Codsall Multi-Academy Trust
Growing as One
Commitment Compassion Community

@CMAT Online Safety Bulletin

2024 – 2025 Issue 1

Before you read...

OVER 18

The contents of this bulletin are suitable for adults (aged 18 and over only). This is because it may contain words that children and young people may not/should not be exposed to.

Are you worried about a child?

Where can I go for help?

CLICK CEOP Advice Help Report

NCA

Young people can report concerns about child sexual abuse and exploitation to NCA

REPORT REMOVE
Nude image of you online? We can help take it down.

Report Remove

A free tool that allows children to report nude or sexual images and videos of themselves that they think might have been shared online

ChildLine 0800 1111

ChildLine

A free, private and confidential service where CYP can talk about anything to a trained counsellor, online or on the phone

NSPCC

NSPCC Report Abuse in Education

The Report Abuse in Education helpline offers support and guidance to CYP and who have experienced or witnesses sexual harassment or abuse in schools

CLICK CEOP Internet Safety

Click the button for the CEOP Online Safety Centre

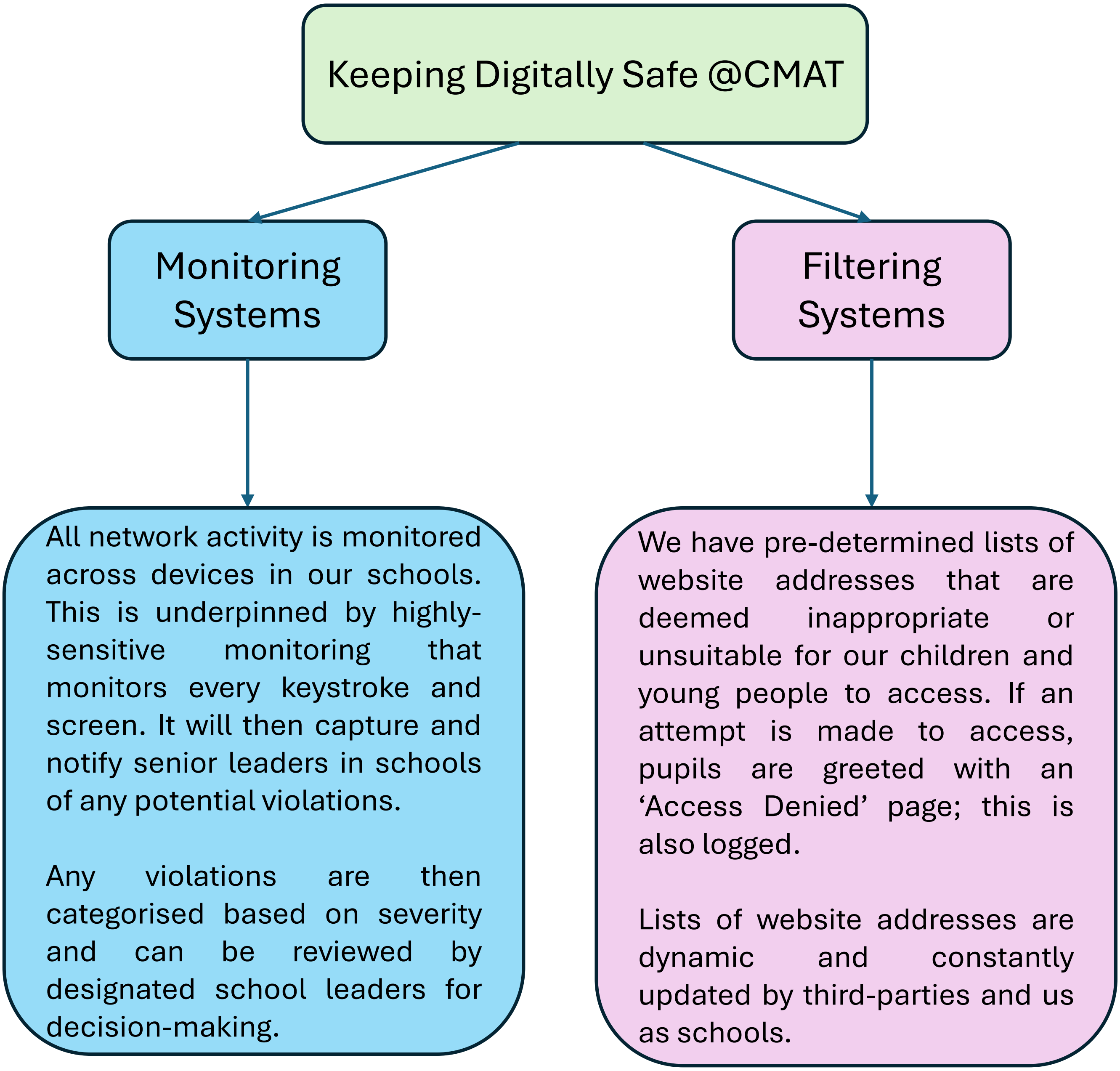
If a child is at an immediate risk of harm, call 999.

