Internet Filtering Policy

Date of next policy review	**2024**
Name of person responsible for this policy	**Christopher Fulton**
Issued to	**Staff, governors, parents**
Date of issue	**September 2022**

1.0   Introduction

The contents of this policy pay close attention to the following DE Circulars:

- **DE Circular 2011/22: Internet Safety**
- **DE Circular 2007/01: Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies in Schools.**
- **DE Circular 2016/26: Effective Educational Uses of Mobile Digital Devices**
- **DE Circular 2016/27: Online Safety**

Copies of the above can be accessed online at   www.deni.gov.uk ; hard copies will also be stored with this policy document.

Everyone at Victoria Primary School takes internet use and the associated safety of our pupils extremely seriously.

It is important to note, however, that any filtering service, no matter how thorough, can never be comprehensive and it is essential both that schools have a clearly understood policy on acceptable use for all users and that adequate supervision is maintained.

If at any time school staff or pupils find themselves able to access internet sites from within school which they think should be blocked, they should advise the school Principal (or, in his absence, the ICT Leader). The Principal should then report the matter to **the C2k Helpdesk** who will implement agreed procedures for handling such issues.

Depending on the nature of the issue, these procedures may require C2k to report to the Department. All actions should be taken immediately.

2.0 Systems

In Victoria PS we use one system for internet access:

1. DE provided **C2K provision**;

2.1   DE provided C2K provision

C2k provides an effective filtering system, as a result of which the following categories of websites are not, by default, available to schools: -

- **Adult**: content containing sexually explicit images, video or text, the depiction of actual or realistic sexual activity;

- **Violence**: content containing graphically violent images, video or text;

- **Hate Material**: content which promotes violence or attack on individuals or institutions on the basis of religious, racial or gender grounds;

- **Illegal drug taking and the promotion of illegal drug use**: content relating to the use or promotion of illegal drugs or misuse of prescription drugs;

- **Criminal skill/activity**: content relating to the promotion of criminal and other activities;

- **Gambling**: content relating to the use of online gambling websites or information relating to the promotion of gambling and gambling advice.

C2k defines three types of access:

- **GREEN** – accessible to all users in schools;

- **AMBER** – accessible to schools' selected groups of u changed by the C2K School Manager within Post-primary and Special schools only);

- **RED** – not accessible to any user.

C2K filtering is managed at departmental level and is **not the responsibility of the school.**

3.0 School Procedures

The school has a mechanism should a website be found to be uncategorised, and can request a category to be allocated from within the URL category tool.

Individual websites and iOS apps can be permitted through the filtering system on a site per site basis using a system called White Listing. This is particularly useful when blocking such apps as Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr that operate within an 'App' environment.