

# The Wallace High School Internet Filtering Policy

The Wallace High School provides Internet connectivity for staff and pupil devices via BT Infinity Broadband. The school operates the following filtering policy for all Internet enabled devices using the school network.

By default the school's internet filtering software blocks the following content for both staff and pupils.

- **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.
- **Grey Filtering:** This covers websites that although may not be deemed inappropriate are not necessarily educational. These include gaming websites and social networking sites.

## Levels of Access

There are two levels of access provided by the filtering service. For educational purposes staff will have access to a number of websites that pupils may not.

A filtering service, no matter how thorough, can never be comprehensive and thus all users access the Internet in accordance with the School's Acceptable Use Policy.

## **Breaches**

If at any time school staff or pupils find themselves able to access Internet sites, which they think should be blocked, they should advise the ICT Coordinator immediately.

## **Reporting of Inappropriate content**

Where inappropriate material has been accessed via the school network the ICT Coordinator will inform the School's Senior Management Team and update the filtering rules accordingly. When appropriate the ICT Coordinator will also inform the filter software providers of the breach.

In line with the School's Acceptable Use Policy parents will be informed when a pupil accesses inappropriate material.

When applicable the Principal will inform the Board of Governors and if necessary the Police. Where an incident is likely to involve media interest, the Department of Education will also be informed.

## **Changes to the Filtering Software**

Where a member of staff wishes to access a website, that is currently blocked by the filters, they should request approval from their HoD. If approved, the HoD will email the ICT Coordinator with details of the website.

This Policy is in accordance with DENI Circular 2011/22