Medway Grid for Learning

Policies and Guidance

Web Filtering Policy

(Version 4.51 - 03/05/2005)

Introduction

This document is intended to provide general information and guidance related to connecting school LANs to the broadband Grid for Learning network, and running school systems and servers effectively to deliver a reliable, high performance service. It also provides specific policies adherence to which is necessary for the smooth and effective running of the whole network.

1 Web-Filtering Policy

1.1 General Overview of Filtering

The filtering of a school's Internet feed does not guarantee the safety of pupils and staff, but it is a necessary first step to ensure the school has taken all reasonable steps to protect pupils. Schools should already appreciate that supervision and education are as important as software solutions.

The Medway filtering strategy incorporates the use of the market leading filtering solution, Websense™. The policy has been successfully refined in consultation with schools, separate filtering levels have been introduced for primary and secondary schools, and several other policies

have been made available which schools can elect to use at their discretion, either by changing the default policy in use on their site, or by specifying a per-workstation policy using local systems.

This access policy for each type of school is divided into two broad sections, first the restrictions on web pages that may be viewed provided by the Websense software. This software monitors and controls all access to web sites from school networks. The second is the technical policy concerning which network protocols are available for communication with the Internet, this applies equally to all schools.

This policy is now stable and appears to work well in most school environments, however it continues to evolve slowly in consultation with the Policy and Practice steering group which is includes Headteachers and their representatives.

1.2   Websense categories and settings

Sites are put into categories based on the definitions below. The Websense database is regularly checked for accuracy and quality, and updated as new sites are visited and rated by Websense staff. A recently added feature means that if a site is visited, which has not been rated by Websense, it is automatically put in a queue for rating by Websense staff.

Websense categories are tools. Like other tools, they are made to be used for particular purposes. When they are separated from those purposes, or turned to purposes for which they were not intended, they can be unhelpful and misunderstood.

The categories used by Websense to sort out the millions of websites on the Internet have been designed by Websense to collect together the kinds of sites of interest and concern to its subscribing customers, most of whom are in the United States. The categories often characterize the sites and the people or interest groups who publish them and it should be understood that they principally reflect, and are designed to assist in the furthering of, the mores of U.S. citizens.

1.2.1   Primary Schools

1. Abortion
Sites with neutral or balanced presentation of the issue.
Disallowed

1.1 Pro-Choice
Sites that provide information about or are sponsored by organizations that oppose legal abortion or that seek increased restriction of abortion.
Disallowed

1.2 Pro-Life
Sites that provide information about or are sponsored by organizations that support legal abortion or that offer support or encouragement to those seeking the procedure.
Disallowed

2. Adult Material
Disallowed

2.1. Adult Content.
Sites that display full or partial nudity in a sexual context, but not sexual activity; erotica; sexual paraphernalia; sexoriented businesses as clubs, nightclubs, escort services; and sites supporting online purchase of such goods and services.
Disallowed

2.2 Lingerie & Swimsuit
Sites that offer images of models in suggestive but not lewd costume, with semi-nudity permitted. Includes classic 'cheese-cake,' calendar, and pinup art and photography. Includes also sites offering lingerie or swimwear for sale.
Disallowed

2.2 Nudity
Sites offering depictions of nude or semi-nude human forms, singly or in groups, not overtly sexual in intent or effect.
Allowed

2.3 Sex.
Sites that depict or graphically describe sexual acts or activity, including exhibitionism; also sites offering direct links to such sites.
Disallowed

2.4 Sex Education. Sites offering information about sex and sexuality, with no pornographic intent.
Allowed

3. Advocacy Groups
Sites that promote change or reform in public policy, public opinion, social practice, economic activities and relationships.
Allowed

4. Business and Economy
Sites sponsored by or devoted to business firms, business associations, industry groups, or business in general.
Allowed

4.1 Financial Data & Services
Sites offering news and quotations on stocks, bonds, and other investment vehicles, investment advice; but not online trading. Includes banks, credit unions, credit cards, and insurance.
Allowed

5. Drugs (as characterised by U.S. law)
Disallowed

5.1 Abused Drugs
Sites that promote or provide information about the use of prohibited drugs, except marijuana, or the abuse or unsanctioned use of controlled or regulated drugs; also, paraphernalia associated with such use or abuse.
Disallowed

5.2 Marijuana
Sites that provide information about or promote the cultivation, preparation, or use of marijuana.
Disallowed

5.3 Prescribed Medications
Sites providing information about approved drugs and their medical use.
Disallowed

5.4 Supplements and Unregulated compounds
Sites providing information about or promoting the use of chemicals not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (such as naturally occurring compounds).
Disallowed