Speak to a Designated/Deputy Safeguarding Lead at your child's CMAT school (if the issue impacts your child in school):

St Nicholas CE First School	Birches First School	Codsall Middle School
Miss J Parker	Miss S Varricchione	Mrs S Deas
Mrs S Robb	Miss S Hulme	Mrs K Reade
Mrs S Walton	Mrs E Buckley	Mrs M Davison
Mr R Gough	Mrs C Banks	Mrs R Connolly

Good to Know...

- All of our schools at CMAT have digital monitoring and filtering systems in place.
- These are to help us on our mission to keep all users of our CMAT digital systems safe.



Keeping Digitally Safe @CMAT

Monitoring Systems

Filtering Systems

All network activity is monitored across devices in our schools. This is underpinned by highly-sensitive monitoring that monitors every keystroke and screen. It will then capture and notify senior leaders in schools of any potential violations.

Any violations are then categorised based on severity and can be reviewed by designated school leaders for decision-making.

We have pre-determined lists of website addresses that are deemed inappropriate or unsuitable for our children and young people to access. If an attempt is made to access, pupils are greeted with an 'Access Denied' page; this is also logged.

Lists of website addresses are dynamic and constantly updated by third-parties and us as schools.

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Welcome

As we begin the new academic year at Codsall Multi-Academy Trust (CMAT) , we are pleased to share our first online safety bulletin of the year. This bulletin is an important tool in our ongoing efforts to keep CMAT families informed and empowered when it comes to the ever-evolving digital landscape. The purpose of this bulletin is to ensure that we provide you with the necessary knowledge and resources to prevent and address any online safety incidents that may arise in a proactive way. By keeping you up-to-date on the latest trends and best practices, we aim to equip you with the tools to support your child's safe and responsible use of technology.

We encourage you to review the information carefully and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s school or our designated safeguarding lead. Together, we can work to create a safe and supportive environment for all our pupils, both online and offline, here at CMAT.

We thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to the wellbeing of our school community, and supporting our mission to keep your child safe.

What are the Key Areas of Online Safety?

An important step in improving online safety at your school is identifying what the potential risks might be. Key guidance from the Department of Education groups online safety risks into four areas: **content, contact, conduct and commerce** (sometimes referred to as contract); these are known as the 4 Cs of online safety. All staff across CMAT will have been trained on the INSET Day in early September around these key areas and the implications of these for ensuring we protect our children in the very best possible.

Content

Content is **anything posted online** - it might be words, or it could be images and video. Children and young people may see illegal, inappropriate or harmful content when online. This includes things like fake news, racism, misogyny, self-harm, suicide, anti-Semitism, radicalisation and extremism.

Contact

Contact is about the risk of harm young people may face when **interacting with other users online**. This includes things like peer-to-peer pressure or seeing inappropriate commercial advertising. Sometimes adults pose as children or young adults with the intention of grooming or exploiting a child or young person for sexual, criminal, financial or other purposes.

Conduct

Conduct means the **way people behave online**. Some online behaviour can increase the likelihood, or even cause, harm - for example, online bullying. Conduct also includes things like sharing or receiving nudes and semi-nude images and viewing or sending explicit videos.

Contract (Commerce)

Contract (or commerce) is about **the risk from things like online gambling, inappropriate advertising, phishing or financial scams**. Children and young people may be exposed to these risks directly. As access to buying things online is becoming more accessible, quicker and easier, then the risks are increasing exponentially.

