



Our Lady of Good Help

Catholic Primary School

Smoothwall Benefits Statement 2023

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Smoothwall Benefits Statement

Introduction

Smoothwall is the most purchased filter in UK Education. It is the only filter to deliver against the 4 factors needed for maximum safety and rich, age-appropriate online learning.

1. **Real-time, ALL of the time**

While other filters are real-time some of the time, Smoothwall is real-time, all of the time. That means there is never any delay between dangerous content going live and our Filter's ability to block it.

2. **True content analysis**

Smoothwall doesn't rely on blocklists alone. All content is textually analysed as it streams to the user so over blocking is eliminated. Students enjoy the richest and safest online learning.

3. **Granular control**

Granular controls mean schools can easily choose who sees what, where and when, to give students maximum protection and age and location appropriate online experiences.

4. **Hybrid deployment**

Hybrid deployment, via cloud or onsite means schools benefit from all of the above safety features regardless of whether their devices are in school or remote.

Smoothwall and its partners at National Online Security, monitor the developments of all statutory guidance provided to schools by the Department for Education and evolve its system regularly via updates to ensure that it is meeting the full requirements of Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). Over the last six years, it has also become apparent that the online world often provides key information and indeed indicators relating to young people developing an interest in extremism and terrorist views. In keeping with the PREVENT strategy, Smoothwall not only blocks content relating to such activities but provides periodic reporting highlighting potential individuals or at least IP addresses that can be shared with the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU).

In order to ensure that all schools using Smoothwall are prepared for and satisfy the expectations of Ofsted, the organisation also ensures that product updates are made in order to reflect the needs of all relevant Ofsted Inspection Frameworks. Under the current framework, Ofsted inspectors will expect to see:

- "Appropriate filters and monitoring systems...in place to protect learners from potentially harmful online material".

The Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory document explains this requirement in detail by mentioning:

- Filtering should be "age appropriate".
- Overblocking should not lead to "unnecessary restrictions" around teaching and learning.

These requirements make it clear that whilst it is essential for schools and colleges to create optimum protection from the safeguarding and security risks that the internet exposes, there is an expectation for establishments to ensure that filtration provides a granular approach that allows appropriate access depending on the age of students. This flexibility is provided both centrally via the overall Smoothwall product but can also be applied locally via the onsite Smoothwall device.

KCSIE points to the UK Safer Internet Centre for schools and colleges to refer to when choosing their filtering solution, with Smoothwall being recommended on their list. Within this guidance, it is suggested that all schools and colleges should have effective filtering that identifies both illegal and inappropriate content.

The definitions for measurements include:

Illegal content

- Illegal images – Smoothwall are members of the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Access is blocked to illegal child abuse images and content.
- Unlawful terrorist content – Smoothwall incorporate police-checked lists for unlawful content and liaise with the CTIRU to ensure these are maintained.

Inappropriate content

- Discrimination: Any form of prejudice on grounds of race, religion, age or sex.
- Drugs/substance abuse: Anyone displaying or promoting the illegal use of drugs or substances.
- Extremism: Anyone promoting terrorism and terrorist ideologies, violence or intolerance.
- Malware/hacking: Any form of compromising of systems including anonymous browsing and other filter bypass tools as well as sites hosting malicious content.
- Pornography: Displays of sexual acts or explicit images.
- Piracy and copyright theft: Illegal provision of copyrighted material.
- Self-harm: Promotion or display of deliberate self-harm (including suicide and eating disorders).
- Violence: Any display or promotion of the use of physical force intended to hurt or kill.

Not only does the Smoothwall filtration system prevent such material from being accessed but it also provides reports for school Safeguarding Teams to consider the potential accesses that have been taking place and also to examine the reasons behind such searches being initiated.