

Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety Policy

Policy Content (updated May 2025)

Introduction

Scottish Borders Council is committed to ensuring that all children and young people across Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Settings, Primary and Secondary Schools can learn and develop in a safe and secure digital environment. This policy provides a framework to protect learners from online risks, educate them on responsible digital citizenship and ensure staff and stakeholders implement effective cyber resilience and internet safety practices.

This policy aligns with national guidance, including the Scottish Government's *Strategic Framework for a Cyber Resilient Scotland*, Education Scotland's DigiLearn resources and the National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education. The Strategic Framework highlights the importance of developing cyber resilience skills for all learners, embedding cyber resilience into organisational practices, ensuring resilient public services and strengthening incident response. This policy reflects these priorities within the Scottish Borders Council education context.

Policy Aims

The key aims of this policy are:

- To safeguard children and young people from online threats, including cyberbullying, exploitation and inappropriate content.
- To ensure all learners, educators, and families understand and adopt safe and responsible internet use.
- To establish clear procedures for responding to and managing cyber incidents effectively.
- To promote cyber resilience as an essential skill for all learners and staff.

Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders have a responsibility to uphold and promote cyber resilience and internet safety within educational settings.

- **Senior Leadership Teams (SLT) and Headteachers**
 - Ensure that cyber resilience and internet safety are embedded in school policies and practices.
 - Support staff with relevant training and development opportunities.
 - Oversee incident response procedures and reporting mechanisms.
- **Teachers and Support Staff**
 - Deliver age-appropriate cyber resilience and internet safety education as part of the curriculum.
 - Model and reinforce good digital practices for learners.

- Recognise, report, and respond appropriately to online safety concerns.
- **Learners**
 - Engage in lessons and activities that promote digital awareness and safe online behaviours.
 - Report any concerns or incidents to a trusted adult.
 - Follow school guidelines on responsible internet and device usage.
- **Parents and Carers**
 - Support and reinforce cyber resilience messages at home.
 - Monitor children's online activity and encourage open discussions about online safety.
 - Engage with school initiatives related to cyber resilience and internet safety

Curriculum and Learning

Cyber resilience and internet safety should be embedded within the curriculum to ensure learners develop the knowledge and skills required to navigate the digital world safely. Schools should utilise:

- **Early Learning and Childcare (ELC):** Play-based approaches to introduce online safety concepts, such as recognising trusted adults and understanding screen time limits.
- **Primary Education:** Age-appropriate lessons covering online privacy, digital footprint awareness, cyberbullying prevention, and safe communication.
- **Secondary Education:** More advanced topics, including digital ethics, misinformation, data protection, and strategies for managing digital wellbeing.

Education Scotland's DigiLearn platform provides structured guidance and resources to support these learning outcomes. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/digilearn/new-home/cyber-resilience-and-internet-safety>

The Inspire website also contains links to suitable resources. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sb/inspiresbc/digital-safety>

Safe Use of Digital Technologies

Scottish Borders Council Schools must implement safeguards to protect learners when using digital technologies. These include:

- Filtering and monitoring systems to restrict access to harmful content.
- Secure user authentication and data protection measures.
- Policies for the appropriate use of devices, including personal and school-provided technology.
- Clear guidance on safe online interactions, particularly when using social media and collaborative platforms.

Responding to Online Safety Incidents

All educational establishments must have a structured approach to responding to cyber incidents, including:

- Reporting mechanisms for learners, staff, and parents to raise concerns.
- Designated safeguarding leads responsible for investigating and addressing online safety incidents.
- Procedures for escalating serious incidents to external agencies such as Police Scotland and child protection services.
- Support strategies for individuals affected by online harm, including access to counselling and digital wellbeing resources.

Professional Learning and Staff Development

All staff should be able to access opportunities to engage in ongoing professional learning to keep up to date with cyber resilience and internet safety best practices. This includes, but not limited to:

- Annual training on emerging online risks and mitigation strategies.
- Access to Education Scotland's DigiLearn professional learning resources.
- Collaboration with national agencies, including the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), to enhance local expertise.

Parental Engagement and Community Partnerships

Schools should actively engage parents and carers in cyber resilience education by:

- Hosting workshops and information sessions on online safety.
- Providing accessible resources and guidance on managing digital risks at home.
- Collaborating with local and national organisations to strengthen community-wide approaches to cyber resilience.

Policy Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains aligned with national guidance and best practice.

Schools should:

- Conduct regular audits of their cyber resilience and internet safety practices.
- Gather feedback from learners, staff, and parents to inform improvements.
- Report on progress and challenges to Scottish Borders Council's Education Department.

By implementing this policy, Scottish Borders Council aims to create a secure and resilient digital learning environment that equips children and young people with the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly digital society.