Education Digital Standards (EDS)

Standard AC: Web filtering and online safeguarding

Category classifications

The category should be explicitly blocked.

The category should be explicitly unblocked. Content will be scanned in real time for any association with blocked categories by the accredited filter provider. Any content associated with a blocked category will also be blocked.

This category should be blocked, however this content may be relevant within an educational setting. Education professionals are best placed to make decisions around the status of these sites with decisions made at school-level in discussion with your local authority.

Mature and Explicit

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Abortions[1]	Sites which refer to abortion, including "pro-life" and "pro-choice".	🟥	🟩	🟩	🟩
Academic Dishonesty	Sites offering paid help and/or pre-written homework material for students	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩
Adult Mixed Content	Content which is primarily adult in nature, content such as bad language or adult jokes, but not pornography.	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Alcohol and Tobacco[2]	Sites pertaining to the use, sale, production and promotion of alcoholic drinks and tobacco (including e-cigarettes)	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩

[1] Blocked for younger learners as pregnancy prevention is not taught until secondary school.
[2] Educational and informational sites about alcohol and tobacco prevention are not blocked by the filter.

Category	Description				
Child Abuse[3]	Child abuse keywords contributed by the IWF	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Criminal Activity	Sites providing either instruction or tools facilitating illegal activity, such as lock picking, fake IDs and fraud.	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Drugs[4]	Sites pertaining to the sale, manufacture, promotion or use of recreational and prescription drugs	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Fireworks	Purchase and manufacture of fireworks & pyrotechnic devices	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩
Gambling	Sites providing gambling and gambling related services, casino's, sports betting etc..	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Gore	Sites describing or displaying gory content.	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Hunting and Sporting[5]	Hunting and target shooting weapons	🟥	🟥	🟨	🟩
Inappropriate/Vulgar Search Terms[6]	Contains lists of Inappropriate/Vulgar/Swear words, only search terms, no content or URLs	🟥	🟩	🟩	🟩
Intimate Apparel and Swimwear	Sites which contain pictures of intimate, alluring, revealing attire or other types of suggestive clothing, such as lingerie and swimsuits.	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩
Intolerance	Sites related to or promoting intolerance of any kind	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Marijuana	Information, tools, resources, and discussion regarding the use or cultivation of marijuana.	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Nitrous Oxide	Sites selling, manufacturing, or discussing the use of Nitrous Oxide.	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥

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[3] Help sites such as NSPCC are not blocked by the filter.

[4] Educational sites such as 'Talk to Frank' are not blocked by the filter.

[5] Learners studying GCSE PE may need access to archery content.

[6] According to Smoothwall, blocking this category for older learners will likely result in overblocking which may impede learning rather than helping it

Category	Description				
Nudity	Sites which contain nudity or promote a nudist lifestyle, which are not pornographic in nature	RED	RED	RED	RED
Pornography	Sites dedicated to Pornographic content, whether audio/visual or textual	RED	RED	RED	RED
Self Harm[7]	Sites relating to self-harm, suicide and eating disorders	RED	RED	RED	RED
Sexuality[8]	Content based primarily on sexuality which may be unsuitable for a younger audience	YELLOW	GREEN	GREEN	GREEN
Terrorism	Sites provided by the Office of Security and Counter-Terrorism branch of the UK Home Office, containing pro-terrorism material	RED	RED	RED	RED
Violence	Sites dedicated to violence, whether this is through sport or bullying	RED	RED	RED	RED
Weapons[9]	Sites discussing and/or selling of weapons, including firearms, blades, explosives and incendiaries	RED	RED	RED	RED
Unsafe AI Chat	AI Chat tools which are unmoderated and/or allow for inappropriate content to be sent and received	RED	RED	RED	RED

Arts and Entertainment

Category[10]	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff

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[7] Self-harm support sites are not blocked.

[8] Might be unsuitable for younger learners but should not be blocked for older learners

[9] Does not include historical weaponry which would come under military.

[10] Streaming sites such as Prime, Disney+ and Netflix are blocked because of Public Broadcasting rights.

