

# Cyber Attacks against schools

## Facts and guidance



**58% of secondary schools and 36% of primary schools have reported a breach or an attack in the last 12 months.**

A third of schools that suffered a breach lost control of their systems, data or money. Even if there was no material loss following an attack, the majority of schools had to allocate staff resources to deal with the breach.

Ransomware has become one of the biggest threats to schools in the last year, occurring with increased frequency and causing widespread disruption.

Statistics gathered from the National Cyber Security Centre and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

### Ransomware attacks can have a devastating impact on schools and can lead to:



A significant amount of time taken up by staff to recover and re-enable critical services.



Reputational damage, with cyber criminal threatening to release sensitive data stolen during the attack.



Loss of student coursework, school financial records and other private data.

### Cyber attacks bring the regular risks of malware and data theft, but schools are particularly vulnerable to the online safeguarding risks that threaten children:



Exposure to sexually explicit, racist, violent and extremist content.



Inappropriate contact from people who may wish to abuse, exploit or bully.



Students themselves engaging in harmful online behaviour.

### Schools need to confirm with their IT team or provider that they are:



Installing antivirus software.

Using multi factor authentication wherever possible.

Enabling automatic updates for patches and/or software.

Backing up vital data to a tested offline solution.

### What else can you do to secure your school against cyber attacks?



Visit the NCSC website for guidance on cyber security for schools.

[ncsc.gov.uk/section/education-skills](https://ncsc.gov.uk/section/education-skills)



Use the Cyber Essentials Readiness Tool to get a free action plan for your school.

[getreadyforcyberessentials.iasme.co.uk](https://getreadyforcyberessentials.iasme.co.uk)



Have a look at the free guidance for schools on the IASME website.

[iasme.co.uk/cyber-essentials-for-schools](https://iasme.co.uk/cyber-essentials-for-schools)



Get Cyber Essentials certification for your school with the potential for free cyber liability insurance.\*

[iasme.co.uk/cyber-essentials](https://iasme.co.uk/cyber-essentials)

\*If you are based in the UK, have funding arrangements of under £20m and include your whole school in the scope of the assessment, you will be eligible for free cyber liability insurance with a total liability limit of £25,000.