Why you need decryption for safe web filtering
...and to comply with DfE Filtering & Monitoring Standards

GOV·UK

Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges

Find out what standards your school or college should meet on filtering and monitoring.

+ **Keep children safe BUT don't overblock (KCSIE & DfE Standards require both)**
  + **#1 – allow or block a page or section in a large mixed site**
    + Many websites have thousands of webpages – some are informative and age-appropriate but other pages or sections can be inappropriate or even adult content. Without decryption you have a very blunt tool – you must block or allow the entire website (e.g. the whole of google.com or bbc.co.uk). Decryption lets you have the best of both worlds.
  + **#2 – allow videos or social media on trusted sites only**
    + Only with decryption can you, e.g. block Twitter, Instagram, etc. but allow the school Twitter feed embedded on your school website
    + The same works for videos. Vimeo has no enforceable safe mode so is best blocked but with decryption you can make the Vimeo videos work on teaching and learning sites you have allowed, for example.

+ **See what your users are doing – effective reporting**
  + **#1 – see the page, not just the website**
    + Whether for your proactive checks or for investigating an urgent incident, without decryption you only see the sites users visited (e.g. trustedsite.com) which might not tell you much. Only with decryption can you see the full address which may tell you more (e.g. trustedsite.com/help-with-self-harm).
  + **#2 – see what users are searching for on Google**
    + With decryption, you can see a word cloud and list of terms searched for by students. You will know at a glance if there is something to investigate. Without decryption, none of this is visible (because the search term is shown after the .com so filtering is blocked from seeing it)

+ **Increased protection from security threats and efforts to bypass filtering**
  + Webpages used to spread malware are frequently hidden in a larger site, e.g. a phishing link may take you to a generally safe site but with a new hidden page containing malware – decrypting makes it possible to stop you seeing these pages but still access key websites. Another helpful security feature is to block by file extension, e.g. stop users downloading .exe files.
  + VPNs can only be blocked with decryption (a VPN is a tool used to hide your internet traffic and bypass filtering blocks)

LESS BINARY + BLUNT TOOL; MORE GRANULAR + FLEXIBLE → SAFER!

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SafeguardED
safefiltering.lgfl.net

What you can't see or do without decryption

✅ you will see this

❌ with no decryption you can't see this in reports

https://www.google.com/search?q=inappropriate+word+here

Google

inappropriate word here

All · Images · Videos · News · More

About 204,000,000 results (0.34 seconds)

✅ ❌ wouldn't you want to see this?

https://www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/how-i-overcame-the-urge-to-self-harm

BBC · Home · News · Sport · Weather

Many schools use Google Sites, but without decryption you can only block or allow every Google Site website that exists

But did you know there are thousands of sites that host games so students can play them in school. You can't block them without decryption (or tell students were on an obvious game site.

Unblocked Games Portal

https://sites.google.com/e/unblocked-games

Incognito (2)

Tunnel Rush · Doodle Jump · 8 Ball Pool · QWOP · Among Us · Vex 7

Geometry Dash · Cookie Clicker · Toribash · Run 3 · Action Turnip · Bloons Tower Defense 5

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DECRYPTION MYTHBUSTER – WEB FILTERING

+ **LGfL and school technicians will see my data; my passwords and personal information won't be private anymore…and others will see my holiday snaps!**

    + **FALSE** Decryption does not expose anything you enter on a webpage or what you see there, so passwords, personal information and photos are not exposed to the filtering system. Decryption doesn't show the content but the full address of the page

+ **My financial details will be visible so I might be scammed**

    + **FALSE** For the same reasons, they are not visible, but for extra protection, we do not decrypt financial sites

+ **It cuts a hole in my school's security; it will get us hacked and is against GDPR!**

    + **FALSE** Quite the opposite! Whilst you would never want your internet activity decrypted at an internet café, decryption improves security in a controlled network by allowing you to identify cyberthreats. It's standard industry best-practice for cybersecurity and even improves data protection.

        Also, LGfL uses ISO 27001 data centres with the strictest cybersecurity policies, processes & controls – decrypted pages cannot be intercepted. Also, decryption isn't just turning off encryption and leaving it off – first you install our certificate to tell your devices to only trust our system for decryption, and after inspecting the URL we re-encrypt the traffic.

+ **It isn't needed for school filtering anyway**

    + **FALSE** The DfE filtering standards ask you to identify and block specific web links, examine search terms / content and not overblock. That simply isn't possible without decryption – without it, you won't see (or be able to block) individual pages. You will have to block entire websites instead to hide just one page or piece of content. Equally, no search terms will be visible. You really need decryption to comply with the standards and keep children safe online.

Will it be exposed?

- Passwords ❌
- Photos ❌
- What I write ❌
- Personal information ❌
- Banking details ❌
- Safeguarding reports ❌

Scan me to see the tech guide!

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