Hood Hill Equestrian
Filtering and Monitoring Policy

This policy reflects the statutory guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' from the DfE.

Created – September 2024
Reviewed – October 2026
Next review – October 2027

Aims

The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation: technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. An effective approach to online safety empowers the setting to protect and educate the whole community in their use of technology and establishes mechanisms to identify, intervene in, and escalate any incident where appropriate.

The breadth of issues classified within online safety is considerable, but can be categorised into three areas of risk:

- Content: being exposed to illegal, inappropriate, or harmful material; for example, pornography, fake news, racist or radical and extremist views.

- Contact: being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users; for example, commercial advertising as well as adults posing as children or young adults; and

- Conduct: personal online behaviour that increases the likelihood of, or causes, harm; for example, making, sending, and receiving explicit images, or online bullying.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Senior Manger

The Proprietor and Senior Manager is responsible for ensuring that staff understand this policy, and that it is being implemented consistently throughout Hood Hill Equestrian.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead

- The DSL takes lead responsibility for online safety, in particular;
- Supporting the proprietor in ensuring that staff understand this policy and that it is being implemented consistently
- Working with the proprietor and other staff, as necessary, to address any online safety issues or incidents.
- Managing all online safety issues and incidents in line with the child protection policy.
- Ensuring that any online safety incidents are logged dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with the relationship policy.
- Updating and delivering staff training on online safety if appropriate.
- Liaising with other agencies and/or external services if necessary.

All Staff and Volunteers

All staff are responsible for:

- Maintaining an understanding of this policy.
- Implementing this policy consistently.
- Working with the DSL to ensure that any online safety incidents are logged and dealt with appropriately in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that any incidents of cyber-bullying are dealt with appropriately in line with the relationship policy
- Responding appropriately to all reports and concerns about sexual violence and/or harassment, both online and offline and maintaining an attitude of 'it could happen here'.

All staff are aware of reporting mechanisms for safeguarding and technical concerns. They should report if:

- they witness or suspect unsuitable material has been accessed.
- they can access unsuitable material.
- they are teaching topics which could create unusual activity on the filtering logs.
- there is failure in the software or abuse of the system.
- there are perceived unreasonable restrictions that affect teaching and learning or administrative tasks.

- they notice abbreviations or misspellings that allow access to restricted material.

Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Notify a member of staff of any concerns or queries regarding this policy.

Parents/carers can seek further guidance on keeping children safe online from the following organisations and websites:

What are the issues? – UK Safer Internet Centre
Hot topics – Childnet International
Parent resource sheet – Childnet International

Visitors and Members of the Community

Visitors and members of the community who use the centre's internet will be made aware of this policy, when relevant, and expected to read and follow it.

Filtering and Monitoring

There is no technology used by our Young People at Hood Hill Equestrian.
If there is technology introduced the centre will purchase a suitable filtering software
The filtering of internet content provides an important means of preventing users from accessing material that is illegal or is inappropriate in an educational context. The filtering system cannot, however, provide a 100% guarantee that it will do so. It is therefore important that the centre has a filtering policy to manage the associated risks and to provide preventative measures which are relevant to the situation in this centre.

If pupils use their phones to conduct research, adults will control this in a small group and monitor their activities.

There are two types of appropriate monitoring that is considered:

1. Physical monitoring (adult supervision in the classroom).
2. Web search monitoring – N/A currently

The DSL will make monthly checks on the web search reports and will produce and share a report with the proprietor if technology usage is introduced.
If concerns are raised by the web search report(s) e.g. searches for self- harm, DSL and staff will work to identify the child. This would involve logging children's use of IT equipment.

Further information can be found on the following websites:
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.disrespectnobody.co.uk

www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.internetmatters.org
www.childnet.com/cyberbullying-guidance
www.pshe-association.org.uk
http://educateagainsthate.com
www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-use-of-social-media-for-onlineradicalisation
www.gov.uk/UKCCIS
https://www.rm.com/products/rm-safetynet