Key Reasons Why Smoothwall is the UK's no 1 Filter for Multi-Academy Trusts

The only digital safeguarding provider specialist in the unique needs of a growing MAT.

There's a Filter Fork in the Road
Where Will You Go?

This isn't one of those rhetorical choices. It's real. You really can choose.

There's the filter that your corporate firewall provider might offer. It's on an industrial and global scale. Easy to buy. Big name. Bags of reassurance.

Or there's the more affordable one that might come bundled with your connectivity. Does the trick, right?

Or the education one. Designed with schools in mind. Not quite real-time but close enough.

There are plenty of schools and some MATs who decide to take either one of these routes. They keep you compliant. All good.

Actually, not so good.

A tick in a box approach to filtering will not keep your students safe. It won't help you scale, standardise, leverage economies of scale or build positive relationships with your schools.

If you are not using the UK's number 1 filter for MATs you are missing important benefits - in every direction.

Read on.

There is a filter fork in the road – where will you go? There is a filter fork in the road – where will you go? There is a filter fork in the road – where will you go? There is a filter fork in the road – where will There is a filter fork in the road – where will you go? There is a filter fork in the road – where will you go?

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The Goldilocks Effect

Where small, single school filters can lack the tenancy and standardisation features needed for managing a school cluster, corporate filters can lack the education nuance and granular filtering required to keep students safe.

Smoothwall Filter sits right in the middle. The only real-time filter, 100% focused on education and capable of supporting a MAT across all requirements.

No other filter addresses your priorities head on. No other filter provider allows you to deliver maximum student protection while simplifying your digital safety management, your roadmap and costs.

Smoothwall are the only MAT specialists in UK education

Here are just some of the reasons why Smoothwall Filter is the first choice for MATs across the UK.

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The Most Robust Filter
in UK Education – Bar None

We are the only genuine real-time filter in UK education

Nearly all filters claim to be real-time. But other filters work off lists which are refreshed every 24 hours or longer. But that's close enough, right?

Definitely not. Harmful content goes live every minute of every day, including pornography, violence, drugs, and more. And these sites are accessible for students to see and explore until the providers' lists are refreshed.

It's a weakness that cannot be tolerated in an education setting.

Smoothwall Filter is the only Filter in UK education to eliminate this weakness - head on. It is without rival.

It does not rely on block lists alone. By analysing a page's content, context and construction Smoothwall Filter spots dangerous content and blocks it on the fly.

We call it the '3 Cs of Filtering'.

It means there is no gap between harmful content going live and our Filter's ability to block it. Students are protected at all times.

No over blocking or unreasonable restrictions on learning

Our '3 Cs of Filtering' also mean we can block only that which is harmful on a site, not the entire site. That means no overblocking and disruption to learning.

Your filtering stays flexible, your students stay safe and your teachers can keep teaching, free from the worry of students straying into harmful terrain.

Our categories are 100% UK education focused

Our categories are not generic but specifically designed to protect children in an education setting. They include any risk that could harm as well as wellbeing risks such as plagiarism, cheating and non-productive sites targeting young children.

Compliance

Smoothwall Filter exceeds KCSIE and Ofsted requirements including the elimination of overblocking and the enablement of quality and rich content and learning experiences.

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Deployment? You Decide

Choose your deployment

With more and more software migrating to the cloud and the clear benefits that brings, many Trusts feel pressured into migrating to cloud filtering.

We think that's unreasonable. On-premise is unlikely to disappear altogether and there are valid reasons why a Trust may wish to stick with their on-premise set up.

MATs often need solutions with varied deployment.

Smoothwall Filter can be deployed in the cloud, on-premise or a hybrid of the two and so stay compatible with the needs of your own technology environments.

No compromise - the best of both worlds

Smoothwall are the only filter provider in UK education to offer a hybrid deployment.

You can flex with as much or as little Cloud capability as you need, when you need. No hard decisions and no wide sweeping infrastructure changes required. You're in control.

