



Education Resources
Executive Director **Larry Forde**
Operations Service

Mrs Fitzsimons
[request-21490-
8f6d2a94@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:8f6d2a94@whatdotheyknow.com)

Our ref: EDU/FOI/2009/166
Your ref:
If calling ask for: Molly Magee
Phone: 01698 454512
Date: 24 November 2009

Dear Mrs Fitzsimons

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information, received on 21 October 2009. Your request has been dealt with in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please find listed below your request for information and our response:

- **full details of the Internet Safety Actions and Initiatives currently in place throughout the region.**

1. Internet Safety Education provided as part of the school curriculum.

Within your schools has a specific program aimed at teaching children about staying safe online, including cyber bullying been integrated into the curriculum?

In response to the above questions, I can advise you that our aim, through the use of modern technology, is that children will grow to be effective learners and responsible citizens.

Whilst there are considerable benefits to children's learning through the use of ICT in educational establishments, there continues to be a need to have in place protocols and procedures that help keep children and staff safe. The care, safety and welfare of all children is paramount.

To help ensure this, the Council has invested in, and has in place, a managed ICT service in our educational establishments. This prevents access to certain sites and helps to ensure that we have robust quality assurance procedures in place in terms of internet safety. In schools, pupils are required to sign a responsible use agreement parent/pupil consent form.

Education Resources has in place an operating procedure to provide advice and guidance on the use of ICT, USB devices, mobile telephones and other electronic communication devices in all educational establishments and libraries throughout South Lanarkshire. This operating procedure covers:

- Ethics of the internet,
- Consent form for young people,
- Consent form for employees,
- Safe use of the intranet,
- Rules for safety online,
- Employee Code of practice on the use of ICT and the Internet

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The operating procedure also contains guidelines on:

- the use of mobile phones; and
- Blogging (web log or on-line journal of information)
- Cyber bullying (through email, mobile phone/text messages, blogs etc)

The Council has in place, for all employees, Acceptable Use Policies which provide clear guidance and instructions on the use of ICT. All Council employees are required to adhere to the code of practice for the use of ICT equipment.

It is important that children and staff are advised on what we mean by safe use of ICT and their role in taking responsibility for their actions. Equally, children need to feel safe and if for any reason they have concerns or fears they should know that they can speak to their teacher or other adult, confident in the knowledge that they will be listened to and action taken, if necessary. School staff are also aware of the need to be vigilant and supervise children and young people's use of the Internet.

- **If yes, who is responsible for delivery and what accreditations/training have they received? For example, teacher, CEOP trained ambassador.**

Education Resources has 52 teachers who have completed CEOP Ambassador training in conjunction with Strathclyde Police. These ambassadors are accredited to train other teachers to deliver the education programme to children in the 11-16 age group. They can also download resources from the CEOP website for use when working not only with young people but also with their parents (the www.thinkuknow.co.uk website is an important resource).

- **If no, what steps/timeframes are being taken for implementation?**

Please refer to the information provided above.

2. Internet Filtering

- **Do the primary and secondary schools within your authority have internet filtering in place?**

Primary and secondary schools within South Lanarkshire have internet filtering in place. This is provided as part of the managed service contract with RM Ltd.

- **If yes, what tools do you use? For example Hardware or Software?**

All establishments on the Education Wide Area Network are protected by the RM SafetyNet family of products. SafetyNet filtering has been specifically developed for education.

SafetyNet Universal runs locally on RM Smartcache boxes in the Secondary schools and allows local customisation of the filtering policy. Filtering for all other establishments is provided by SafetyNet.

It should also be noted that RM is a member of the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) and the continuously updated IWF block list forms part of all RM SafetyNet products.

- **If yes, what is the name of your internet filtering supplier and when was their contract last renewed/due for renewal?**

The Council has a contract with RM through to September 2013.

3. Internet Filtering Breaches

- **Have any of the Schools within the past 24 months experienced a breach of Internet Filtering where children were able to access pornography or Indecent images. Please provide details of School Type (Primary or Secondary), Date of Breach and Type of Unsuitable material accessed.**
- **If a breach of security occurred how was your authority notified? For example, by a parent, by the school, through an automated alert provided by hardware/software supplier.**

In response to the above request, I can advise you that the Council has no record of any breaches of internet filtering, for the reasons stated above, in primary or secondary schools. Accordingly, Section 17(1)(b) of the Act (information not held) applies to this request.

I hope this information is helpful, however, if you require further information or assistance please contact Molly Magee, Information and Communication Officer, Operations Service, Education Resources, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton, ML3 0AE.

In line with the terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the Council has in place a procedure by which a review of the way in which we handle requests for information can be carried out. If you are dissatisfied by the way the Council has dealt with your request or about any decision made in connection with your request, and wish a review to be carried out, please inform the Council of this by 26 January 2010. In requesting a review, it would be helpful if you could quote the reference number found at the top of this letter and state the matter which has given rise to your dissatisfaction. Requests for review should be sent to:

Mr. W. Dunn
Legal Services Adviser
Corporate Resources
Montrose House
154 Montrose Crescent
Hamilton, ML3 6LL

Alternatively, you can request a review via email: foi.reviews@southlanarkshire.gov.uk.

Any review will be handled by staff not involved in the original decision.

Should you not be satisfied with the outcome of our review, you will then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The Commissioner will decide whether your request has been dealt with properly, in accordance with the Act. The Commissioner's contact details are as follows:

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews, Fife
KY16 9DS
Telephone: 01334 464610
Fax: 01334 464611
e-mail: enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info

For further details, please see the Commissioner's website at www.itspublicknowledge.info.

Yours sincerely

Des Dickson
Operations Manager