

Appropriate Filtering for Education settings



May 2025

Filtering Integrator Checklist Responses

Schools (and registered childcare providers) in England and Wales are required “to ensure children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in school, including by establishing appropriate levels of filtering”. Furthermore, it expects that they “assess the risk of [their] children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology”. There are a number of self review systems (eg www.360safe.org.uk) that will support a school in assessing their wider online safety policy and practice.

The Department for Education’s statutory guidance ‘Keeping Children Safe in Education’ obliges schools and colleges in England to “ensure appropriate filters and appropriate monitoring systems are in place and regularly review their effectiveness” and they “should be doing all that they reasonably can to limit children’s exposure to [Content, Contact, Conduct, Contract] risks from the school’s or college’s IT system” however, schools will need to “be careful that “over blocking” does not lead to unreasonable restrictions as to what children can be taught with regards to online teaching and safeguarding.”

By completing all fields and returning to UK Safer Internet Centre (enquiries@saferinternet.org.uk), the aim of this document is to help filtering integrators illustrate to education settings (including Early years, schools and FE) which filtering solution they utilise/recommend and what additional services they provide that enhance the filtering system to support schools. Fully completed forms will be hosted on the UK Safer Internet Centre website alongside the definitions

It is important to recognise that no filtering systems can be 100% effective and need to be supported with good teaching and learning practice and effective supervision.

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Date of submission	18 June 2026

Filtering System Used/Recommended	SafeDNS for DNS based content filtering, deployed with UniFi gateways and access points and UniFi CyberSecure, delivered together as the QLine IT Digital Safeguarding Platform.
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Please indicate why this filtering system has been adopted or recommended

SafeDNS provides category based content filtering and, as an Internet Watch Foundation member, blocks known child sexual abuse material using the IWF list. Its Terrorism category is based on the
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police Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit list of unlawful terrorist content. These illegal content blocklists are enforced at network level and cannot be disabled on site. SafeDNS supports individual filtering profiles, allowing each young person to have their own filtered access set around their risk assessment or court order, and it enforces safe search on the major search engines. It is reliable, centrally managed and well suited to children's homes and schools.

If relevant, please indicate how you enhance the filtering system

QLine deploys SafeDNS as part of one integrated solution, the QLine IT Digital Safeguarding Platform. Each young person is given their own WiFi SSID and SafeDNS profile, with separate staff and guest access and time based access controls. At the UniFi gateway, all outbound DNS on port 53 is redirected to SafeDNS, so a manually set public resolver is still filtered. DNS over TLS is blocked on port 853, and known DNS over HTTPS resolvers are blocked through the UniFi application firewall and domain and IP rules. VPN and proxy use is prevented, and the SafeDNS roaming agent maintains filtering on managed devices used away from the network. UniFi CyberSecure adds a further content filtering and threat detection layer. Access and block logs are held per client on the UniFi central portal for 90 days, attributed by device MAC address. All changes are controlled by QLine through a recorded support ticket process. QLine is Cyber Essentials Plus certified.

Filtering systems are only ever a tool in helping to safeguard children when online and schools have an obligation to *"consider how children may be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum"*.¹

Please note below opportunities to support schools (and other settings) in this regard

QLine supports settings with annual reviews of filtering and online safety provision, an acceptable use notice for young people and staff, a published filtering and monitoring rationale, and guidance to help registered managers and designated safeguarding leads evidence appropriate filtering for inspection. Where software can be installed, QLine also provides device level monitoring through Senso.cloud to complement filtering.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

INTEGRATOR SELF-CERTIFICATION DECLARATION

In order that schools can be confident regarding the accuracy of the self-certification statements, the supplier confirms:

- that their self-certification responses have been fully and accurately completed by a person or persons who are competent in the relevant fields
- that they will update their self-certification responses promptly when changes to the service or its terms and conditions would result in their existing compliance statement no longer being accurate or complete
- that they will provide any additional information or clarification sought as part of the self-certification process
- that if at any time, the UK Safer Internet Centre is of the view that any element or elements of a provider's self-certification responses require independent verification, they will agree to that independent verification, supply all necessary clarification requested, meet the associated verification costs, or withdraw their self-certification submission.

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Position	Managing Director
Date	18 June 2026
Signature	