6. Education
Allowed

6.1 Cultural Institutions
Sites sponsored by museums, galleries, theatres (but not movie theatres), libraries, and similar institutions; also, sites whose purpose is the display of artworks.
Allowed

6.2 Educational Institutions
Sites sponsored by schools and other educational facilities, by non-academic research institutions, or that relate to educational events and activities.
Allowed

6.3 Educational Materials
Sites that provide information about or that sell or provide curriculum materials or direct instruction; also, learned journals and similar publications.
Allowed

6.4 Reference Materials
Sites that offer reference-shelf content such as atlases, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, formularies, white and yellow pages, and public statistical data.
Allowed

7. Entertainment
Sites that provide information about or promote motion pictures, non-news radio and television, books, humour, and magazines.
Allowed

7.1 MP3
Sites that support downloading of mp3 or other sound files or that serve as directories of such sites.
Disallowed

8. Gambling
Sites that provide information about or promote gambling or that support online gambling involving a risk of losing money possible.
Disallowed

9. Games
Sites that provide information about or promote electronic games, video games, computer games, role-playing games, or online games. Includes sweepstakes and giveaways.
Allowed

10. Government

Sites sponsored by branches, bureaus, or agencies of any level of government, except for the armed forces.
Allowed

10.1 Military
Sites sponsored by branches or agencies of the armed services.
Allowed

10.2 Political Organizations
Sites sponsored by or providing information about political parties and interest groups focused on elections or legislation.
Allowed

11. Health
Sites that provide information or advice on personal health or medical services, health insurance, procedures, or devices, but not drugs. Includes self-help groups.
Allowed

12. Illegal/Questionable
Sites that provide instruction in or promote nonviolent crime or unethical or dishonest behaviour or the avoidance of prosecution.
Disallowed

13. Information Technology
Sites sponsored by or providing information about computers, software, the Internet, and related business firms, including sites supporting the sale of hardware, software, peripherals, and services.
Allowed

13.1 Computer Security
Sites that provide information about or free downloadable tools for computer security.
Allowed

13.2 Hacking
Sites that provide information about or promote illegal or questionable access to or use of computer or communication equipment, software, or databases.
Disallowed

13.3 Proxy Avoidance Systems
Sites that provide information on how to bypass proxy server features or to gain access to URLs in any way that bypasses the proxy server.
Disallowed

13.4 Search Engines & Portals
Sites that support searching the Web, news groups, or indices or directories thereof.
Allowed

13.5 URL Translation Sites
Sites that offer online translation of URLs. These sites access the URL to be translated in a way that bypasses the proxy server, potentially allowing unauthorized access.
Disallowed

13.6. Web Hosting
Sites of organisations that provide hosting services, or top-level domain pages of Web communities.

Allowed

14. Internet Communications
Disallowed

14.1 Web chat
Sites that host Web chat services or that support or provide information about chat via HTTP or IRC.
Disallowed

14.2 Web-based Email
Sites that host Web-based email.
Disallowed

15. Job Search
Sites that offer information about or support the seeking of employment or employees.
Allowed

16. Militancy and Extremist
Sites that offer information about or promote or are sponsored by groups advocating antigovernment beliefs or action.
Disallowed

17. News and Media
Sites that offer current news and opinion, including those sponsored by newspapers, general-circulation magazines, or other media.
Allowed

17.1 Alternative Journals
Online equivalents to supermarket tabloids and other fringe publications.
Disallowed

18. Racism/Hate
Sites that promote the identification of racial groups, the denigration or subjection of groups, or the superiority of any group.
Disallowed

19. Religion
Allowed

19.1 Non-Traditional Religions and Occult and Folklore
Sites that provide information about or promote religions not specified in Traditional Religions or other unconventional, cultic, or folkloric beliefs and practices.
Allowed

19.2 Traditional Religions
Sites that provide information about or promote Buddhism, Bahai, Christianity, Christian Science, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Mormonism, Shinto, and Sikhism, as well as atheism.
Allowed

20. Shopping
Sites that support the online purchase of consumer goods and services except: sexual materials, lingerie, swimwear, investments, medications, educational materials, computer software or hardware, alcohol, tobacco, travel, vehicles and parts, weapons.
Allowed

20.1 Internet Auction
Sites that support the offering and purchasing of goods between individuals.
Disallowed

20.2 Real Estate
Sites that provide information about renting, buying, selling, or financing residential real estate.
Allowed

