Cyber Security & Safeguarding

Briefing – Summer 2022

'Keeping IT connected'
evolve IT SUPPORT

Audit
Protect
Monitor

Did you know?

That we at Evolve check daily for breaches in your email systems?

This isn't standard with other providers and has been custom scripted by Josh Loader to pull reports from 50+ Office 365 tenants.

DFE Cyber Security Guidance & KCSiE

It will come as no surprise to many of you that the issues around technology and safeguarding children are becoming more important than ever and as such each year the DFE tweaks the guidance for schools. However, there is still no fixed and clear guidance that clearly outlines what the DFE are looking for.

What we're going to outline here is what all schools should be doing to help protect their children and data.

Good Cyber security is another tool in your arsenal of safeguarding processes and procedures, the act of protecting your network from attackers and scoundrels out to make their living from your data.

Audit / Risk Assessment – a Cyber Essentials audit backed by the National Cyber Security Centre will give you a clear understanding of what you need to put in place to protect your children & staff. It also sets a high standard that will show Ofsted inspectors that you take your responsibility seriously. It's hard to pass on a primary school budget but with an initial risk assessment and rolling upgrade plan it is achievable.

Tools & Tips

Email Phishing Protection by Microsoft, from £1 per staff member per month.

Anti-Malware Software – we recommend using ESET Endpoint software for your windows computers to protect against hackers and viruses.

Multi-Factor Authentication – MFA should be set up where possible and as a minimum for email accounts using Office 365.

Software Updates – using software that is up to date will keep your children as safe as possible.

Backups – We can't stress enough the importance of backups, and the role they play if your systems are breached.

Training – It's free, the NCSC offer this useful information for schools.

Police Cyber Alarm

Many of you will have heard about this tool which is free to use, you'll need some extra support from us to get it configured.

Simply put it monitors traffic trying to access your network via your internet connection and reports any known threats for you to act upon.

This is currently not compatible with Schools Broadband or Trustnet connections.

Monitoring & Reporting

Don't forget the safeguarding monitoring tools that you need to have in place, speak to your technician about Senso.Cloud or Securus

Let's explore a bit more.

Why Audit?

We know that schools are used to auditing their systems and practise to ensure the best outcomes for children's learning and safeguarding, why would your IT systems, the gateway to your data and success be any different?

Assessing your systems against national security standards will give you a full and clear picture of what you have and where improvement can be driven.

CyberSmart offers an accreditation scheme that is approved by the NCSC and will provide your school with a Cyber Essentials compliance certificate when complete. The cost of the accreditation's £599, not including any remedial work or products required to achieve compliance.

What a great way to show Ofsted inspectors that you've taken your cyber security responsibilities seriously.

Phishing Protection

Most schools use the free Microsoft 365 email platform; the offering is basic but adequate. There has been a high rise in spam and scam emails. Microsoft Defender Plan 1 can be added to your annual agreements for the cost of £15 per staff member (or email account such as office@school.co.uk) per year.

Anti Malware (Virus) Software.

Eset Endpoint protection is a 3rd party product that is installed on a device (usually Windows or Mac). It offers a layer of protection to users from viruses, hackers, and if using Outlook email phishing scams. It costs £6.45 per device per year and is the first line of defence, particularly on devices taken home with staff outside the school networks.

RMM Solutions –
Remote monitoring and management tools allow Evolve as your service provider to audit, monitor and update your devices remotely. The cost is about £2 per device per year.

Multi-Factor Authentication

Most major software developers will offer MFA as a free way to add security to your email accounts. All you need is a mobile phone or tablet.

Once set up you'll receive a text or alert with a security code whenever your account is accessed on a new device, thieves won't be able to access your account without that code.

Office 365 offers this tool for free, but please speak to your technician before making any changes as it needs to be planned and implemented carefully to minimise disruption.

Backups

Best-laid plans are just those, sometimes things go wrong and in our opinion, you can't have too many backups. We review onsite procedures regularly but you need to check with 3rd parties that you use to make sure their Data Protection policies are up to your high standards.

Thanks for reading, we hope that we've added some value to our service with this information without being overly technical.

If you'd like further guidance exploring your cyber security responsibilities please speak to your technician or drop a quick email to info@etsict.co.uk

Please do let us know if we can cover any other subjects and we'll do our best to explore them and share some information.