Wessex
Learning Trust
We Learn Together

January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Smoothwall Filtering and Monitoring – Parent Information

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping all pupils safe online, both in school and when using school devices, we are improving Filtering and Monitoring across all Wessex Learning Trust schools using a product called Smoothwall.

Smoothwall is a nationally recognised system used by schools across the UK to help safeguard children by monitoring online activity and filtering inappropriate or harmful content. It provides early alerts to designated safeguarding staff if concerning online behaviour is detected.

What this means for your child:
- All internet activity on school devices and on the school network will be monitored and filtered
- Alerts are sent to trained staff if potentially unsafe or worrying activity is detected
- Monitoring helps identify early signs that a child may need additional support
- It strengthens our online safety approach

Privacy and Data Protection:
We use web filtering and, where appropriate, monitoring on school devices and networks to help keep pupils safe online and meet statutory obligations under the Department for Education's Filtering and Monitoring Standards and the Department for Education's statutory guidance for schools which is known as 'Keeping Children Safe in Education.' This involves logging your school username, device details, the websites you attempt to access, and search terms. We use this information to prevent access to illegal or harmful content and to identify safeguarding concerns. Our legal basis is Article 6(1)(c) of the UK GDPR: legal obligation with Keeping Children Safe in Education. We keep routine logs for 90 days; items linked to safeguarding concerns may be retained longer in a child protection file. Only authorised staff can access the filtering and monitoring system.

For questions or to exercise your data rights, please contact your child's school and ask to discuss with the Data Protection Lead.

Smoothwall is designed for safeguarding. It monitors behaviours, not personal files or unrelated private messages. All data is handled securely and in line with data protection law.

Why are we introducing this now?
Our schools have always had systems in place for monitoring, but online safety risks continue to evolve. Smoothwall helps us respond swiftly and provides reassurance that pupils' digital activity is safeguarded effectively.

If you have any questions, please contact your school office who will either be able to answer your query or put you in touch with a member of the safeguarding team.

Yours sincerely

The Wessex Learning Trust