



Welcome to the December 2024 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Schools

Is your organisation Cyber Secure?

With the Christmas break fast approaching, consider the question: **Is your organisation Cyber Secure?**

Schools and Trusts have been and are prime targets for cyber-attacks from 'phishing' emails to 'ransomware' and need to take their organisation's cybersecurity seriously. Handling large amounts of sensitive and personal data, such as student records and staff information, these incidents or attacks will often be an **intentional** and **unauthorised** attempt to access, change or damage data and digital technology. They could be made by a person, group, or organisation outside or inside the school or college and can lead to:

- safeguarding issues due to sensitive personal data being compromised
- impact on student outcomes
- a significant data breach, compromising GDPR compliance
- significant and lasting disruption, including the risk of repeated future cyber incidents and attacks, including school or college closure
- financial loss
- reputational damage

The [DfE's Cyber Security Standards](#) (updated in November 2024) provide schools and Trusts with essential advice and guidance to help organisations protect their data and systems. Following these guidelines together with the implementation of strong security measures and robust procedures, schools and Trusts can keep their students and staff safe while minimising the impact of a potential cyber-attack.

Check the [National Cyber Security Centre's dedicated webpage of resources \(NCSC\) for schools](#):

- [Governing boards & senior leaders](#) 8 questions for school leaders and governors to start cyber security conversations
- [Staff](#) includes free training resources and video
- [IT teams/procurers/providers](#) includes free online resource find out how resilient your organisation is '[Exercise in a box](#)'
- [Other useful resources](#) including how to report a school cyber incident

Access the [NCSC website here](#)

Watch the Cyber security training for school staff video with a scripted presentation pack [here](#)

Consider working towards achieving [Cyber Essentials Certification](#) for your school. Try the [Cyber Essentials](#) questions. Your responses to the questions helps create a personal action plan to assist you in meeting the Cyber Essentials requirements. The action plan includes links to specific guidance on how to meet the requirements.

Reminder—Is your school's data safe?

- How safe is your school's data?
- What would you do if a key member of staff is unavailable (Data Manager/Network Manager) at the start of next term?
- Does your school have an up to date *Data Security Policy*?
- *Does your Data Security Policy include provisions for homeworking/anytime/anywhere/access?*
- Would you know if your school experienced (or has experienced) a Data Security Incident?
- *How resilient is your school's IT network?*
- Is your school's network protected from internal and external threats?

Contact [Scomis](#) for impartial and objective advice on:

Infrastructure Services
Network Solutions and Services
Remote Back-up

Business Continuity and Emergency Plans

Consider the following questions:

Can student data be safely and securely accessed by appropriate staff in an emergency?

Have you reviewed your Business Continuity/Emergency and Contingency Plans?

Review the DfE's [Emergency Planning and Response](#) guidance (updated May 2023). Contents include advice on:

[Making an emergency plan](#) [Severe weather](#) [School Security](#)

The guidance applies to:

- early years
- wrap around childcare and out of school settings
- children's social care
- schools
- special education needs and disability (SEND) and specialist settings
- alternative provision settings

Unsure of how to write a Contingency Plan?

[Review 40 Contingency Plans from the DfE](#)

Save the date! Safer Internet Day 2025—11/2/2025

Theme for 2025

Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.

[Tips for parents and carers with children of all ages](#) including top tips for 3-7 year olds

[Tips for 7-11 year olds](#) top scams to look out for

[Tips for 11-14 year olds](#) top scams to look out for

[Tips for 14-18 year olds](#) including how to stay up to date with common and emerging scams

Safer Internet Day - 11th February 2025

Register as a
**Safer Internet
Day Supporter**

[About the theme](#)

NSPCC—CASPAR

Consider subscribing to **CASPAR**, the [NSPCC's](#) safeguarding child protection weekly newsletter. You'll receive updates on safeguarding and child protection news, events, guidance, and resources, straight into your inbox.

Sign up [here](#)

NSPCC

Free education resources

[Childnet's free education resources](#) for all ages and SEND to help teachers and professionals encourage children and young people to help shape the future of online safety support.

Helpline dedicated to children's workforce

Don't forget!

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline (POSH), operated by SWGfL. Review their video on how the Helpline works and how they can help [here](#). Tel: 0344 381 4772

Looking for further support?

Children—[call Childline 0800 1111](#)

Older children [The Mix](#) offers free and practical advice. Essential support for under 25s.

For more information contact

E: scomis@devon.gov.uk

T: [01392 385300](tel:01392385300)

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Your ICT Partner