishing sites
- Social media (optional)
- Gaming
- Streaming sites
- Proxy/VPN bypass tools