Is your child old enough to use these apps?

One of the greatest challenges with online safety not just at CMAT, but both locally and nationally, are children and young people using apps, when they are at an age below the age restriction.

Age restrictions are in place for good reasons, primarily to protect our children from inappropriate content and potential online risks. Many popular apps have age limits of 13 or older, which means they are not suitable for the majority of the pupils that attend our CMAT schools. It's crucial that we, as adults who are charged with the duty to protect our children and young people, understand and enforce these restrictions to ensure our pupils' safety online.

At CMAT, we encourage you to check the apps your children are using and discuss the importance of age-appropriate content with them. This is because there are clear risks around all of the 4Cs of online safety. Even if your child is old enough, it is important to discuss the key benefits, risks and consequences of using these platforms.

Together, we can create a safer digital environment for our young learners.

Platform	Age Restriction
YouTube	13 years old
WhatsApp	16 years old
Facebook	13 years old
TikTok	13 years old
Instagram	13 years old

Unkindness Online

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face with each other.
Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect and kindness, like they would if they were face-to-face. How they act online should be how they behave on the school playground when they are following school rules (i.e. St Nicholas Way, The Codsall Way, or Birches Golden Expectations).

Here are some examples of what being unkind looks like online:

- Sending nasty or hurtful messages
- Leaving unkind comments
- Sharing photographs of somebody else without their permission
- Excluding somebody on purpose
- Impersonating somebody with a fake account
- Telling/sharing lies

The above might happen whilst your child is gaming online or whilst using social media or messaging apps for example.

What should I do if my child is being bullied online?

Ensure that your child understands that if they receive unkind messages or see something that worries them, they should not reply or engage in conversation with the perpetrator.

Instead, they should tell a trusted adult. You can use the tools within an app to report any offensive or hurtful content as well as block people so they cannot contact them again in the future.

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WhatsApp Alert! Chat Lock/Secret Code

You must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Did you know that you can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting? If a user locks a chat, then the chat will appear at the top under locked chats but cannot be viewed without your device password or biometric (Face ID/fingerprint).

Furthermore though, a user can apply an additional setting to hide the locked chat (so it does not appear in their chat list and can only be accessed via the search bar). Whilst this feature adds privacy, it can make it difficult to monitor what your child is doing on WhatsApp, which is why it is important to have regular chats with your child.

If your child uses WhatsApp, check their chats to ensure these codes are not activated. If they do not have them or have no knowledge of it, don't mention.

9:41

Done

Aileen will be notified in 14 minutes.

It looks like you're delayed. You can add time to notify Aileen later.

Add Time

Cancel Check In

Home

ETA

Around 10:58 AM

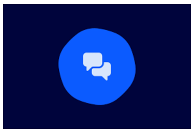
Check In on iPhone

NB: We would not actively encourage location tracking, but we feel this can help parents keep track of their children on the way to and from school (such as pupils at Codsall Middle School)

On iOS 17, you can use check in to let others know when you have arrived at a destination. When using check in, it monitors your journey and notifies the other person when you arrive at your destination or if you are not progressing as you should.

You can find out how to use this feature here: https://support.apple.com/enin/guide/iphone/iphc143bb7e9/ios

Check your child's device location settings so that others cannot track where they are.



Roulette Style Chat Apps

Chat roulette style apps work by pairing people together anonymously to chat (and video chat) to each other. Due to the anonymous nature of these apps, we would always recommend that that they are not suitable for under 18s. There is often a lot of inappropriate content and behaviour on these apps and your child is at risk of grooming as a stranger may try to connect with your child initially on an anonymous app and then encourage them to continue chatting on another app.

It is also important that your child is aware that what they say and do whilst video chatting can be recorded and shared later without their knowledge. You should talk to your child about who they chat with and what they are sharing when they do. As with all apps and websites that your child accesses, make sure they know how to use any reporting , and they know how to block other users if necessary.

See here for more information from NSPCC: https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/

Check your child's chats to ensure that they are accessible to you as a parent/carer/guardian

Check who your child is interacting with on chatting apps – Do you know who they are? Is the nature and content of the chat appropriate for the age?

Talk to your child about what inappropriate content, contact and conduct may look like, including the risks and consequences around these for themselves and others.