21. Social Organizations.
Allowed

21.1 Professional and Worker Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted to professional advancement or workers interests.
Allowed

21.2 Service and Philanthropic Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted to doing good as their primary activity.
Allowed

21.3 Social and Affiliation Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted chiefly to socializing or common interests other than philanthropy or professional advancement.
Allowed

22. Society and Lifestyle
Sites that provide information about matters of daily life, excluding entertainment, health, hobbies, jobs, sex, and sports.
Allowed

22.1 Alcohol and Tobacco
Sites that provide information about, promote, or support the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products or associated paraphernalia.
Disallowed

22.2 Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest
Sites that provide information about or cater to gay, lesbian, or bisexual lifestyles, including those that support online shopping, but excluding those that are sexually or issue orientated.
Allowed

22.3 Hobbies
Sites that provide information on or promote private and largely sedentary pastimes, but not electronic, video, or online games.
Allowed

22.4 Personal Web Sites
Sites published and maintained by individuals for their personal self-expression and ends.
Allowed

22.5 Personals and Dating
Sites that assist users in establishing interpersonal relationships, excluding those intended to arrange for sexual encounters and excluding those of exclusively gay or lesbian or bisexual interest.
Disallowed

22.6 Restaurants & Dining
Sites that list, review, advertise, or promote food, catering, or dining services.
Allowed

23. Special Events
Sites devoted to a current event that requires separate categorization.
Allowed

24. Sports
Sites that provide information on or promote sports, active games, and recreation.
Allowed

24.1 Sport Hunting and Gun Clubs
Sites that provide information about or directories of gun clubs and similar groups, including war-game and paintball facilities.
Allowed

25. Tasteless
Sites with content that is gratuitously offensive or shocking, but not violent or frightening. Includes sites devoted in part or whole to scatology and similar topics or to improper language, humour, or behaviour.
Disallowed

26. Travel
Sites that provide information about or promote travel-related services and destinations.
Allowed

27. Vehicles
Sites that provide information on or promote vehicles, including those that support online purchase of vehicles or parts.
Allowed

28. Violence
Sites that feature or promote violence or bodily harm, including self-inflicted harm; or that gratuitously display images of death, gore, or injury; or that feature images or descriptions that are grotesque or frightening and of no redeeming value.
Disallowed

29. Weapons
Sites that provide information on, promote, or support the sale of weapons and related items.

30. Bullying
Sites that provide features or content which are, or appear likely to be, used for bullying purposes.
Disallowed

31. Subscription services
Sites that offer subscription-only content of an educational nature. These sites can be enabled on a per site basis by emailing filtering.query@medway.org.uk with details.
Allowed

31.1 MP3 subscription sites
Sites that have MP3 file content available for download only to subscription customers, where a Medway school has subscribed to such a service.
Allowed

1.2.2 Secondary Schools

1. Abortion
Sites with neutral or balanced presentation of the issue.
Allowed

1.3 Pro-Choice
Sites that provide information about or are sponsored by organizations that oppose legal abortion or that seek increased restriction of abortion.
Allowed

1.4 Pro-Life
Sites that provide information about or are sponsored by organizations that support legal abortion or that offer support or encouragement to those seeking the procedure.
Allowed

2. Adult Material
Disallowed

2.1 Adult Content.
Sites that display full or partial nudity in a sexual context, but not sexual activity; erotica; sexual paraphernalia; sexoriented businesses as clubs, nightclubs, escort services; and sites supporting online purchase of such goods and services.
Disallowed

2.2 Lingerie & Swimsuit
Sites that offer images of models in suggestive but not lewd costume, with semi-nudity permitted. Includes classic 'cheese-cake,' calendar, and pinup art and photography. Includes also sites offering lingerie or swimwear for sale.
Allowed

2.2 Nudity
Sites offering depictions of nude or semi-nude human forms, singly or in groups, not overtly sexual in intent or effect.
Allowed

2.3 Sex.
Sites that depict or graphically describe sexual acts or activity, including exhibitionism; also sites offering direct links to such sites.
Disallowed

2.4 Sex Education. Sites offering information about sex and sexuality, with no pornographic intent.
Allowed

3. Advocacy Groups
Sites that promote change or reform in public policy, public opinion, social practice, economic activities and relationships.
Allowed

4. Business and Economy

Sites sponsored by or devoted to business firms, business associations, industry groups, or business in general.
Allowed

4.1 Financial Data & Services
Sites offering news and quotations on stocks, bonds, and other investment vehicles, investment advice; but not online trading. Includes banks, credit unions, credit cards, and insurance.
Allowed