Offsite filtering and blended learning

Our hybrid deployment is especially favoured by MATs right now wishing to remain on premise whilst leveraging the benefits of 1:1 remote filtering, and faster reporting – both essential in these post pandemic, blended learning times.

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A Fantastic Welcome
to New Schools

Onboard new schools with minimal configuration changes

Our tenancy feature means you can create as many sites as you need to regardless of their organisational structures.

Where new schools need time to adapt to Trust digital safety standards Smoothwall Filter's configuration system allows you to 'layer' your Trust's policy with that of the new school, and provide a superset of both.

Maintain positive relations with incoming schools

Academies can make changes to certain parts of the Smoothwall Filter without overriding core Trust rules. For example, the ability to allow or block individual sites without permitting access to adult and illegal content.

Academy schools can run their own reports which eases the burden on central IT and gives school ITs a feeling of control.

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Standardisation - As Standard

Enable all sites to see the same policy

Our master configuration tool allows you to push your Trust-wide safety policies to all filter units – or, in the case of a central deployment, apply it to all tenants.

Create maps and groups for Trust-wide filtering rules

Smoothwall Filter integrates with both the central Trust directory including Microsoft Active Directory, Google G-Suite or similar, and any individual Academy directories – allowing you to create maps and groups.

For example, blocking access to online games for all students during the school day.

Easily manage subtle differences between academies

Smoothwall Filter's object-based management capability allows for flexibility where needed. For example, filtering across sites following different school hours.

We can help with translating configurations

If your new school has a niche system, or something uncommon to education, it may be more difficult to export their filter rules and merge them with yours. An extra source of expertise here, such as that provided by Smoothwall, can speed up the process.

Our expertise is both deep and wide and is built on two decades of close collaboration with UK schools – that's more time and more schools than any other provider.

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Rigid Commitment to Quality
Flexible and Affordable on Pricing

Helping you benefit from both centralised and school variables

As a MAT you have a multi-layer accountability for governance across your Trust. This can be a complicated business, especially when dealing with different schools, across different geographical spaces and at different stages of digital safety maturity.

This does offer some unique benefits however. A group of interconnected academies allows centralised procurement which saves time and money. It also enables a centralised support to maintain operational standards.

Smoothwall helps you leverage these benefits. Our purchasing models are not rigid but are instead uniquely geared to helping you maintain excellence while accommodating centralised and grassroot variables in your MAT.

Bring schools in fast – regardless of existing contracts

You can deploy Smoothwall Filter across **all** schools immediately and benefit from pro-rata pricing for those schools with existing Filter contracts in place.

50% reduction on your first year

Sign up for 3 years and get 50% off your first year.

Monitor – Managed Service free for 90 days

Purchase Filter and we'll give you our award winning Monitor free for 90 days. A great option as you review your online safety in the new world of education/mixed mode learning.

Buy more, save more

Smoothwall offers a complete family of digital safeguarding solutions, including our award-winning Monitor, Record Manager and Classroom Manager. So when you're ready to expand your digital safety provision, we can offer considerable discounts on additional solutions.

