

Education Digital Standards (EDS)

Standard H: Web Filtering

Revision History

Version	Date	Comments	By	Approved
0.1	09/04/2021	Draft	Rachel Broad	
0.2	27/04/2021	Revised category running order following feedback from Deb Sargent	Rachel Broad	
1.0	30/07/2021	Approved at TSG meeting	TSG	TSG
1.1	27/09/2021	Updated with introductory paragraphs – no changes to standards	Rachel Broad	

The key aim of the web filtering standards outlined within this document is that they will enable access to websites that support the effective delivery of teaching and learning in schools.

A common set of agreed standards for internet access provides the tools for schools to make informed choices over filtered provision whether delivered by the local authority or another provider.

It is critical that filtering standards are fit for purpose for 21st century teaching and learning, allowing the access schools require whilst still safeguarding children and young people.

The standards will provide learners with the opportunity to learn within a safe, responsible and supportive environment and prevent access to inappropriate content. An effective online safety programme of education should supplement this guidance to teach children and young people the importance of responsible and considerate online behaviours.

Special schools and pupil referral units should adopt the suggested categories based on the abilities of their learners rather than that of their chronological age as appropriate.

The standards are updated from 2018 in conjunction with Smoothwall and the Technical Standardisation Group.

Key

The category should be explicitly blocked

The category should be explicitly allowed

Any domain or URL that exists in a category that is highlighted in Amber will have its content scanned. If the scanned content contains inappropriate content, e.g. Criminal activity, then it will be blocked. Otherwise, it will be allowed. This is especially useful for social networking sites, blogs, or search engines, which are usually safe, but may contain inappropriate material.

Adult

Block / Allow Categories

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non- teaching staff
Adult Entertainers	Used in conjunction with search term filtering to help prevent pornographic web searches.				
Adult Sites	Content which is primarily adult in nature, content such as bad language or adult jokes, but not Pornography.				
Dating and Companionship Sites	Domains and URLs that provide dating and companionship services.				
Inappropriate and Vulgar search terms	A list of inappropriate and vulgar phrases. (Will only match search queries).				
Gambling	Sites providing gambling and gambling related services such as Casino's or betting on events.				
Gore	Sites which describe or display gory content.				
Naturism and Nudism	Sites that contain nudist pictures and/or promote a nudist lifestyle.				
Non pornographic Nudity	Sites containing nudity that is not pornographic, such as artistic nudity.				

Pornography	Sites dedicated to pornographic content, whether audio, visual, or textual.				
Provocative Images	Sites which contain pictures of intimate, alluring, or revealing attire, or other types of suggestive clothing such as lingerie and swimsuits.				

Not explicitly blocked or allowed

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non- teaching staff
Sexuality Sites	Content based primarily on sexuality which may be unsuitable for younger audiences.				

Education, Finance and Business

Block / Allow Categories

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non- teaching staff
Academic Institutions	Sites of schools, universities, colleges, and other learning centres.				
Education and Reference	Sites that provide materials and information that aid in learning.				
Cryptocurrency	Sites which discuss, or provide the ability to buy, sell, or exchange cryptocurrencies.				
Government	Government websites and websites related to governmental organisations.				

Plagiarism	Sites offering paid help and/or pre-written homework material for students.				
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Not explicitly blocked or allowed

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non- teaching staff
Business and Corporate	Sites for businesses and commercial organisations, where the organisation provides paid for goods or services.				
Charity and Non-Profit	Charity and non-profit organisations.				
Financial Services	Finance sites including investment advice, but not Online Banking portals.				
Online Banking	Sites providing online banking access, or online credit card management.				
Politics	Sites belonging to a political party or wholly political based sites.				
Real estate and property	Sites that discuss, promote, market, and provide information on renting, buying, or selling real estate or properties.				
Religion	Sites where the main theme or content is religion.				
Translation	Sites which provide translation services, such as blocks of text, or providing entire site translation.				