5. Drugs (as characterised by U.S. law)
Allowed

5.1 Abused Drugs
Sites that promote or provide information about the use of prohibited drugs, except marijuana, or the abuse or unsanctioned use of controlled or regulated drugs; also, paraphernalia associated with such use or abuse.
Allowed

5.2 Marijuana
Sites that provide information about or promote the cultivation, preparation, or use of marijuana.
Allowed

5.3 Prescribed Medications
Sites providing information about approved drugs and their medical use.
Allowed

5.4 Supplements and Unregulated compounds
Sites providing information about or promoting the use of chemicals not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (such as naturally occurring compounds).
Allowed

6. Education
Allowed

6.1 Cultural Institutions
Sites sponsored by museums, galleries, theatres (but not movie theatres), libraries, and similar institutions; also, sites whose purpose is the display of artworks.
Allowed

6.2 Educational Institutions
Sites sponsored by schools and other educational facilities, by non-academic research institutions, or that relate to educational events and activities.
Allowed

6.3 Educational Materials
Sites that provide information about or that sell or provide curriculum materials or direct instruction; also, learned journals and similar publications.
Allowed

6.4 Reference Materials
Sites that offer reference-shelf content such as atlases, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, formularies, white and yellow pages, and public statistical data.
Allowed

7. Entertainment
Sites that provide information about or promote motion pictures, non-news radio and television, books, humour, and magazines.
Allowed

7.1 MP3
Sites that support downloading of mp3 or other sound files or that serve as directories of such sites.
Disallowed

8. Gambling
Sites that provide information about or promote gambling or that support online gambling involving a risk of losing money possible.
Disallowed

9. Games
Sites that provide information about or promote electronic games, video games, computer games, role-playing games, or online games. Includes sweepstakes and giveaways.
Allowed

10. Government
Sites sponsored by branches, bureaus, or agencies of any level of government, except for the armed forces.
Allowed

10.1 Military
Sites sponsored by branches or agencies of the armed services.
Allowed

10.2 Political Organizations
Sites sponsored by or providing information about political parties and interest groups focused on elections or legislation.
Allowed

11. Health
Sites that provide information or advice on personal health or medical services, health insurance, procedures, or devices, but not drugs. Includes self-help groups.
Allowed

12. Illegal/Questionable
Sites that provide instruction in or promote nonviolent crime or unethical or dishonest behaviour or the avoidance of prosecution.
Disallowed

13. Information Technology
Sites sponsored by or providing information about computers, software, the Internet, and related business firms, including sites supporting the sale of hardware, software, peripherals, and services.
Allowed

13.1 Computer Security
Sites that provide information about or free downloadable tools for computer security.

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13.2 Hacking
Sites that provide information about or promote illegal or questionable access to or use of computer or communication equipment, software, or databases.
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13.3 Proxy Avoidance Systems
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14.2 Web-based Email
Sites that host Web-based email.
Disallowed

15. Job Search
Sites that offer information about or support the seeking of employment or employees.
Allowed

16. Militancy and Extremist
Sites that offer information about or promote or are sponsored by groups advocating antigovernment beliefs or action.
Allowed

17. News and Media
Sites that offer current news and opinion, including those sponsored by newspapers, general-circulation magazines, or other media.
Allowed

17.1 Alternative Journals

Online equivalents to supermarket tabloids and other fringe publications.
Disallowed

18. Racism/Hate
Sites that promote the identification of racial groups, the denigration or subjection of groups, or the superiority of any group.
Disallowed

19. Religion
Allowed

19.1 Non-Traditional Religions and Occult and Folklore
Sites that provide information about or promote religions not specified in Traditional Religions or other unconventional, cultic, or folkloric beliefs and practices.
Allowed

19.2 Traditional Religions
Sites that provide information about or promote Buddhism, Bahai, Christianity, Christian Science, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Mormonism, Shinto, and Sikhism, as well as atheism.
Allowed

20. Shopping
Sites that support the online purchase of consumer goods and services except: sexual materials, lingerie, swimwear, investments, medications, educational materials, computer software or hardware, alcohol, tobacco, travel, vehicles and parts, weapons.
Allowed

20.1 Internet Auction
Sites that support the offering and purchasing of goods between individuals.
Disallowed

20.2 Real Estate
Sites that provide information about renting, buying, selling, or financing residential real estate.
Allowed

21. Social Organizations.
Allowed

21.1 Professional and Worker Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted to professional advancement or workers interests.
Allowed

21.2 Service and Philanthropic Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted to doing good as their primary activity.
Allowed

