Scottish Borders Council

Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety Guidelines for Staff

Policy Content (updated May 2025)

Introduction

Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety (CRIS) is a key aspect of safeguarding in Scottish Borders schools. All staff have a responsibility to promote a safe and positive digital environment in line with **Education Scotland**, **Scottish Government policies**, and **DigiLearn Scotland** guidance. These guidelines outline expectations for Senior Leadership Teams (SLT) and all school staff in teaching, monitoring, and responding to online safety incidents.

Role of Senior Leadership Teams (SLT)

SLT members should:

- **Lead by example** by embedding CRIS in school policies, procedures, and culture.

- **Ensure staff training** on CRIS is provided through DigiLearn Scotland and other professional learning opportunities.

- **Develop and communicate a clear reporting system** for online safety concerns, ensuring staff and pupils know how to escalate issues.

- **Monitor compliance** with GTCS Standards for Professionalism and Integrity regarding digital conduct.

- **Engage with parents and the community** through workshops, newsletters, and online resources.

Role of Teaching and Support Staff

Staff members should:

- **Embed CRIS into teaching** across the curriculum, using resources from Education Scotland, Inspire Learning and DigiLearn Scotland to develop pupils' digital literacy and critical thinking.

- **Model responsible digital behaviour** in line with the GTCS Professional Standards.

- **Monitor pupil online activity** when using school devices and digital platforms, ensuring appropriate use.

- **Respond promptly** to incidents of cyberbullying, online exploitation, or digital misconduct, following school and local authority protocols.

- **Encourage pupil-led initiatives** such as digital leaders to promote a positive online culture.

Monitoring and Responding to Incidents

- **Recognise signs of risk**, including changes in behaviour, distress after online use, or discussions about inappropriate online experiences.

- **Report concerns** following school safeguarding procedures, ensuring prompt SLT intervention where required.

- **Support affected pupils** through guidance and referral to appropriate support services where necessary.

- **Document incidents appropriately**, ensuring compliance with data protection and child protection policies.

Key References and Further Support

- **Scottish Government Cyber Resilience Policy**

- **Digilearn Scotland CRIS Resources**

- **GTCS Standards**

- **Inspire Website**

All staff must actively contribute to creating a cyber-resilient culture within Scottish Borders schools, ensuring that pupils develop the skills and awareness needed for safe online engagement. For further support, contact your SLT.