Interm IT - Partnership Document with Hartsfield JMI School

Digital and Technology standards in schools- Academic Year 2024-25

In this document we clarify the key responsibilities that fall to governing bodies and leadership teams under the March 23 guidance from the DfE and identify the support and expertise that Interm IT provides for our schools as we work together to ensure the safeguarding of young people. We ask that you **complete or correct** any school information and ensure that the relevant staff and governors have sight of the completed document which should be available for inspection when required.

All governing bodies and leadership teams should be fully aware of, and be putting into practice, the statutory guidance in KCSIE 2024; appreciating the role of all parties in ensuring online safety is firmly embedded as a safeguarding issue.

The March 23 guidance from the DfE offers more clarity around roles and responsibilities in relation to digital and technology standards in schools and in particular to filtering and monitoring. This area is likely to come under significant scrutiny in Ofsted inspections going forward.

The guidance identifies 4 filtering and monitoring standards:

Standard 1

You should identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage your filtering and monitoring systems

Governing bodies have overall strategic responsibility for filtering and monitoring and need to be assured that these standards are being met. Schools should identify and assign a member of the school leadership team and a governor to be responsible for ensuring these standards are met. There must be clarity over the roles and responsibilities of staff and third-party providers including Interm IT.

The assigned member of the school's senior team is Philippa Smith (Headteacher and DSL)

They will fulfil their responsibility by ensuring the following:

Termly report to governors with the nominated governor

Annual update to staff (with new child protection policy update INSET) plus additional updates as needed

Termy checks with Intern IT to ensure filtering and monitoring systems are working

The nominated safeguarding governor is Hayley Yates and the Cyber-Security/ IT linked Governor is Dan Matthews.

They will ensure that the standards are being met and will report to the governing body regularly.

Standard 2

You should review your filtering and monitoring provision at least annually

As part of their routine annual appointment to review the contract with each school Interm IT will, working with the school, ensure that the documentation that the school holds regarding its filtering and monitoring systems is both accurate and technically sound. Interm IT will use their technical expertise, and their knowledge of industry trends and technological advances, to advise school leaders on whether their provision remains best value and whether within the financial restraints of the school, it still delivers best practice in this area - thus enabling the school to justify its procurement decisions. Any change to the system set up will have an impact on the decisions made, for example the use of school owned devices off site, and the impact of this will be reflected on during the review. In addition, a discussion around roles and responsibilities is essential at least annually to ensure that Interm' s staff are working effectively with the school staff so that there can be no slippage in either filtering or monitoring. The results of the annual review must be retained by the school and be available for inspection.

Our annual review takes place in February of each year.

The school staff attending will be Philippa Smith (Headteacher), Donna Munson (School Business Manager)

Standard 3

Your filtering system should block harmful and inappropriate content, without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning

Again, as part of the annual meeting Interm will advise the school on how to ensure that filtering does not impact teaching and learning whilst at the same time enables the school to meet its statutory requirements in KCSIE and Prevent duty. Schools must give thought as to how to enable students to assess and manage risk themselves. The Interm staff on site will also be able to provide real time support in this area as the need arises throughout the school year.

The school filtering system is hosted by 'School's Broadband' and utilises 'Netsweeper'.

Standard 4

You should have effective monitoring strategies that meet the safeguarding needs of your school.

Monitoring user activity on school devices is an essential part of providing a safe environment for students and staff. Unlike filtering, it does not stop users from accessing material, but it allows the school to review user activity on school devices. For monitoring to be effective it must pick up incidents urgently, allowing prompt action to be taken and outcomes to be recorded.

Again, a clear staff responsibility structure is key as are delineated procedures. The specialist knowledge of both safeguarding and IT staff is required to enable the management of technical monitoring systems.

Interm partner with a market leader provider of effective monitoring software but we can work with any provider chosen by the school. We will be able to ensure that the key staff have appropriate training and given our experience across a range of schools we will guide and advise on good practice in this area.

The monitoring software used is SENSO

The alerts are directed to Jonathan Hatchett from Interm IT and to Philippa Smith, Headteacher and the DSL ; in their absence the alerts will be sent to Kathryn Dearn (DDSL)