21.3 Social and Affiliation Organizations

Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted chiefly to socializing or common interests other than philanthropy or professional advancement.
Allowed

22. Society and Lifestyle
Sites that provide information about matters of daily life, excluding entertainment, health, hobbies, jobs, sex, and sports.
Allowed

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Sites that provide information about, promote, or support the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products or associated paraphernalia.
Disallowed

22.2 Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest
Sites that provide information about or cater to gay, lesbian, or bisexual lifestyles, including those that support online shopping, but excluding those that are sexually or issue orientated.
Allowed

22.3 Hobbies
Sites that provide information on or promote private and largely sedentary pastimes, but not electronic, video, or online games.
Allowed

22.4 Personal Web Sites
Sites published and maintained by individuals for their personal self-expression and ends.
Allowed

22.5 Personals and Dating
Sites that assist users in establishing interpersonal relationships, excluding those intended to arrange for sexual encounters and excluding those of exclusively gay or lesbian or bisexual interest.
Disallowed

22.6. Restaurants & Dining
Sites that list, review, advertise, or promote food, catering, or dining services.
Allowed

23. Special Events
Sites devoted to a current event that requires separate categorization.
Allowed

24. Sports
Sites that provide information on or promote sports, active games, and recreation.
Allowed

24.1 Sport Hunting and Gun Clubs
Sites that provide information about or directories of gun clubs and similar groups, including war-game and paintball facilities.
Allowed

25. Tasteless

Sites with content that is gratuitously offensive or shocking, but not violent or frightening. Includes sites devoted in part or whole to scatology and similar topics or to improper language, humour, or behaviour.
Disallowed

26. Travel
Sites that provide information about or promote travel-related services and destinations.
Allowed

27. Vehicles
Sites that provide information on or promote vehicles, including those that support online purchase of vehicles or parts.
Allowed

28. Violence
Sites that feature or promote violence or bodily harm, including self-inflicted harm; or that gratuitously display images of death, gore, or injury; or that feature images or descriptions that are grotesque or frightening and of no redeeming value.
Disallowed

29. Weapons
Sites that provide information on, promote, or support the sale of weapons and related items.
Disallowed

30. Bullying
Sites that provide features or content which are, or appear likely to be, used for bullying purposes.
Disallowed

31. Subscription services
Sites that offer subscription-only content of an educational nature. These sites can be enabled on a per site basis by emailing filtering.query@medway.org.uk with details.
Allowed

31.1 MP3 subscription sites
Sites that have MP3 file content available for download only to subscription customers, where a Medway school has subscribed to such a service.
Allowed

1.2.3 Optional Policy (available via Proxy server)

> This policy is available on demand to all system administrators but is intended mainly for use by members of staff, in 6th form studies and similar areas or for review purposes. The proxy server is located at filtpol3.medway.org.uk and the proxy service is available on port 8080. In order to use this service you should configure your web browser to use these values, either directly or via a management system such as Group Policies, Ranger or equivalent.

1. Abortion
Sites with neutral or balanced presentation of the issue.
Allowed

1.1 Pro-Choice
Sites that provide information about or are sponsored by organizations that oppose legal abortion or that seek increased restriction of abortion.
Allowed

1.3 Pro-Life
Sites that provide information about or are sponsored by organizations that support legal abortion or that offer support or encouragement to those seeking the procedure.
Allowed

2. Adult Material
Disallowed

2.1. Adult Content.
Sites that display full or partial nudity in a sexual context, but not sexual activity; erotica; sexual paraphernalia; sexoriented businesses as clubs, nightclubs, escort services; and sites supporting online purchase of such goods and services.
Disallowed

2.2 Lingerie & Swimsuit
Sites that offer images of models in suggestive but not lewd costume, with semi-nudity permitted. Includes classic 'cheese-cake,' calendar, and pinup art and photography. Includes also sites offering lingerie or swimwear for sale.
Allowed

2.2 Nudity
Sites offering depictions of nude or semi-nude human forms, singly or in groups, not overtly sexual in intent or effect.
Allowed

2.3 Sex.
Sites that depict or graphically describe sexual acts or activity, including exhibitionism; also sites offering direct links to such sites.
Disallowed

2.4 Sex Education. Sites offering information about sex and sexuality, with no pornographic intent.
Allowed

3. Advocacy Groups
Sites that promote change or reform in public policy, public opinion, social practice, economic activities and relationships.
Allowed

4. Business and Economy
Sites sponsored by or devoted to business firms, business associations, industry groups, or business in general.
Allowed

