



14th November 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

Filtering and monitoring of the school's IT system

We wanted to bring to your attention the filtering and monitoring systems in place on the school's IT network and IT resources, in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2023 and our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

What is filtering and monitoring?

Filtering and monitoring systems are used to keep students safe when using the school's IT system.

Filtering systems

Block access to harmful sites and content.

Monitoring systems

Identify when a user accesses or searches for certain types of harmful contents on school and college devices (it doesn't stop someone accessing it). The school is then alerted to any concerning content so that we can intervene and respond.

At Warlingham School & Sixth Form College, appropriate and compliant web-based filtering provides a monitoring solution, which detects inappropriate or potentially inappropriate content against a library of words and categories such as bullying, sexual exploitation, self-harm, racism, indicators of emotional distress, suicide, radicalisation and extremism etc.

As part of the school's work to reduce online risks, the choice of appropriate tools has been informed by a risk assessment that reflects the age and experience of our students. While online safety is the main priority, a balance will be maintained between safety, use of resources and the dangers of 'over blocking'. Mobile technology presents challenges for network security both at school and at home. The knowledge and skills gained through the curriculum will help students keep themselves safe online when using mobile technology outside of school. However, families must ensure that comparable filtering systems are in place to support students at home.

No filtering and monitoring system is 100% effective, so it is used alongside our existing safeguarding systems and procedures, including training on e-safety for students, staff and parents/carers.

Students are reminded that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and they should report anything in school, which causes them concern, to a member of staff, including material available on the school's computers and network (or information being accessed by others).

In using the school's network and IT resources students agree to comply with our Acceptable Use Policy. Computers, the internet, software and other resources are provided to help student learning and misuse of these is a breach of this policy, may result in an internal isolation.

The internet has revolutionised the way we live our lives and supports learning inside and outside the classroom. The reasonable steps we have taken, as outlined above are intended to limit our student's exposure to risks when using the school's IT system.

Further information about our monitoring system and advice about steps you can take at home to keep your child safe online can be accessed [here](#). Access to online safety guidance and organisations can be found [here](#) and on our school website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr P Foster

Headteacher