



Bolton Schools ICT Centre
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ICT Guidance for OfSTED inspection

It has been brought to our attention that during recent OfSTED inspections, questions have been asked about procedures schools are using for internet filtering and security.

We produced the notes below to assist one colleague with this and the information seemed to be helpful when answering the inspector's questions.

Therefore, I am sharing this to hopefully be of assistance should your school be inspected.

Should you need any further assistance during inspection regarding ICT issues, please contact the unit and we will assist wherever possible.

For Bolton schools subscribing to Bolton Schools ICT (Bolton SICT) Broadband services, internet access is via the local authority maintained Wide Area Network.

We use a central internet filtering system for all schools.

This is an industry standard solution, Sophos Universal Threat Management, the product incorporates the IWF standards.

We have this configured as per DFE guidelines, see following technical blog post:

<https://technical.bolton365.net/internet-filtering/>

The system can also be deployed at school level if required, but the standard configuration has distinct filtering levels for staff and pupils.

Filtering change requests are online and are only accepted from authorised users. Any changes are security checked before implementation.

The system provides Bolton SICT with full monitoring and reporting, these reports are available to schools when requested.

Bolton Schools ICT Broadband service also includes:

- Email content filtering
- Email anti spam



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- *Secure email facilities – Multi Factor Authentication*
- *Full anti virus*
- *Encrypted document exchange*
- *2 factor remote access*
- *Industry standard firewalls to protect both WAN and school LANs*

Bolton School ICT staff that maintain these systems are all minimum Microsoft qualified and have many years industry experience.

The Inspectors have also indicated that pupils from Year 1 onwards should be using individual logins to allow monitoring of computer usage.

Some schools are already doing this, from EYFS, for network, Purple Mash and blog logon, using a four digit password.

*If your school requires this facility, please contact the unit via email at contact@sict.bolton.gov.uk
For devices, such as iPads, that do not do not use network logins, we are currently looking at ways of user authentication to provide monitoring.*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S H Stoneley'.

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