Southwick Church of England Primary School

Filtering and Monitoring Policy

Approved by: Governing Board
Responsible Person: Headteacher (Filtering and Monitoring Lead)
Review Frequency: Annually
Next Review Date: September 2027

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1. Vision and Ethos

At Southwick Church of England Primary School, our vision is rooted in Christian values and the belief that every child is made in the image of God and deserves to learn and flourish in a safe, respectful and nurturing environment.

We are committed to promoting the welfare of all children and protecting them from harm, including harm that may arise through the use of technology and the internet. Through effective filtering and monitoring, we seek to ensure that pupils can benefit from the opportunities technology provides whilst being protected from inappropriate, harmful or illegal content.

Our approach is underpinned by our values of **Respect, Compassion, Friendship, Forgiveness, Service and Responsibility**, and our school rules of **Ready, Respectful, Safe**.

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2. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Safeguard children whilst using school technology.
- Comply with statutory requirements outlined in:

- *Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026*;
- *The Prevent Duty*;
- *DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards for Schools and Colleges*.

- Prevent access to harmful, illegal or inappropriate content.
- Identify and respond to safeguarding concerns that may arise online.
- Support the school's wider safeguarding responsibilities.
- Promote responsible and ethical use of technology.

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3. Legislative and Statutory Framework

This policy should be read alongside:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- Online Safety Policy.
- Staff Code of Conduct.
- Acceptable Use Agreements.
- Behaviour Policy.
- Data Protection Policy.
- Prevent Risk Assessment.

In accordance with **KCSIE 2026**, Southwick Church of England Primary School recognises that:

Schools should ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place and regularly reviewed to safeguard children from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material.

The school also recognises its obligations under the **Prevent Duty** to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, radicalisation and extremism.

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4. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Board

The Governing Board will:

- Ensure appropriate filtering and monitoring systems are in place.
- Receive regular safeguarding reports that include online safety concerns.
- Ensure filtering and monitoring arrangements are effective and proportionate.
- Ensure monitoring systems support, but do not replace, staff vigilance.

Headteacher and Filtering & Monitoring Lead

The Headteacher is the school's designated **Filtering and Monitoring Lead**.

The Filtering and Monitoring Lead will:

- Oversee all filtering and monitoring arrangements.
- Receive automated safeguarding alerts directly to their school email account.
- Review filtering and monitoring logs on at least a weekly basis.
- Investigate alerts and trends identified through monitoring systems.
- Liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) where concerns arise.
- Escalate safeguarding concerns in line with the Child Protection Policy.
- Report significant concerns to governors where appropriate.
- Ensure systems remain effective and fit for purpose.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL will:

- Respond to safeguarding concerns identified through monitoring activity.
- Assess risks and determine appropriate intervention.
- Record concerns on the school's safeguarding recording system.
- Liaise with external agencies where necessary.
- Consider Prevent-related concerns where relevant.

Staff

All staff must:

- Remain vigilant to online safeguarding concerns.

- Report any concerns immediately.
- Follow school Acceptable Use Agreements.
- Model safe and responsible technology use.
- Understand indicators of online harm, exploitation, radicalisation and abuse.

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5. Filtering Arrangements

The school uses filtering systems to reduce the risk of pupils accessing harmful or inappropriate material.

Filtering arrangements seek to block:

- Pornographic content.
- Extremist and terrorist material.
- Hate content.
- Self-harm and suicide-related content.
- Gambling websites.
- Illegal content.
- Malicious software and phishing websites.
- Age-inappropriate material.
- Other content identified as posing a safeguarding risk.

Filtering systems are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain effective whilst allowing access to legitimate educational resources.

The school recognises that no filtering system can offer complete protection. Filtering forms only one part of a wider safeguarding strategy that includes supervision, education and effective monitoring.

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6. Monitoring Arrangements

Monitoring systems are used to identify safeguarding concerns and patterns of behaviour that may indicate risk.

Monitoring allows the school to identify:

- Searches relating to violence, extremism or terrorism.

- Searches linked to self-harm or suicide.
- Bullying or harmful behaviour.
- Inappropriate language.
- Attempts to access blocked content.
- Signs of exploitation or abuse.
- Online behaviours associated with radicalisation.

Monitoring activity is proportionate and designed for safeguarding purposes.

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7. Device Accountability

All school devices are managed so that usage can be linked to an individual user wherever possible.

The school maintains a system whereby:

- Laptops and iPads are logged in and out to pupils.
- Staff maintain accurate records of device allocation.
- Monitoring records can be linked to the device user.
- Safeguarding investigations can identify who was using a device at a particular time.

This supports effective safeguarding and ensures that concerns can be investigated promptly and accurately.

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8. Alerts and Review Processes

The school's monitoring system generates alerts when potentially concerning behaviour is detected.

These alerts:

- Are sent directly to the Headteacher/Filtering and Monitoring Lead.
- Are reviewed promptly.
- Are considered within the wider safeguarding context.
- May result in further investigation where appropriate.

In addition:

- Monitoring logs are formally reviewed weekly by the Headteacher.
- Emerging trends are identified and assessed.
- Findings inform safeguarding actions and preventative education.

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9. Prevent Duty

The school recognises that online activity may provide indicators of vulnerability to radicalisation.

Monitoring arrangements support the school's Prevent responsibilities by helping to identify:

- Access to extremist material.
- Terrorist content.
- Anti-democratic narratives.
- Online radicalisation pathways.
- Conspiracy theories linked to extremist ideologies.
- Harmful misogynistic or hateful content.

Any concerns identified will be assessed in line with safeguarding procedures and, where appropriate, discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and relevant external agencies.

The school adopts a safeguarding approach to Prevent, recognising that children may be vulnerable to exploitation by extremist influences.

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10. Responding to Incidents

Where monitoring identifies a concern, the school will:

1. Review the incident.
2. Assess immediate risk.
3. Record the concern.
4. Inform the DSL where appropriate.
5. Speak with the pupil where necessary.
6. Engage parents and carers when appropriate.

7. Refer to external agencies where required.
8. Consider whether the concern indicates wider safeguarding risks.

Responses will be proportionate and centred on safeguarding and support.

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11. Education and Awareness

Technology safety is taught through:

- The Computing Curriculum.
- PSHE education.
- Collective Worship.
- Online safety events and awareness campaigns.
- Assemblies and class discussions.

Pupils are taught:

- Safe online behaviour.
- Critical thinking.
- Respectful communication.
- Reporting concerns.
- Digital citizenship.
- The risks associated with online extremism and harmful content.

This supports the development of responsible, compassionate and respectful young people who are able to make wise choices online and offline.

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12. Monitoring Effectiveness

The effectiveness of filtering and monitoring arrangements will be evaluated through:

- Weekly monitoring reviews.
- Safeguarding audits.
- Governor oversight.
- Incident analysis.
- Annual policy review.

- Feedback from staff and pupils.

The school will ensure that filtering and monitoring arrangements continue to meet the requirements of KCSIE 2026, the Prevent Duty and the DfE Filtering and Monitoring Standards.

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13. Conclusion

As a Church of England school, we believe that safeguarding is an expression of our Christian duty to love, protect and serve one another. Effective filtering and monitoring help us create an environment where pupils can learn confidently, develop responsibly and flourish safely in an increasingly digital world.

"Do everything in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14