



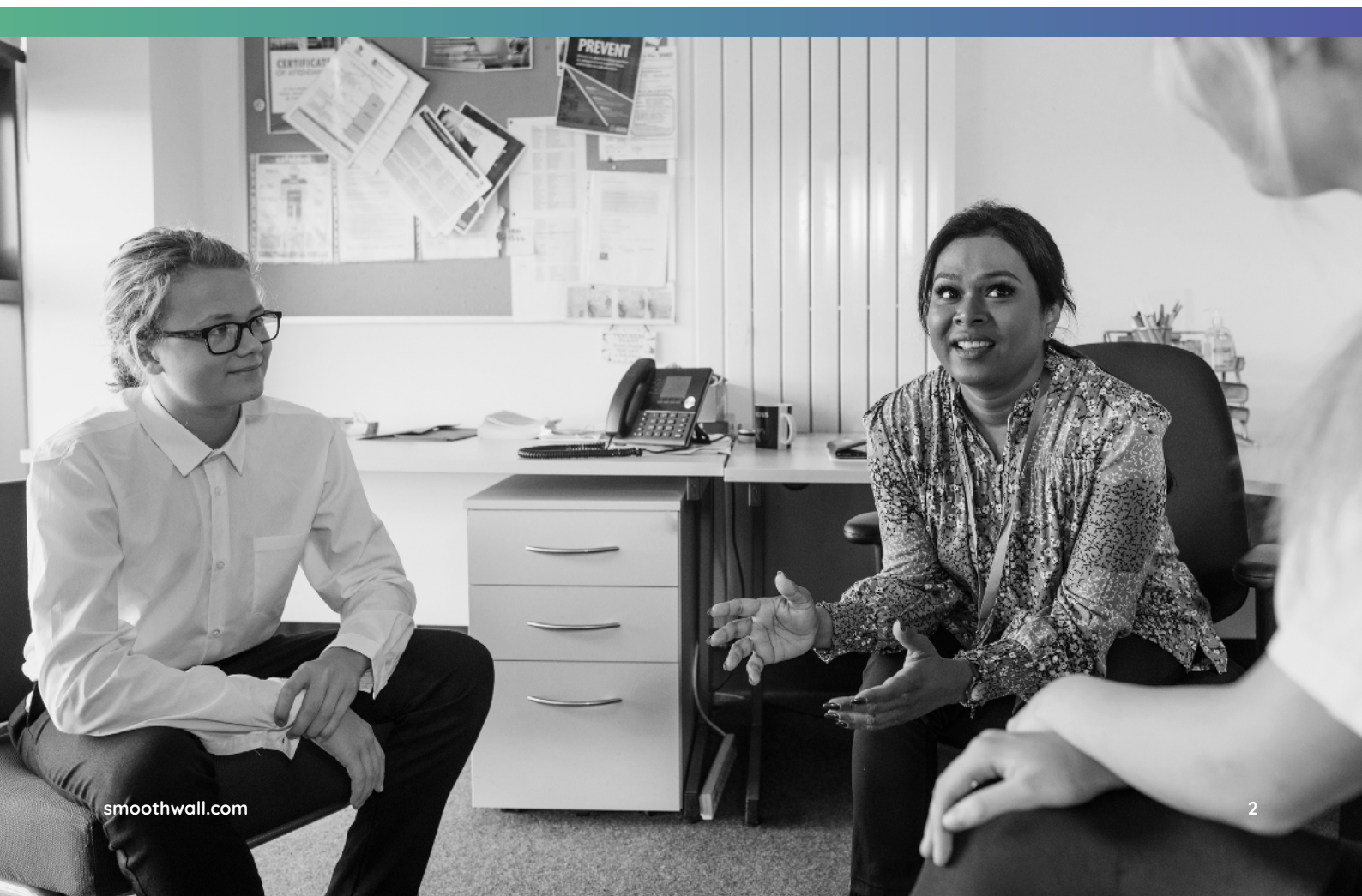
Smoothwall Monitor and the 2024 KCSIE Requirements



Introduction

As KCSIE 2024 reiterates, DSLs can no longer rely on web filtering and physical monitoring alone to protect students from harm. Schools, colleges and MATs require robust monitoring systems to effectively spot suspected at-risk students and facilitate timely intervention.

This short guide outlines six key requirements for digital monitoring and explains **how Smoothwall Monitor can help you not only meet, but also exceed the latest guidance.**



1. Monitoring Strategy

Sections 102 and 142 highlight the need for DSLs to take the lead for monitoring systems and put “effective monitoring strategies in place.”

With a steadfast commitment to serving UK schools, colleges and MATs for over 20 years, Smoothwall has continuously adapted and evolved to provide DSLs with the latest digital monitoring technology to create a safer online environment. Used by **1 in 3 UK schools**, Smoothwall Monitor has become **a vital tool for DSLs**, enabling them to effectively support their safeguarding strategies and processes.

It seamlessly integrates with schools’ and colleges’ record management systems (e.g. Smoothwall Record Manager, CPOMS, MyConcern), to guarantee swift identification of all types of safeguarding concerns. This integrated approach fosters **holistic safeguarding practices** and elevates school-wide educational strategies.



