

Principal:
Lesley Welsh



11 July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Launch of Digital Safeguarding Software - Smoothwall Monitoring From 1 September 2022

Hope Sentamu Learning Trust and its academies take the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff very seriously. With the online world developing at such a rapid pace, especially since the start of the pandemic, schools across the country are seeing an increase in issues arising from online risks. As a Trust school we want to be able to detect online risks before they become real life incidents.

In response to this, the academy will be implementing 'Smoothwall Monitor' which is a leading software to highlight to school leaders any safeguarding concerns. Concerns will be identified through 'keystroke monitoring' and 'screen capture'. In simple terms, this means that if someone accessing our IT network types in certain words, a report will be sent to the school leader flagging that the user may be in need of support. Our intention is to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect our school communities from online risk and ensure that anyone in need of mental health or emotional support is identified as quickly as possible.

The monitoring software has the capability to capture words of concern typed into internet browsers, social media platforms, emails and Microsoft documents. Please be reassured that we will operate this software in line with our Data Protection (UK GDPR) Policy and our Privacy Notices, and any concerns that are flagged will be dealt with under strict confidentiality.

Assuring you of our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

Should you have any questions or you would like to discuss this with someone please contact Mr Murray, Vice Principal – b.murray@gps.hslt.academy

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh
Principal

The logo for Smoothwall, featuring the word 'smoothwall' in a lowercase, rounded, teal font with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the right.



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