



Barham Primary School Cybersecurity

Policy

Safe, Happy, Learning

At Barham Primary School we have the right to:

Article 19: Be Safe

Articles 28 and 29: Education

Policy summarised by	Paulette Williamson
Chair of Governors	Daksha Thanki
Date	March 2024
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Embedding Excellence



Introduction

A cybersecurity incident can have a major impact on any organisation for extended periods of time. For a school, this can range from minor reputational damage and the cost of restoring systems from existing backups, to major incidents such as losing student work or access to learning platforms and safeguarding systems, which could lead to data-protection fines or even failing an inspection.

This Cybersecurity Policy outlines **Barham Primary School's** guidelines and security provisions which are there to protect our systems, services and data in the event of a cyberattack.

Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all **Barham Primary School's** staff, contractors, volunteers and anyone else granted permanent or temporary access to our systems and hardware. It also covers the physical and technical elements that are used to deliver IT services for the school.

Risk Management

Barham Primary School will include cybersecurity risks on its organisational risk register, reporting on the progress and management of these risks to Governors 3 times a year.

Physical Security

Barham Primary School will ensure there is appropriate physical security and environmental controls protecting access to its IT Systems, including but not limited to air conditioning, lockable cabinets, and secure server/communications rooms.

Asset Management

To ensure that security controls to protect the data and systems are applied effectively, **Barham Primary School** will maintain asset registers for systems that hold confidential data, and all physical devices (servers, switches, desktops, laptops etc.) that make up its IT services.

User Accounts

Users are responsible for the security of their own accounts. If at any time they believe their credentials may have been compromised, for example after a phishing scam, they must inform The Network Manager as soon as possible. Personal accounts should not be used for work purposes. **Barham Primary School** will implement multi-factor authentication where it is practicable to do so.

Devices

To ensure the security of all **Barham Primary School** issued devices and data, users are required to:

- Lock devices that are left unattended
- Update devices when prompted or inform the Network Manager if in need of assistance.
- Report lost or stolen equipment as soon as possible to the Network Manager
- Report a suspected threat or security weakness in **Barham Primary School's** systems to the Network Manager to record incident on the IT Risk Register.

Devices where possible, will be configured with the following security controls as a minimum:

- Password protection
- Client firewalls
- Anti-virus / malware software (Sophos and Malwarebytes)
- Automatic security updates
- Removal of unrequired and unsupported software
- Autorun disabled
- Minimal administrative accounts

Data Security

Barham Primary School will take appropriate measures to reduce the likelihood of the loss of availability to, or the disclosure of, confidential data.

Barham Primary School defines confidential data, some examples given below:

- [Personally identifiable information](#) as defined by the ICO
- [Special Category personal data](#) as defined by the ICO
- Unpublished financial information
- Medical records, including GP names and medical conditions.
- Exam results and class grades.
- Staff development reviews.
- School assessments and marks.
- Safeguarding information, including data related to SEN assessments.

Critical data and systems will be backed up on a regular basis as follows:

- 2 different types of media (Server and onsite NAS Drive)
- 1 copy offsite/offline (Solar Winds) AzteQ

Sharing Files

Barham Primary School recognises the security risks associated with sending and receiving confidential data. To minimise the chances of a data breach users are required to:

- Consider if an email could be a phishing email or that a colleague's account could be 'hacked'. If something does not feel right check with the sender by another method, particularly in relation to financial transactions, attachments, or links to websites
- Wherever possible, keeping **Barham Primary School's** files on school systems
- Not sending school files to personal accounts
- Verifying the recipient of data prior to sending
- Using file encryption where possible, sending passwords/keys via alternative communication channels
- Alerting the school's GDPR representative/DPO to any breaches, malicious activity or suspected scams

Training

Barham Primary School recognises that it is not possible to maintain a high level of Cybersecurity without appropriate staff training. The school will provide Staff Cybersecurity training and more specialist training to staff, responsible for maintaining IT systems and promote a "No Blame" culture towards individuals who may fall victim to sophisticated scams.

System Security

Security IT systems **for Barham Primary School** include:

- Security patching – network hardware, operating systems and software
- Pro-actively plan for the replacement of network hardware, operating systems and software before vendors stop providing security support for them
- The use of anti-virus systems
- Ensure Data backup systems are in place
- Regularly review and update security controls that are available with existing and new systems and projects where possible
- Segregate wireless networks used for visitors' & staff personal devices from school systems

Major Incident Response Plan


Barham Primary School will develop, maintain, a Cybersecurity Major Incident Response Plan. This will include identifying or carrying out:

- Key decision-makers
- Key system impact assessments and restoration priorities (i.e. which backups needs to be restored first for the school to become operational again)
- Emergency plans for the school to function without access to systems or data
- Alternative methods of communication, including copies of contact details
- Emergency budgets and who can access them / how
- Key agencies for support (e.g. IT support company)

Maintaining Security

Barham Primary School understands that the financial cost of recovering from a Major Cybersecurity Incident can far outweigh the ongoing investment in maintaining secure IT systems.

Barham Primary School will budget appropriately to keep cyber related risk to a minimum.

 Barham Primary School	Head of School	Jayshree Thakore
	Chair of Governors	Daksha Thanki
	Network manager / other technical support	Paulette Williamson
	Date this policy was reviewed and by whom	March 2024 by Paulette Williamson
	Date of next review and by whom	February 2025