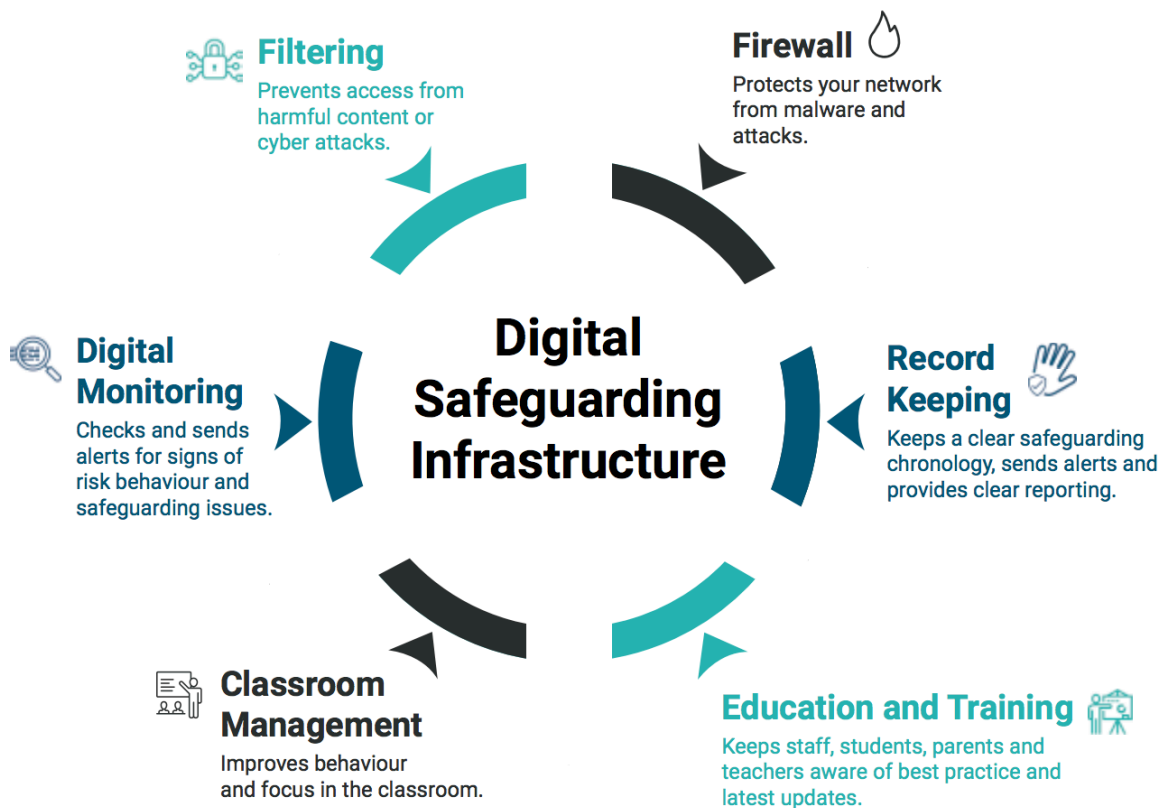smoothwall®

We're Not in Kansas Anymore
Beyond Filtering

As the internet and technology within schools continue to evolve at a rapid pace the need to adopt centralised standards in digital safety become paramount. Excellence in online safety is no longer an option.

The diagram below illustrates Smoothwall's six pronged approach to online safety.

It is a centralised infrastructure that transcends all areas of your MAT.

When you are ready to expand we have the solutions to support you.

Filtering
Prevents access from harmful content or cyber attacks.

Firewall
Protects your network from malware and attacks.

Digital Monitoring
Checks and sends alerts for signs of risk behaviour and safeguarding issues.

Digital Safeguarding Infrastructure

Record Keeping
Keeps a clear safeguarding chronology, sends alerts and provides clear reporting.

Classroom Management
Improves behaviour and focus in the classroom.

Education and Training
Keeps staff, students, parents and teachers aware of best practice and latest updates.

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A Powerful Message to Parents
(and Ofsted)

Children emerging from lockdown is **not** the time to compromise on your digital safety.

Working with Smoothwall sends a powerful message to parents that your Trust takes their child's online safety very seriously.

By investing in Smoothwall Filter you can reassure them, and all stakeholders, including Ofsted, that you have the most robust filtering protection possible – specifically engineered and finely tuned for a UK education setting.

And when you're ready to expand your safety provision, (and your reassurances to stakeholders) we are the only provider in UK education to offer a full suite of digital safety solutions – from the keyboard to the classroom.

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A Strong Community
Setting the Standard

MATs across the UK come to us and stay with us. They value our expertise. They welcome our UK Education focus. And they rest assured knowing that we will work hand in hand to protect their students, to help their schools and support their drive to scale and grow in an affordable and manageable way.

Below are just a selection of the MATs we our incredibly proud to work with.

