

There are multiple tools available to help your school or kura achieve the web filtering settings that best suit your learning environment. If there's something you want to block but you're not sure how, the information below can help guide you.

N4L's Web Filtering blocks websites and URLs, but not specific content within a website. For example, YouTube is widely used to support learning - schools can currently either allow YouTube, block all access to it or apply user group and age-based restrictions. It cannot filter out individual YouTube videos.

What you'd like to filter or block

How you can achieve this



A group of sites with a common theme, e.g. social media



This can be done by [N4L's Web Filtering](#). You can ask to block the category e.g. Social Networking via a request to N4L's Customer Support team who can action this for you.



An entire website, such as Facebook



This can also be done by N4L's Web Filtering. You can send a request to block the 'Facebook' website via MyN4L's [Web Filtering tool](#) or contact our Customer Support team who can block the app or website.



Part of a website, e.g. a particular page of a website



This can be done by [Encrypted Traffic Inspection](#), which is an additional tool that your school can choose to use, but it can require ongoing IT management and cost. If you'd like to know more about SSL Inspection and whether it's right for your school, we suggest discussing this with your IT lead or IT provider.



Search engine results, including images displayed



This can be done using a combination of third party tools such as SSL Inspection and SafeSearch. SafeSearch for Google and Bing is automatically enabled for schools when they use N4L's DNS Threat Protection and provides an additional layer of protection. Schools can also enable SafeSearch using the options in their Google Admin console.



Inappropriate YouTube videos



If using Google Workspace for Education, you can use [YouTube permissions](#) to help filter video content. Note, YouTube's Restricted Mode heavily relies on users flagging inappropriate content. Google Classroom users can also block YouTube for students so they can't search for content, but they can access teacher-approved content from within Google Classroom.



Different filtering rules for different groups at different times of the day, for example wanting to block social media for junior students or allowing staff access to a website that you'd like blocked for students



Customised filtering can be achieved by creating specific filtering policies for different groups of users, such as senior students, junior students or staff. Each group would need to connect to a separate wireless network (or VLAN).

If your school has been through N4L's Equipment Replacement, then this can be done remotely by N4L via a request to our Customer Support team. If your school hasn't been through Equipment Replacement then your IT provider will need to set up separate networks for each group (if this hasn't already been done) and configure this for you.

It's also worth noting that we're unable to filter chat or social media messages within apps that are encrypted, such as WhatsApp.

Understanding the limits of the technology

While our Web Filtering works when a device is connected to the school's network, it can be bypassed by users connected to unknown VPNs and those using mobile data instead of the school Wi-Fi. That's why it's important to remember there's no way to guarantee 100% protection for inappropriate content. There are other actions schools can take, like promoting digital citizenship, and making sure policies and user agreements are in place. Check out Netsafe's [Kete](#) for useful resources.

Still have questions?

If you'd like to discuss your school's current filtering settings or would like to know more about any of the N4L tools mentioned above, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Customer Support team on **0800 532 764** or email support@n4l.co.nz.

