

Welcome to the February 2023 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Schools

How resilient is your school's IT network

Cyber Security is an extremely important consideration for school's senior management, Governing bodies and Trustees. Robust Network security will prevent loss of data, accidental damage, damage to reputation and malicious activity (cyber attacks).

The [National Cyber Security Centre's](#) website provides advice, guidance, toolkits and videos on how organisations can protect themselves in Cyberspace including:

[Risk management](#)
[Engagement and training](#)
[Vulnerability management](#)
[Data security](#)
[Logging and monitoring](#)
[Incident management](#)



SCOMIS has previously recommended **10 steps schools** should consider to keep your school's data safe:

1. Staff training and user awareness—staff should know how to report 'phishing emails'. Consider Cyber Security training on Staff Inset
2. Check user access and privileges— Staff should only have access they need NOT more!
3. Backup your data! Remember having data stored 'in the cloud—Google Drive/Microsoft Office 365' **IS NOT** the same as a Cloud Backup
4. Implement a System Recovery Plan—create a Recovery Plan which is reviewed AND tested at regular intervals. [Emergency Planning and Response](#)
5. Ensure software is updated and upgraded—upgrade and patch systems as soon as they are made available
6. Use encryption—use encryption when emailing any personal/confidential data
7. Protect your network—Firewalls, Anti-Virus, Malware detection
8. Ensure networks are maintained and software licences are up to date — review and check licences
9. Review software installed on your network—maintain a list of installed software and administrators
10. Does your school have an up to date Data Security Policy? Consider [Cyber Essentials](#) toolkit
[Test your readiness](#)

For more detailed advice and guidance with practical resources for schools including:

- Cyber Security training for staff
- Questions to ask Governing Bodies and Trustees
- Early Years Practitioners
- Helping staff to work safely online visit [Cyber Security for Schools](#)

- IT teams/procurers/providers

Review the webpage [here](#)

Or contact Scomis for impartial and objective advice on:

- Infrastructure Services
- Network Solutions and Services
- Remote Back-up

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Did you register for Safer Internet Day 7th February 2023?

Safer Internet Day will take place on 7 February 2023

Will your school get involved?

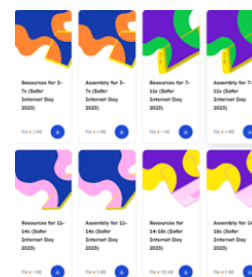
You can still access free resources!

Find out more about the theme:

Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.

Click the links to access:

[Educational Resources](#)
[Social Media Template](#)
[Safer Internet Day Youth Charter](#)
[Films](#)
[Supportive Quotes](#)
[Poster](#)
[Social Media Pack](#)
[Quiz for 11-14s](#)
[Quiz for 14-18s](#)
[Quiz for 7-11s](#)



Access free educational resources [here](#)

Safer Internet Day is celebrated globally in February each year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology for children and young people. Find out more at the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) website.

South West Grid for Learning's Gaming Hub I

Have you checked the [South West Grid for Learning's Gaming Hub](#) to find out the benefits of gaming and:

- why people game
- about the gaming community
- explore virtual reality
- Esports



Remember:

Many games allow users to interact with others online!

Find out more [about](#):

- the most popular gaming terms
- review the [dictionary](#)
- the latest definitions around some of the most common phrases and abbreviations used by gamers

Free Resources for Schools

Looking for free Online Safety Resources?

The following websites have lots of free resources for Schools. Open the links below and explore:

[Internet Matters](#) [NSPCC](#) [CEOPS ThinkUKnow](#)
[Child Net](#) [BBC](#) [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
[South West Grid for Learning](#)

Helpline for staff solely dedicated to supporting the children's workforce:

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline (POSH):
[Website](#) Tel: 0344 381 4772

For more information contact
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SCOMIS
Your ICT Partner