

September 2017

## **1. Keeping children safe in education: guide to filtering and monitoring online**

### **Wanna drive? - A guide to monitoring**

There is often an assumption in the online safety world that teachers and school staff understand all the terms we use and the difference between them. This can be especially true when talking about technical solutions.

This lack of understanding can mean that children can be left with inadequate safeguarding measures to support them. Of additional concern is that in a bid to meet new requirements, schools can end up purchasing expensive software that doesn't necessarily provide them with the solutions they need.

In 2016 the Government updated Keeping Children Safe in Education to state that all schools need to have an "appropriate" level of monitoring and filtering in place. But what does this mean in practice?

### **Filtering and Monitoring**

Monitoring and filtering are often talked about together as a package, but they do two very different, but complementary things.

#### **Filtering**

Filtering stops packets of data before they even reach the network, blocking predetermined words, phrases and URLs.

Some filtering providers may notify you if users on your network try to access filtered sites, which can be helpful, but you may get that information weeks later, and there is often little context included in these notifications.

#### **Monitoring**

Rather than blocking data, monitoring solutions sit on top of the whole network (in a school for example) and looks out for pre-set words and phrases. Unlike filtering, monitoring solutions look at the whole network, so whether someone is using Google or working on a word document, it will monitor what is going on and report back if anything unusual appears.

#### **What Ofsted Want**

Ofsted don't just want you to tick a box and say "we have monitoring". They want schools to be able to demonstrate that they understand monitoring and can explain its impact.

**Link:** <http://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/Wanna-drive-A-guide-monitoring>

**For more information about e safety :**

- go to <http://www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk>
- come into school and talk to a member of Student Services

## **2. Thousands of children sexting, police say**      **September 2017**

Thousands of children, including a boy aged five, have been investigated for sexting, the BBC has learned.

Nearly 400 children under the age of 12 have been spoken to by police in the last three years in England and Wales.

Figures obtained by the BBC show more than 4,000 cases since 2013 where children have taken explicit pictures of themselves and sent them to others.

It is illegal to possess, take or distribute sexual images of someone who is under 18, including of yourself.

The five-year-old, from County Durham, was spoken to by officers of Durham Constabulary last year. He is the youngest person to be investigated for sexting by police forces in England and Wales who responded to a BBC Newcastle request for information.

### **So what can you do?**

It's important to consider what you're sharing and who you're sharing it with. If you wouldn't feel comfortable having an intimate image of yourself online, is it worth sending it in the first place?

Childline have a free 'Zipit' app to help you keep your flirty chat on track.

If you're worried that you might have shared too much, check out this great guide from the UK Safer Internet Centre, 'So You Got Naked Online', which will help you figure out if you want or need to do something.

If you're worried about the consequences of sexting, try and talk to an adult you trust. They need to know something has happened to be able to support you, so try to be honest about what's happened.

### **The Law**

While it's legal to have sex in the UK from the age of 16, it is illegal and a serious criminal offence to take, hold or share "indecent" photos of anyone under the age of 18. The maximum penalty is 10 years in prison.

The Association of Chief Police Officers of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (ACPO) have stated that young people engaging in sexting shouldn't face prosecution as first time offenders, but the situation will be investigated to ensure that the young people involved are not at risk. Repeat offenders and more extreme cases are reviewed differently.

From February 2015, 'revenge porn' became a criminal offence in England and Wales. This makes it an offence to share private sexual photographs or films without the consent of the people in them and if the intention is to cause them distress. This includes social networks and sending pictures via text. If convicted, you can face a maximum of two years in prison.

**Link:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-40566026>