Entertainment and Social Media

Block / Allow Categories

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non- teaching staff
Adverts	Advert servers and advert URLs.				
Audio and Video	Sites providing audio or video downloading or streaming.				
Blogs	Sites hosting blog content of any kind.				
Celebrity	Sites relating to any celebrity media, fan sites, or news.				
Discussion Forums	Sites dedicated to discussion forums, such as phpBB.				
Graphic Novels	Graphic novels, Manga, and other illustrated works, excluding anything that is pornographic.				
Image Hosting: Unmoderated	Sites which provide image hosting services that potentially include pornographic or otherwise offensive content.				
Instant Messaging, VoIP, and web conferencing	Sites which contain messenger clients and web-based messaging sites, as well as any form of Voice over IP based chat service.				
Jokes and Humour	Sites dedicated to humour, including jokes, videos, amusing images, and satire.				
Magazines	Sites selling, reviewing, or discussing magazine content, whether printed or online.				
Museums and art galleries	Sites that promote, exhibit, and/or display works of art or objects of historical and cultural significance.				
Online Auctions	Online auction sites where auction style sales are carried out.				
Online Games	Sites providing games which can be played in a web browser.				
Peer-to-peer Networking	Peer-to-peer networking sites used to download or stream content.				
Search suggestions	Automatic search suggestions provided by search engines such as Google, Bing, or YouTube.				

Social Networking Sites	Social Networking Sites				
Time wasting	Unproductive sites popular with children.				

Not explicitly blocked or allowed

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non- teaching staff
Computer Games	Sites related to computer games, but <i>not</i> in-browser playable games.				
Computing	Sites related to computing such as programming languages or technology related news.				
File Hosting	Sites that offer online file storage services on remote servers for backup or exchange purposes.				
Image Hosting: Moderated	Sites which provide image hosting services that are vetted or controlled with a conditions of use policy or moderated by humans.				
Mapping	Sites which provide geographical mapping services including those that promote or provide opportunity for travel planning.				
Movies and Film	Movies sites, reviews, and discussions.				
Music	Sites that discuss, promote, market, or distribute music, including fan sites, lyrics sites, playlist sites, artist and musical subjects' sites.				
News	Sites whose primary aim is to present local, national, or international news, or news relating to a specific topic.				
Online Shopping	Sites where purchases can be made of any kind.				
Radio and TV	Non-news related radio and television, including radio streaming sites.				
Software Updates	Domains used to download software updates.				
Sport	Sites discussing or promoting any sport, including sports team homepages.				

Travel and Transport Services	Information or booking sites related to transportation such as trains, taxis, or airlines.				
URL Shortening	Sites which provide URL shortening and forwarding.				
Vacations	Sites relating to travel and holidays.				
Vehicles and Motoring	Sites which advertise, promote, discuss, or offer information on vehicles and automobiles.				
Webmail	Sites dedicated to email/webmail.				
Web Search	Sites providing web search functionality.				

Health and Well-being

Block / Allow Categories

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non- teaching staff
Abortion	Sites which refer to abortion, including “pro-life” and “pro-choice”.				
Alcohol and Tobacco	Sites pertaining to the use, sale, production, and promotion of alcoholic drinks and tobacco (including e-cigarettes).				
Body piercing and Tattoos	Sites which promote, sell, advertise, or discuss any body modifications such as piercing and tattoos.				
Drugs	Sites pertaining to the sale, manufacture, promotion, or use of recreational and prescription drugs.				
Self-Harm	Sites relating to self-harm, suicide, and eating disorders.				

Sex Education	Educational sites relating to sexual activity including reproduction, contraception, and safe sex.				
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Not explicitly blocked or allowed

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Medical information	Sites containing content about health and medical matters.				

Illegal, Violent or Harmful Content

Block / Allow Categories

Category	Description	Foundati on Phase and Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Child Abuse	Child abuse keywords contributed by the Internet Watch Foundation.				
Criminal Activity	Sites providing either instruction or tools which facilitate illegal activity, such as lock picking, fake IDs, and fraud.				
Hacking	Sites which the main theme of hacking or cracking, regardless of "white-hat" or "black-hat".				
Intolerance	Sites relating to or promoting intolerance of any kind.				

Malware and Phishing	Sites hosting viruses, malware, adware, spyware, or trojans.				
Piracy and Copyright Infringement	Sites containing pirated copyrighted material for illegal download or streaming.				
Terrorism	Sites provided by the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism branch of the UK Home Office, containing pro-terrorism material.				
Violence	Sites dedicated to violence, whether this through sport or bullying.				
Weapons (Hunting and Sporting)	Hunting and target shooting weapons.				
Weapons (Military)	Sites describing weapons of war, including those in a historical context.				
Weapons (Personal weapons)	Sites describing maintenance or manufacture of weapons, including firearms, blades, explosives, and incendiaries.				