4.1 Financial Data & Services
Sites offering news and quotations on stocks, bonds, and other investment vehicles, investment advice; but not online trading. Includes banks, credit unions, credit cards, and insurance.
Allowed

5. Drugs (as characterised by U.S. law)
Allowed

5.1 Abused Drugs
Sites that promote or provide information about the use of prohibited drugs, except marijuana, or the abuse or unsanctioned use of controlled or regulated drugs; also, paraphernalia associated with such use or abuse.
Allowed

5.2 Marijuana
Sites that provide information about or promote the cultivation, preparation, or use of marijuana.
Allowed

5.3 Prescribed Medications
Sites providing information about approved drugs and their medical use.
Allowed

5.4 Supplements and Unregulated compounds
Sites providing information about or promoting the use of chemicals not regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (such as naturally occurring compounds).
Allowed

6. Education
Allowed

6.1 Cultural Institutions
Sites sponsored by museums, galleries, theatres (but not movie theatres), libraries, and similar institutions; also, sites whose purpose is the display of artworks.
Allowed

6.2 Educational Institutions
Sites sponsored by schools and other educational facilities, by non-academic research institutions, or that relate to educational events and activities.
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Sites that provide information about or that sell or provide curriculum materials or direct instruction; also, learned journals and similar publications.
Allowed

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Sites that offer reference-shelf content such as atlases, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, formularies, white and yellow pages, and public statistical data.
Allowed

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Sites that provide information about or promote motion pictures, non-news radio and television, books, humour, and magazines.
Allowed

7.1 MP3
Sites that support downloading of mp3 or other sound files or that serve as directories of such sites.
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8. Gambling
Sites that provide information about or promote gambling or that support online gambling involving a risk of losing money possible.
Disallowed

9. Games
Sites that provide information about or promote electronic games, video games, computer games, role-playing games, or online games. Includes sweepstakes and giveaways.
Allowed

10. Government
Sites sponsored by branches, bureaus, or agencies of any level of government, except for the armed forces.
Allowed

10.1 Military
Sites sponsored by branches or agencies of the armed services.
Allowed

10.2 Political Organizations
Sites sponsored by or providing information about political parties and interest groups focused on elections or legislation.
Allowed

11. Health
Sites that provide information or advice on personal health or medical services, health insurance, procedures, or devices, but not drugs. Includes self-help groups.
Allowed

12. Illegal/Questionable
Sites that provide instruction in or promote nonviolent crime or unethical or dishonest behaviour or the avoidance of prosecution.
Allowed

13. Information Technology
Sites sponsored by or providing information about computers, software, the Internet, and related business firms, including sites supporting the sale of hardware, software, peripherals, and services.
Allowed

13.1 Computer Security
Sites that provide information about or free downloadable tools for computer security.
Allowed

13.2 Hacking
Sites that provide information about or promote illegal or questionable access to or use of computer or communication equipment, software, or databases.
Allowed

13.3 Proxy Avoidance Systems
Sites that provide information on how to bypass proxy server features or to gain access to URLs in any way that bypasses the proxy server.
Allowed

13.4 Search Engines & Portals
Sites that support searching the Web, news groups, or indices or directories thereof.
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13.5 URL Translation Sites
Sites that offer online translation of URLs. These sites access the URL to be translated in a way that bypasses the proxy server, potentially allowing unauthorized access.
Allowed

13.6. Web Hosting
Sites of organisations that provide hosting services, or top-level domain pages of Web communities.
Allowed

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Disallowed

14.1 Web chat
Sites that host Web chat services or that support or provide information about chat via HTTP or IRC.
Disallowed

14.2 Web-based Email
Sites that host Web-based email.
Disallowed

15. Job Search
Sites that offer information about or support the seeking of employment or employees.
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16. Militancy and Extremist
Sites that offer information about or promote or are sponsored by groups advocating antigovernment beliefs or action.
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Sites that offer current news and opinion, including those sponsored by newspapers, general-circulation magazines, or other media.
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Sites that provide information about or promote religions not specified in Traditional Religions or other unconventional, cultic, or folkloric beliefs and practices.
Allowed

19.2 Traditional Religions
Sites that provide information about or promote Buddhism, Bahai, Christianity, Christian Science, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Mormonism, Shinto, and Sikhism, as well as atheism.
Allowed

20. Shopping
Sites that support the online purchase of consumer goods and services except: sexual materials, lingerie, swimwear, investments, medications, educational materials, computer software or hardware, alcohol, tobacco, travel, vehicles and parts, weapons.
Allowed