Acer Trust

Activate Learning Education Trust

Aim Academies Trust

Aim High Academy Trust

Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust

All Saints Multi-Academy Trust

Alpha Plus Group Ltd

Amethyst Academies Trust

Avonbourne Trust

Bath and Wells Multi-Academy Trust

Bishop Cleary Catholic Multi Academy Company

Burnt Mill Academy Trust

Castle School Education Trust

Castleford Academy Trust

Christ the King Catholic Collegiate

Cockburn Multi-Academy Trust

Cramlington Learning Village

Cromwell Learning Community Academy Trust

Eggbuckland Community College

Emmanuel Schools Foundation

Endeavour Schools Trust

Greenwood Tree Academy Trust

Hartismere Family of Schools

Hummersknott Academy Trust

Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust

Inspire Trust

Inspiring Schools Partnership

James Montgomery Academy Trust

Keys Co-operative Academy Trust

Laidlaw Schools Trust

A Strong Community
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Leading Edge Academies Partnership

Learners' Trust

Learning Academy Partnership (South West)

Lionheart Academies Trust

Marish Academy Trust

North East Learning Trust

North Norfolk Academy Trust

Northern Education Trust

Novalis Trust

Nunthorpe Multi-Academy Trust

Oasis Community Learning

Odyssey Trust for Education

Ormiston Academies Trust

Ortu Federation

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust

Prospere Learning Trust

Raedwald Trust

RSA Academies

Saffron Academy Trust

Salendine Nook Academy Trust

Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust

South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust (SMART)

Southend East Community Academy Trust

Southerly Point Co-Operative Multi-Academy Trust

Staffordshire Universities Academy Trust

Stowe Valley Multi-Academy Trust

The Active Learning Trust Limited

The Basildon Academies

The Consortium Academy Trust

The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust

The Education Alliance

The Fallibroome Trust

The Schools of King Edward VI Birmingham

The Sigma Trust

The Spencer Academies Trust

Trinity Multi-Academy Trust

Tudor Grange Academy Trust

Twynham Learning

White Rose Academies Trust

Wootton Academy Trust

Yorkshire and the Humber Co-operative Learning Trust

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Smoothwall for Education

In a Nutshell
No Time for Compromise

The Goldilocks Effect

✓ The only UK MAT specialists
✓ Solves your priorities head on
✓ Simplifying your digital safety management, roadmap and costs

The Most Robust Education Filter

✓ UK education focused
✓ Genuine real-time
✓ No overblocking

Deployment. You Decide

✓ On-premise
✓ Cloud
✓ Hybrid

A Fantastic Welcome to New Schools

✓ Minimal configuration changes
✓ Schools can keep some control without overriding core safety

Standardisation – as Standard

✓ Create maps and groups for Trust-wide filtering rules
✓ Easily manage subtle differences between schools

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Children returning to school post lockdown need strong safeguarding in place

Ofsted & parents expect nothing less

Rigid Quality. Flexible Affordable Pricing

✓ Pro-rata contract renewal
✓ 3 years + an extra year free
✓ Buy more save more

We're Not in Kansas Anymore - Beyond Filtering

✓ Firewall
✓ Monitor Managed Service
✓ Record Manager
✓ Classroom Manager
✓ Education and training

A Strong Community

✓ Setting the standard in digital safety

Find Out More
For Now or Just for Future Reference

Get a no obligation quotation

Drop us an email and we'll get right back to you. Enquiries@smoothwall.com

Arrange a walkthrough

A walkthrough is a great way to get to know Smoothwall Filter. You can ask any questions, and even invite your colleagues along. There is no obligation and we don't mind if you're not ready to change your filter provider just yet. It's good to know what's available for when you do.

Simply select a date and time of your choice below and we'll send you a Zoom link. Easy.

https://www.smoothwall.com/education/contact-us/demonstration

About Smoothwall

We are driven by our purpose: to be the most trustworthy digital safeguarding provider in the world. It is this focus which informs the capabilities we develop, the support we provide and the business decisions we make.

Find out more.
Visit us at smoothwall.com/education

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