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Cartoons and Manga	Graphic novels, Manga, Anime, and other illustrated works, excluding Hentai as this is Pornography	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Celebrity	Sites relating to any celebrity media, fan sites or news	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Entertainment	Sites which cover popular culture such as celebrity news and gossip	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Events	Sites that promote and discuss live events e.g. live dramatic/theatrical productions and festivals	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Humour and Distractions	Unproductive sites popular with children, that are often dedicated to humour, including jokes, video, amusing images and satire	🟥	🟥	🟨	🟩
Live Streaming	Domains and URLs that stream live video	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩
Movies and Film	Movie sites, reviews and discussion	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Music and Audio	Sites that discuss, promote/market and distribute music. Including fan sites, lyrics sites, playlist sites, artist and musical subjects sites	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Sports	Sites discussing or promoting any sport, including sports team homepages	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Streaming Media	Digital video and image hosting content including TV shows and movies	🟨	🟨	🟨	🟨

Business and Government

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Agriculture	Sites related to agriculture - Machinery, livestock, crops	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Business	Sites for businesses and commercial organisations, where the organisation provides paid for goods or services.	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Charity and non-profit	Charity and non-profit organisations	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Cryptocurrency	Cryptocurrency websites	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Financial services	Finance sites including investment advice, but not Online Banking portals	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Government	Government websites and websites related to governmental organisations	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Legal	Lawyer/Solicitor/Barrister websites, law societies and sites whose whole theme is Law	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Medical information	Sites containing content about health and medical matters	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Military	Sites describing weapons of war, including those in a historical context	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Online banking	Sites providing online banking access, or online credit card management	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Payday loans	Online providers of "Payday Loans"; short term cash loans typically with high rates of interest	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥

Gaming

Category[11]	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff

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[11] Online games are blocked to ensure unwanted games are not accessed. Schools may want to unlock specific games that align with the curriculum or other school related activities such as E-sports as an educational tool.

Educational games	Online games intended for learning and self improvement				
Game stores and publishers	Sites that provide authentication for, and content used in, games consoles	🟥	🟨	🟨	🟩
Gaming resources	Sites related to computer games but not in browser playable games	🟨	🟨	🟨	🟩
Video games	Sites providing games that can be played in a browser	🟥	🟨	🟨	🟩

Information and Reference

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Academic Institutions	Sites of schools, universities, colleges and other learning centres	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
AI Tools	General AI (AGI) tools are a set of software and technology that aims to simulate or replicate human-like intelligence across a wide range of tasks. These tools are designed to be flexible, adaptable and able to learn and improve on their own. They can be used for autonomous vehicles, chatbots, and virtual assistants. Examples include machine learning frameworks, NLP libraries and deep learning architectures	🟨	🟨	🟨	🟩
Books and Literature	Sites selling, reviewing or discussing books or audio books in any format	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Computing and Electronic	Sites related to computing but not games. e.g programming languages	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias	Reference material and Resources regarding general topics.	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩

Education	Sites that provide materials and information that aid in learning				
Environment	Information and studies related to living organisms and their natural habitat.				
Image Search	URLs used for image search				
Knowledge Sharing	How To, instructional and Q&A sites				
Maps	Sites which provide geographical mapping services including those that promote or provide opportunity for travel planning				
Museums and Culture	Sites that promote, exhibit, and/or display works of art or objects of historical and or cultural significance				
News	Sites whose primary aim is to present local, national, or international news, or news relating to a specific topic				
Politics	Sites belonging to a Political party or wholly political based sites				
Recreation and Hobbies	Outdoor activities, Arts and Crafts.				
Reference	E.g. Yellow Pages				
Search Engines	Sites providing web search functionality				
Sex Education	Educational sites relating to sexual activity including reproduction, contraception and safe sex	🟥			
Translation	Sites which provide translation services, such as blocks of text or providing entire site translation				
Weather	Sites dedicated to weather information and forecasts				

Malware and Hacking

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Hacking	Sites with the main theme of hacking/cracking, regardless of "white-hat" or "black-hat"	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Internationalised Domain Names	Domains that include non-ASCII characters which are translated to punycode	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Malware and Phishing	Sites hosting viruses, malware, adware, spyware or trojans	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Peer-to-peer	Peer-to-peer network sites	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Piracy	Sites containing pirated copyrighted material for illegal download or streaming	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Proxies and VPNs	Sites and services that allow users to gain access to content in any way that bypasses URL filtering or monitoring	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
What's my IP services	Sites and services which display your public IP address	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩

People and Society

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Body Art	Sites which promote, sell, advertise or discuss any body modification such as piercing and tattoos	🟥	🟥	🟩	🟩
Health and Fitness	Sites dedicated to health and fitness, gyms, fitness blogs, health sites	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Home and Garden	Sites dedicated to household DIY projects and gardening as a hobby, including sites which sell or review power-tools or gardening products	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Job Search	Sites for job search				
Occult	Mystical, supernatural, and pseudoscientific information, discussion, and resources				
Parenting and Baby	Sites providing information or products for parenting, pregnancy, babies and infants				
Pets	Sites selling or discussing pets or pet related goods				
Real Estate	Sites that discuss, promote/market and provide information on renting, buying, or selling real estate or properties				
Religion	Sites where the main theme/content is religion				
Social Sciences	Content involving People, Human culture, and Civilization. Includes information about local events and community organizations				
Toys	Sites which promote, discuss and sell toys and games				
Vehicles	Sites which advertise, promote, discuss and offer information on vehicles and automobiles				
Weddings	Sites discussing weddings or selling wedding related items or services				

Shopping and Travel

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Key Stage 3	GCSE and Post-16	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Clothing and Appearance	Sites selling, promoting and discussing clothing, shoes, jewellery and fashion				
Food and Dining	Sites relating to food reviews, recipes, restaurants and catering				

Shopping	Sites where purchases can be made, of any kind	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Travel	Sites related to travel, transportation, and holidaying	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩

Social Media and Communication

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Blogs	Sites hosting blog content of any kind	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Dating	Domains and URLs that provide dating and companionship services	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Discussion Forums	Sites dedicated to discussion forums, e.g. phpBB	🟥	🟨	🟨	🟩
Messaging and Conferencing	Sites which contain messenger clients and web-based messaging sites, as well as any form of Voice over IP based chat service	🟨	🟨	🟨	🟩
Social Networking[12]	Social Networking sites	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩

Web and Infrastructure

Category	Description	Nursery and Reception to Year 6	Year 7 to Year 9	Year 10 to Year 13	Teachers and non-teaching staff
Advertising	Advert servers and advert URLs	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Connect for Chromebooks	Domains and URLs used for Google's service Connect for Chromebooks	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩

[12] Green for staff to communicate with their school communities

Content Delivery	Content Delivery Networks and supplementary infrastructure servers for various existing sites	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
DNS over HTTPS	Subdomains/URLs used to facilitate the use of DNS over HTTPS	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Email[13]	Sites dedicated to email/webmail	🟨	🟨	🟨	🟨
File Sharing	Sites that offer online file storage services on remote servers for backup or exchange purposes	🟨	🟨	🟨	🟨
Image Hosting: Moderated	Sites that provide image/gif hosting services that are vetted or controlled with a condition of use policy or moderated by humans	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Image Hosting: Unmoderated	Sites that provide image/gif hosting services that include potentially pornographic or otherwise offensive content	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Internet Speed Tests	Public web services used to measure the speed of an internet connection	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩
Parked Domains	Inactive web domains "parked" by a registrar, advertiser or domain owner	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
Portals	Website integrating diverse sources, emails, online forums, and search engines.	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Remote Access Tools[14]	Sites offering remote desktop and remote administration software tools	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟨
Software	Domains and URLs used by common software packages	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Software Updates	Domains used to download software updates	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
SSL / CRL	Support domains for SSL services including Certificate Authorities, Certificate Revocation Lists, OCSP and Extended Validation servers	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩

[13] Option to block personal email and only allow Hwb email in order to help mitigate dangers of email phishing
[14] Some remote software could be allowed on a 'timed' basis to allow support to devices

Tracking	Sites known to track visitor statistics for analytics and reporting purposes	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
URL Shortening	Sites which provide a URL shortening and forwarding / link service	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Web hosting	Sites which offer domain names and web hosting services	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟩