Meeting digital and technology standards in schools and colleges

Department For Education:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meeting-digital-and-technology-standards-in-schools-and-colleges

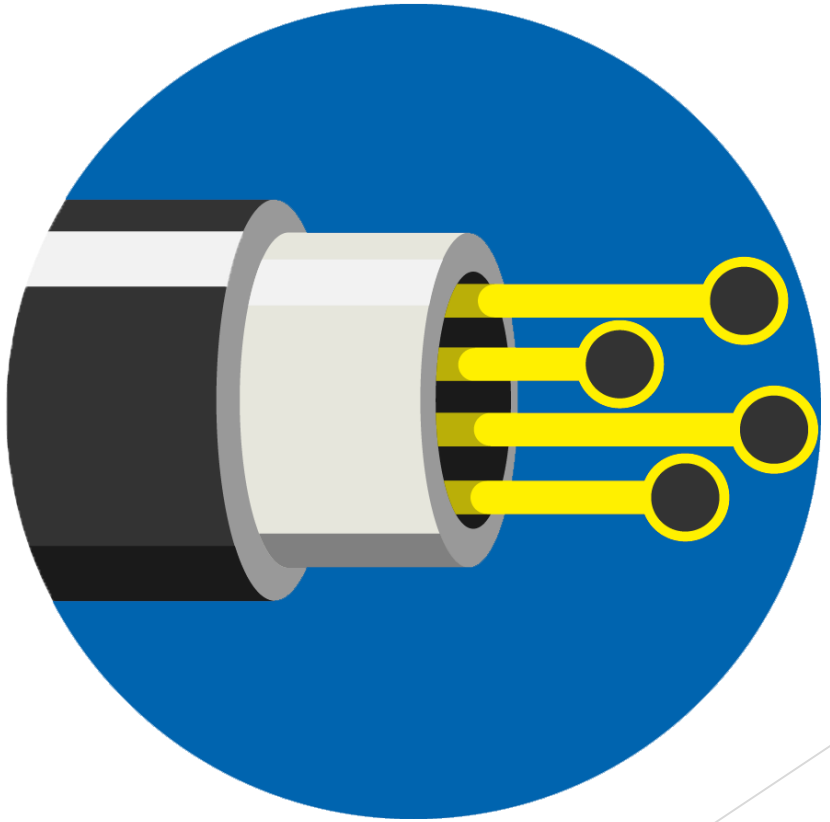
Primary IT

Summary

- How schools and colleges can meet IT service and digital equipment standards.
- These standards should be used as guidelines to support your school or college use the right digital infrastructure and technology. More digital and technology categories will be added to the service.
- Meeting them can help you make more informed decisions about technology leading to safer, more cost-efficient practices and new learning opportunities for students.
- The standards are to be used by everyone involved in the planning and use of technology within schools and colleges, including:
  - senior leadership teams
  - IT staff
  - suppliers
  - technical advisers
  - teachers
- The standards can help your school or college with:
  - budgeting for technology procurement and maintenance
  - buying technology equipment and services
  - renewing a contract with a technology provider to ensure their purchases meet your needs
  - correctly installing new equipment

Broadband internet standards for schools and colleges

- Primary schools should have a minimum of 100Mbps download speed and a minimum of 30Mbps upload speed.
- Secondary schools, all-through schools and further education colleges should have a connection with the capacity to deliver 1Gbps download and upload speed.
- Schools should have a backup internet line
- Schools should have content filtering systems



Cloud solution standards for schools and colleges

- Use cloud solutions as an alternative to locally-hosted system, including servers
- Cloud solutions must follow data protection legislation
- Cloud solutions should use ID and access management tools
- Cloud solutions should work on a range of devices and be available when needed
- Appropriate data backup should be in place

Cyber security standards for schools and colleges

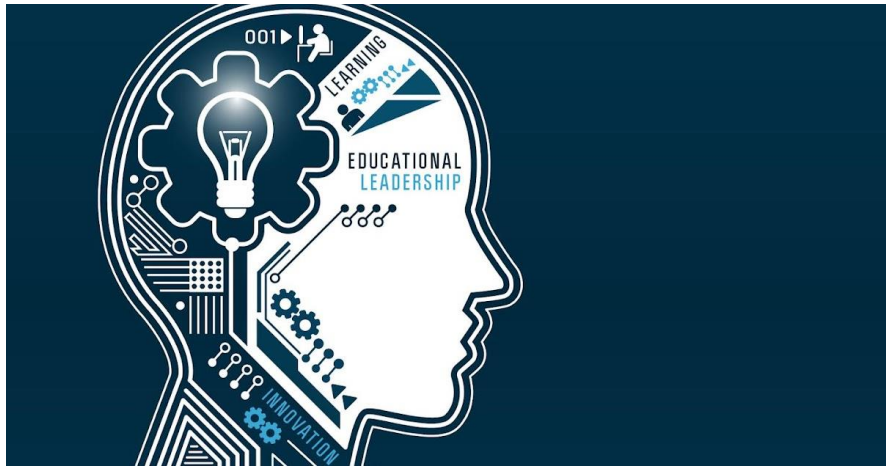
- Conduct a cyber risk assessment annually and review every term
- Create and implement a cyber awareness plan for students and staff
- Secure digital technology and data with anti-malware and a firewall
- Control and secure user accounts and access privileges
- License digital technology and keep it up to date
- Develop and implement a plan to backup your data and review this every year
- Report cyber attacks

Digital accessibility standards

- Include digital accessibility in relevant strategies and policies
- Hardware and software should support the use of accessibility features
- Communications should be accessible to all

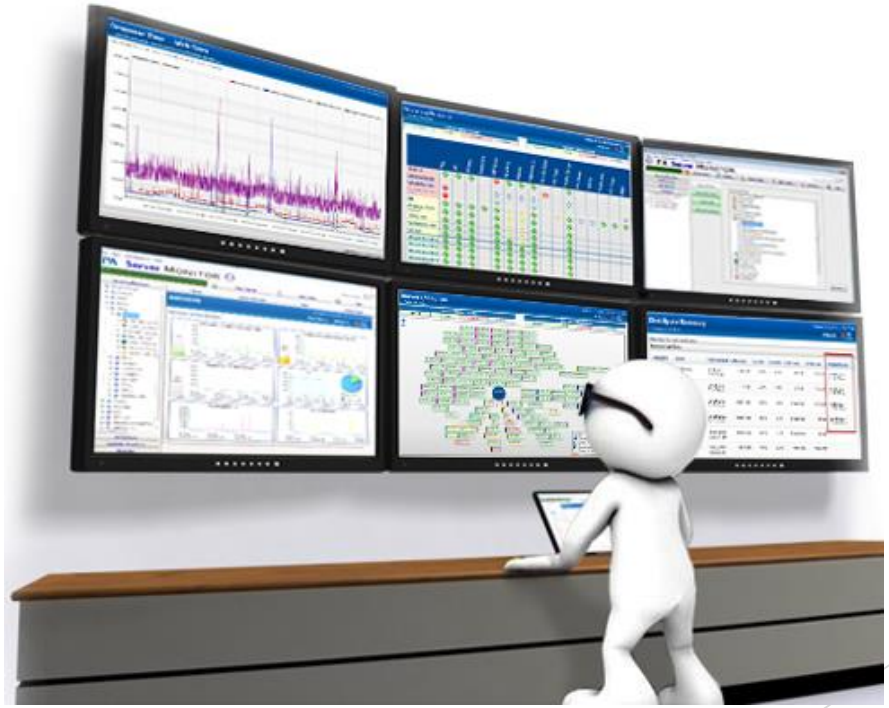
Digital leadership and governance standards

- Assign a senior leadership team (SLT) member to be responsible for digital technology
- Keep registers relating to hardware and systems up to date
- Include digital technology within disaster recovery and business continuity plans
- Have a digital strategy that is reviewed every year



Filtering and monitoring standards for schools and colleges

- Identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage your filtering and monitoring systems
- Review your filtering and monitoring provision at least annually
- Filtering systems should block harmful and inappropriate content, without unreasonably impacting teaching and learning
- Have effective monitoring strategies and meet the safeguarding needs of your school or college

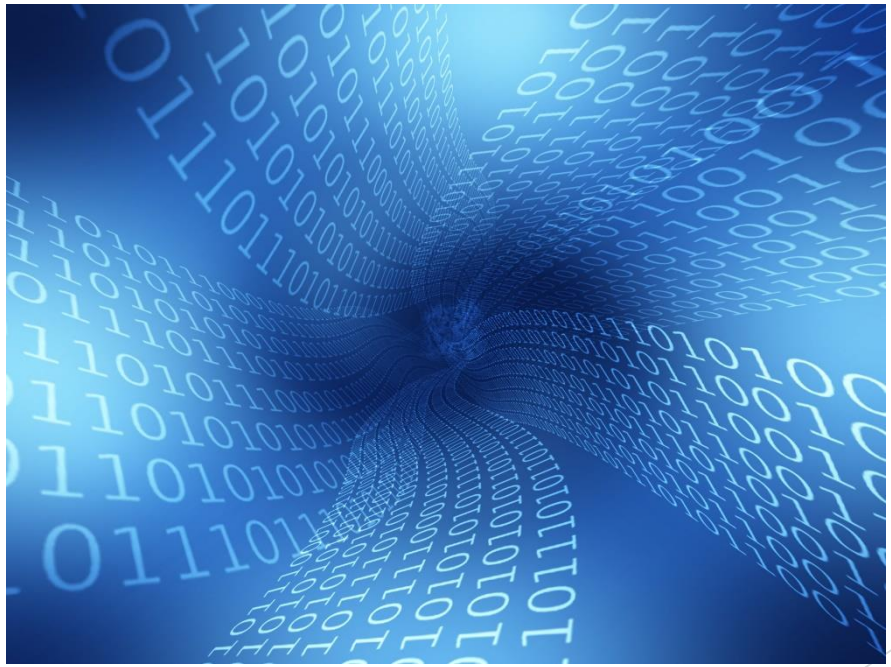


Laptop, desktop and tablet standards

- Devices should meet educational needs and support the digital technology strategy
- Devices should be safe and secure
- Devices should meet or exceed the minimum requirements
- Make sure devices are energy efficient, and they are bought and disposed of sustainably

Network cabling standards for schools and colleges

- Copper cabling should be Category 6A (Cat 6A)
- Optical fibre cabling should be a minimum 16 core multi-mode OM4
- New cabling should be installed and tested in line with the manufacturer's guidance, warranty terms and conditions

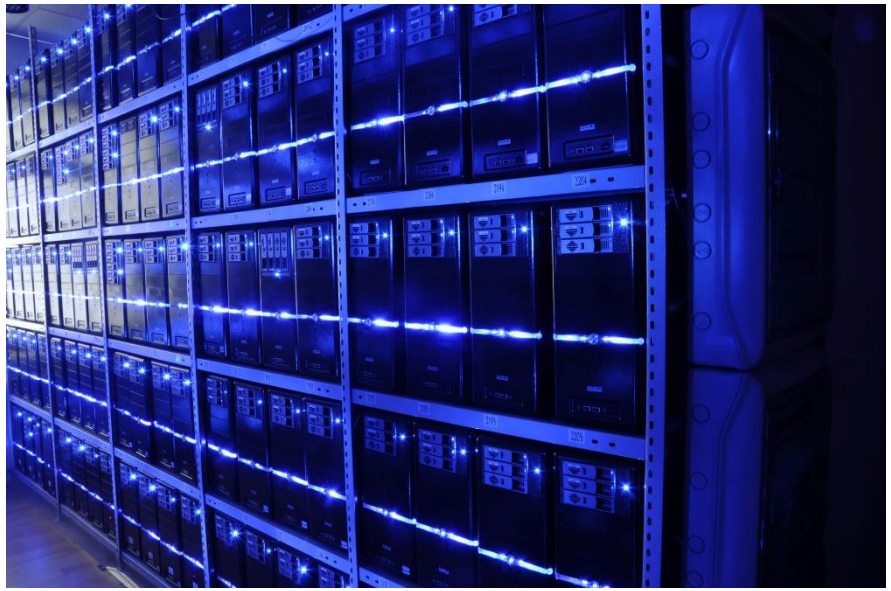


Network switching standards for schools and colleges

- Your network switches should provide fast, reliable and secure connections to all users both wired and wireless
- Have a platform that can centrally manage the network switching infrastructure
- Your network switches should have security features to protect users and data from unauthorised access
- Core network switches should be connected to at least one UPS to reduce the impact of outages

Servers and storage standards for schools and colleges

- All servers and related storage platforms should continue to work if any single component or service fails
- Servers and related storage platforms must be secure and follow data protection legislation
- All servers and related storage platforms should be energy-efficient and set up to reduce power consumption, while still meeting user needs
- All server and related platforms should be kept and used in an appropriate physical environment



Wireless network standards for schools and colleges

- Use the latest wireless network standard approved by the Wi-Fi Alliance (Wi-Fi 6 standard)
- Have a fully functional signal from your wireless network throughout the school or college buildings and externally where required
- Have a solution that can centrally manage the wireless network
- Install security features to stop unauthorised access

Thank You

Please contact Primary IT Ltd for more information:

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