

What you should know about Securus online safeguarding



Securus
Safeguard Monitor Protect

How Securus protects children at school

The Securus software is installed on school computer devices and also onto the school network to monitor the online activity of both pupils and staff against a library of words and phrases provided by Securus. Should the software detect any inappropriate content it can send an alert to the appropriate members of staff to review the information and take what they believe maybe appropriate and necessary action.

Incidents flagged by Securus, based upon categories in the library, would include evidence of bullying, sexual exploitation, self-harm, racism, indicators of emotional distress, suicide, radicalisation and extremism, searches for harmful websites and so on.

A screen 'capture' is taken of every incident, showing what was displayed at the time, the word or phrase related to the capture, who was involved and when the incident took place. These captures enable staff to review the information in the context of the situation and decide if it is entirely innocent or they need to respond to a potentially serious issue with the confidence of having evidence to hand.



About Securus

Since 2002, Securus Software has been at the forefront of providing online safeguarding solutions to schools. By developing leading edge solutions designed to safeguard young people against online dangers we helped pioneer the concept of online safety.

Our solutions continue to evolve to reflect this dynamic environment and keep children safe within it. We know that young people now see no distinction between their online and offline lives. In response to this our system has been specifically developed to highlight potential risk taking place online that has real life consequences for young people.

Securus is a member of both the UK Council for Child Internet Safety (UKCCIS) and the IWF (Internet Watch Foundation).



Why do schools need to monitor?

- Monitoring is part of a school's duty as explained within the statutory guidance issued by the DfE 'Keeping Children Safe in Education', within the Government 'Prevent Duty' and as part of the Ofsted inspection framework.
- Part of the schools duty of care is there to protect young people from online dangers such as sexual grooming, radicalisation and cyberbullying.
- Children and young people can be educated on the safe use of the Internet.
- Opens up the learning environment to be used safely for education purposes.
- Inappropriate content can be detected and staff alerted to take action.
- Potential high-risk behaviour can be identified, enabling early intervention and help.



What you can do to help keep children safe online

With even pre-school children using computers today, it is vitally important that online safety is implemented as early as possible.

Whilst much of the advice provided generally is common sense, here are some guidelines parents and teachers can follow to help instil online safety habits in children. It goes without saying that every situation is unique and therefore you need to decide what is best for a child based on the specific circumstances.



Setting some ground rules

- Never post private information (name, address or telephone number) on any public platform.
- Never send photos of themselves to anyone they don't know, and in general, avoid posting photos online until they are old enough.
- Never give out passwords to anyone, even trusted friends.
- Never interact with strangers online, let parents/teachers know if they suspect anything is amiss.
- Always ask permission before installing or downloading anything on the computer to prevent malware that could cause the system to crash or compromise the security of your data.



Ensure that children view what is appropriate for their age

Setting filters or parental controls is the best way to make sure that children only get access to content that is suitable for their age. These filters block offensive sites and prevent children from accidentally stumbling upon inappropriate sites.



Communicate with children

Have ongoing discussions with children about the often unintended consequences of inappropriate online behaviour and how it can affect them. Help them to understand that there is often a thin line between what's acceptable and what is not and that they need to remain vigilant at all times, to ensure that they do not inadvertently cross that line.

