



The Priory Federation of Academies Trust

Digital safety and filtering

Digital safety and filtering within The Priory Federation of Academies is managed by several technical systems.

For email

Email safety is managed by a mail filtering system which assigns a score to every incoming email, depending on both the source and content. High-scoring emails are deleted as these are deemed to pose a threat. Medium-scoring emails are diverted to the user's junk folder and low-scoring emails are allowed into the inbox folder.

For the internet

For web-based traffic, we have a proxy server which provides safe filtering. All traffic is monitored as it goes through this filter by username or device and has a 'categorisation' system which is intelligent, putting all websites into an appropriate group. These groups can then be 'allowed' or 'not allowed'. It also scans and scores pages for profanity or inappropriate words and will re-categorise sites accordingly if required. Staff and students can also request pages to be 'allowed' or 'blocked'. These will normally be checked with the DSO on each site – particularly unblocking sites which may be of concern. The filtering system can also generate a 'report' on a user's recent browsing activity, if required, as well as generating lists of popular sites being visited.

To protect our overall system

Our network is protected by a hardware firewall which sits on the edge of our network and manages traffic in and out of our network, preventing unauthorised access.

The students are made aware of their responsibilities regarding digital safety through the Trust's Acceptable Use Policy which they are reminded of when they log in to our systems.

Staff are made aware of their responsibilities regarding digital safety through the Trust's Acceptable Use Policy which they are reminded of when they log in to our systems.