20.1 Internet Auction
Sites that support the offering and purchasing of goods between individuals.
Allowed

20.2 Real Estate
Sites that provide information about renting, buying, selling, or financing residential real estate.
Allowed

21. Social Organizations.
Allowed

21.1 Professional and Worker Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted to professional advancement or workers interests.
Allowed

21.2 Service and Philanthropic Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted to doing good as their primary activity.
Allowed

21.3 Social and Affiliation Organizations
Sites sponsored by or that support or offer information about organizations devoted chiefly to socializing or common interests other than philanthropy or professional advancement.
Allowed

22. Society and Lifestyle
Sites that provide information about matters of daily life, excluding entertainment, health, hobbies, jobs, sex, and sports.
Allowed

22.1 Alcohol and Tobacco
Sites that provide information about, promote, or support the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products or associated paraphernalia.
Allowed

22.2 Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest
Sites that provide information about or cater to gay, lesbian, or bisexual lifestyles, including those that support online shopping, but excluding those that are sexually or issue orientated.
Allowed

22.3 Hobbies
Sites that provide information on or promote private and largely sedentary pastimes, but not electronic, video, or online games.
Allowed

22.4 Personal Web Sites
Sites published and maintained by individuals for their personal self-expression and ends.
Allowed

22.5 Personals and Dating
Sites that assist users in establishing interpersonal relationships, excluding those intended to arrange for sexual encounters and excluding those of exclusively gay or lesbian or bisexual interest.
Allowed

22.6. Restaurants & Dining
Sites that list, review, advertise, or promote food, catering, or dining services.
Allowed

23. Special Events
Sites devoted to a current event that requires separate categorization.
Allowed

24. Sports
Sites that provide information on or promote sports, active games, and recreation.
Allowed

24.1 Sport Hunting and Gun Clubs
Sites that provide information about or directories of gun clubs and similar groups, including war-game and paintball facilities.
Allowed

25. Tasteless
Sites with content that is gratuitously offensive or shocking, but not violent or frightening. Includes sites devoted in part or whole to scatology and similar topics or to improper language, humour, or behaviour.
Allowed

26. Travel
Sites that provide information about or promote travel-related services and destinations.
Allowed

27. Vehicles
Sites that provide information on or promote vehicles, including those that support online purchase of vehicles or parts.
Allowed

28. Violence
Sites that feature or promote violence or bodily harm, including self-inflicted harm; or that gratuitously display images of death, gore, or injury; or that feature images or descriptions that are grotesque or frightening and of no redeeming value.
Allowed

29. Weapons
Sites that provide information on, promote, or support the sale of weapons and related items.
Allowed

30. Bullying
Sites that provide features or content which are, or appear likely to be, used for bullying purposes.
Allowed

31. Subscription services
Sites that offer subscription-only content of an educational nature. These sites can be enabled on a per site basis by emailing filtering.query@medway.org.uk with details.
Allowed

31.1 MP3 subscription sites
Sites that have MP3 file content available for download only to subscription customers, where a Medway school has subscribed to such a service.
Allowed

1.3.1 Secondary Policy without games
Secondary Policy with games category disallowed (available via proxy server)

> This policy is available to all schools but is intended for use in secondary schools where it is desired to prevent access to games. The proxy server is located at secng.medway.org.uk and the proxy service is available on port 8080. In order to use this service you should configure your web browser to use these values.

This policy is generally the same as 1.2.2 (Secondary Schools) except for category 9, which reads as follows:

9. Games
Sites that provide information about or promote electronic games, video games, computer games, role-playing games, or online games. Includes sweepstakes and giveaways.
Disallowed

1.3.2 Secondary Policy without games and some image facilities
Secondary Policy with the games category disallowed and select search engine image caches prohibited (available via proxy server)

This policy is generally the same as 1.3.1 (Secondary Policy without games) except that access to the cached image search facilities of several search engines (e.g. Google) has been prevented.

