



Masfield Primary School

Masfield Road, Little Lever, Bolton, BL3 1NG



Executive Headteacher
Mrs. L. Whittaker

Head of School
Mr. A. Done

24 September 2024

RE: Online Safety at Masfield

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you to inform you about the filtering and monitoring practices for online devices that we have in place at our school. These practices are in line with the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance for the 24-25 academic year.

The purpose of filtering and monitoring is to protect children from harmful content online. We use a variety of tools to filter and monitor internet access, including:

- Watchguard, which blocks access to known harmful websites. This software blocks access to specific types of content, such as pornography or violence.
- Lightspeed, which is a real-time monitoring software that tracks internet activity and alerts us to potential problems.
- Google's SafeSearch filters which help to filter explicit content from appearing in search results.
- Apple Classroom, which allows staff to view any child's iPad screen to monitor their activity, as well as lock pupils into a specific app or website or lock the device altogether.

In addition to the filtering and monitoring practices described above, we also have a number of other safeguards in place to protect children from harm online. For example, staff will direct children to access a limited number of websites on a day-to-day basis, all of which have been carefully vetted by our staff and deemed to be educationally beneficial. Children will not be able to have unregulated interaction with anyone online. All online activity will be monitored by staff, and parents, as always, will be notified if any inappropriate or concerning behaviour is detected.

Please rest assured that our staff team are trained to identify and respond appropriately to harmful content. We continue to work hard to ensure that your children remain safe online whilst receiving a very high standard of teaching and learning. We believe that these practices are essential to protecting children from harm.

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Attached to this letter are the following documents:

- A one-page overview which outlines many of the processes and procedures we have in place to protect your children online at Masefield.
- A guide produced by Knowsley City Learning Centres which will help you set up parental controls and adjust privacy settings to provide your child with a safer online environment at home.

If after reading these documents you are still unsure about our processes and procedures at school or how to use parental controls and privacy settings at home, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Zoe Illingworth

Year 5I Teacher and Computing Lead



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