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DATA PROTECTION UPDATES

The monthly overview for education staff

Staying Safe - For You and Your School

Schools are experiencing cyber threats at an ever increasing rate from simple phishing attacks to more sophisticated penetration methods. We want to encourage all schools to reduce their risk as much as possible and this can be done at a technological level with your systems, as well as working with staff and pupils to reduce risk.

Cyber Threats

The risk of cyber threats can be reduced using simple but effective cyber hygiene practices including taking regular backups, using antivirus and keeping it updated, and being particularly careful with email security and not clicking on any suspicious links in emails. Staff training (as well as raising awareness) is also key to this and can be completed using our Cyber Security for School Staff training course (written by the NCSC) on our website.

Good password practice is also an important step. This includes using strong passwords (14 characters using a combination of letters, numbers, symbols, capitals/lowercase, or a technique such as combining three or four completely random words) and using different passwords for each system used. Not sharing passwords is also important and using multi-factor authentication, where possible, dramatically increases the effectiveness of security.

Email Risks

We have published this advice before but it has been a while since we last did. Always worth a reminder:

- Check emails before they are sent so that you are less likely to make a simple error like using the wrong email address.
- Password protect or encrypt files that contain personal information.
- Avoid emailing files internally. Save files in a shared area on either your internal server or in the cloud (depending on your organisation) and update the shared document.
- Avoid email for external communication where possible. Use alternative parental communication tools for example.
- Use Bcc when emailing an external group of contacts if you have to use email.

In depth in the December Issue:

Portal Upgrade - v2 Now Live!

Staying Safe Over Christmas

DfE Data Protection Updates

Partner: ShredPro

Latest Cyber Threats & Advice

Sharing Christmas Class Lists

Data Protection in the News

Click on the 'In Depth' links to access our full blog articles for this month