2. Reporting

Sections 12 and 142 emphasise the importance for school leadership, governors and DSLs to be able to frequently review the effectiveness of their “monitoring provision” and “strategies”.

Smoothwall Monitor’s **real-time reporting dashboard** offers an intuitive and easily comprehensible overview of captured alerts, enabling DSLs to review monitoring updates on the fly. The solution can also email a report summarising suspected safeguarding events to the SLT teams, governors and selected school staff, at a frequency of their choosing. This feature allows them to review safeguarding trends over time and effortlessly share insights.

For MATs, Smoothwall Monitor also grants seamless comparison between schools through the reporting suite, revealing categories of concerns and behavioural trends. Using this information, SLTs and DSLs can efficiently assess the number of events within each school, identify where additional support is required, and **shape future safeguarding strategies**.

3. Meeting the DfE's Monitoring Standards

Section 142 highlights that schools and colleges should meet the Department for Education (DfE)'s monitoring technical standards. It states that "filtering and monitoring are both important parts of safeguarding pupils and staff from potentially harmful and inappropriate online material." Section 144 also refers to the appropriate monitoring checklist provided by the UK Safer Internet Centre (UK SIC) that helps schools identify how specific solutions meet the national standards.

While web filtering solutions like Smoothwall Filter are essential for shielding students from harmful and inappropriate online content, they fall short in revealing the broader context of students' interactions.

Smoothwall Monitor goes beyond content blocking. It enables DSLs to promptly act and report on safeguarding concerns, and alerts them when a student's behaviour suggests they are at risk. In 2023, our award-winning solution spotted **a child suspected to be at serious risk every 2 minutes** - a child who may otherwise have gone unnoticed.

Our recent collaborative efforts with safeguarding and IT staff have been instrumental in perfecting digital monitoring technology. This collaboration allows for seamless day-to-day management of safeguarding concerns.

Smoothwall Monitor's integration with record management systems like CPOMS, MyConcern and Smoothwall Record Manager supports schools in building a stronger safeguarding ecosystem, that thoroughly promotes student digital wellbeing.

To assist schools in evaluating how our solution meets the DfE's standards, **Smoothwall Monitor's appropriate monitoring self-certification** is available to view on the UK SIC's website.

"Our award-winning solution spotted a child suspected to be at serious risk **every 2 minutes**"

4. Appropriate Monitoring

Section 137 highlights that schools and colleges should implement “appropriate monitoring on school devices” as part of their “child protection policy”.

Smoothwall Monitor makes invisible risks visible across **all school devices**, giving DSLs an extra pair of virtual eyes and ears and alerting them to any suspected at-risk student. Additionally, by monitoring school-owned devices that students take home, the solution extends protection beyond the school gates and **identifies risks 24/7**.

Even during non-school hours, Smoothwall Monitor can detect and respond to any suspected safeguarding incidents or concerning student digital activity, ensuring robust and always-on child protection practices.

5. Tackling Ever-Evolving Cyber Threats

Section 147 underlines the need for schools to review monitoring procedures to keep up with “evolving cyber-crime technologies”.

Smoothwall Monitor’s product development specialists **continuously innovate** to tackle evolving cyber security challenges and emerging online threats such as social media trends. Our team regularly updates the library of monitored terms, ensuring our solution detects new cyber crime concerns taking place on monitored devices.

Schools and colleges can be safe in the knowledge Smoothwall Monitor remains at the cutting-edge of technology development - **swiftly responding to changes in the digital landscape** and offering customers the most effective digital monitoring solution.

6. Identifying Radicalisation

Sections 134, 135 and 137 highlight the importance of an effective “child protection policy” that includes “appropriate filtering and monitoring on school devices and school networks” to safeguard children from “being subjected to harmful online interaction with other users” and exposure “to radicalisation and extremism content”. These critical points are also informed by the risk assessments mandated by the Prevent Duty.

In 2023, Smoothwall Monitor found a very serious suspected terrorism alert **every 16 hours**.

The solution helps to spot suspected extremist or violent behaviours by assessing content generated on users’ devices. While building a specific risk profile, the solution aims to identify individuals who:

- “Make direct threats to undertake acts of terrorism.”
- “Encourage others to carry out unofficial or unauthorised acts of violence or intimidation against others in the pursuit of their political or religious aims.”
- “Encourage demonisation of those outside their ideological sphere, often with the use of political or religious propaganda.”
- “Promote terrorist activity carried out by others as rational, morally just or a duty.”

Smoothwall's Ongoing Commitment

At Smoothwall, our team of experts continuously stay up to date with the latest statutory requirements and guidelines to ensure our award-winning digital monitoring solution not only aligns, but also goes above and beyond the current standards.

With Smoothwall Monitor, you can rest assured you're providing your school, college or MAT with a robust, trustworthy technology that fully supports compliance with government legislation.

If you have any questions or need further support from our channel team, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Blue Box IT at ask@blueboxit.co.uk. They're always ready to help.





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by Qoria

Smoothwall is the leading provider of digital safeguarding solutions in UK education. For more information, visit our website or get in touch with our team of experts.

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Qoria

Smoothwall is part of Qoria, a global technology company, dedicated to keeping children safe and well in their digital lives. We harness the power of connection to close the gaps that children fall through, and to seamlessly support them on all sides - at school, at home and everywhere in between.

Find out more
www.qoria.com