1.4 Education related secure sites available in all filtering policies

IP Address	Description
193.113.179.165	NCSL-secure
193.133.64.214	connexionscard
193.63.182.0	curric-online
194.154.15.247	RM
194.205.104.140	emasys.dfes.gov.uk
194.66.147.15	openacstudent
194.83.41.91	firstclass_server
195.154.201.241	ofstedpanda
195.188.239.105	datacolldfes
195.188.239.96	teachernet
195.188.99.201	ucas1
195.92.47.206	QCA
195.94.47.200	qcaupdate
207.46.156.0	windowsupd1
212.44.63.75	webxchange
212.58.224.115	www.bbc.co.uk
212.85.24.198	www.lgfl.org
213.18.253.30	learningalive
213.18.253.33	mathsalive
213.18.253.35	rm-kaleidos
213.18.255.21	RM-SC-regsvr
213.18.255.22	rm-scache-site
62.189.0.201	ucas2
62.254.220.9	www.completeict.net
81.144.207.146	ncatest.naa.org.uk
81.144.207.147	qcaupdate-com

1.5 Permitted Internet Protocols and Port numbers

ICMP
Currently there are some restrictions on ICMP types permitted to mitigate the effects of virus infections in schools. In particular the ICMP echo request message is filtered internally on the Grid.

TCP
FTP (Port 20/21) allowed for outbound connections for file transfer.
Telnet (Port 23) allowed for outbound connections for CLI access.
HTTP (Port 80) allowed for outbound connections to facilitate general HTTP browsing.
HTTP (Port 8080 Alt HTTP) allowed for certain sites using this IANA reserved port.
SSL Port 447 (Secure Sockets Layer) is allowed to facilitate SHTTP for encrypted browsing.

UDP
Currently no UDP encapsulated direct data transfer is permitted with the Internet.

E-mail services
Mail delivery and reception is provided by SMTP, HTTP and POP3/IMAP4 connections as appropriate by connection to/from the mail server (mail.medway.org.uk).

Streaming media services

Streaming media services are available via the streaming media proxy server, sm0.medway.org.uk – this server supports Real media and Windows media.

Time services

A NTP time server is available at time.medway.org.uk for NTP queries.

1.6 Exceptions approved by Policy and Practice Steering Group

A sub-group of the Policy and Practice Steering Group exists to consider exceptional cases where access to a web-site is linked to school improvement. The list of items approved follows:

URL of Website	Available to
http://www.friendsreunited.co.uk/	Third filtering policy

2 Contacts for Changes and Queries

Please e-mail any general questions which are not specifically related to the blocking or unblocking of a particular site in the first instance to :

<div align="center">

filtering.query@medway.org.uk

</div>

If, through your general use of the Internet, you find a web site which you believe should be blocked because it fits into the one of the above categories listed as disallowed for your type of school or service, then please use the support site form available at :

<div align="center">

http://www.lgfl.org/leasupport/forms/filtering_block.asp

</div>

If you have a request to unblock a site you should also use the form available at:

<div align="center">

http://www.lgfl.org/leasupport/forms/filtering_unblock.asp

</div>

3   Change log

Ver.	By	Date	Detail
V4.50	MIO	15/11/2004	Change logging introduced. Significant reworking of all sections following introduction of new Websense categories, revision of old categories, and change of policy following November 2004 Policy and Practice forum.
V4.51	MIO	02/05/2005	Added Telnet access and listed secure sites permitted in all filtering policies.

4   Guidance on Supplementary Local Filtering

4.1   Introduction to local filtering

From time to time some schools have considered installing local filtering systems, whilst this is not necessarily problematic, it can be and has been in certain cases. The following points are intended to outline some of the considerations when installing a local filtering solution.   It should also be noted that one of the significant benefits of sharing a filtering system is that when a site is reported for reclassification because of inappropriate content all other schools on the Grid benefit although they may not notice because that particular site will never become and issue once it is blocked. We strongly urge anyone implementing a local system to continue to report inappropriate sites as otherwise every site which adopts only local filtering will detract from the overall quality of service in a cooperative environment.

4.2   Options for supplementary local filtering

4.2.1   Workstation based solutions

A number of products are available which install locally and provide varying degrees of functionality through a filtering engine which runs on each PC. Examples of these products include Safe surf, Net Nanny, Cyber Sitter and Surf Patrol. The products can be circumnavigated by workstation configuration and hence attract unwanted attention to workstation configuration, slow down browsing on the workstation and consume significant network bandwidth as each station has to retrieve updates regularly.

4.2.2   Server based solutions - externally maintained
A number of products are available which are based on servers or network applicances such as N2H2, Websense, Cerberian and Fortigate. The solutions are good and perform well but tend to be expensive and require specialist technical input for configuration and maintenance.

4.2.3   Server based solutions - internally maintained
It is also possible to build or buy solutions based on servers or network applicances such as Squid, Cisco Content Engine and Equiinet Cachepilot which are more reasonably priced whilst still offering local control of web content and access by user logon or workstation address.

4.3   Further information
For further information please contact the Medway Grid for Learning Network Operations Centre by email at noc@medway.org.uk or by telephone on 01634 332525.