



DfE Digital Standards 2030

Practical guidance
for School & Trust Leaders

Meeting compliance - without the complexity.

inteducation.com

Is *your trust* ready for 2030?

The Department for Education has identified a Framework of Digital and Technology Standards to help schools and colleges build secure, resilient and effective digital environments.

Within this Framework, the DfE has identified **6 Core Standards** that all schools and colleges must be working towards meeting by 2030.

These Core Standards provide the foundations needed to support the wider standards and enable schools to:

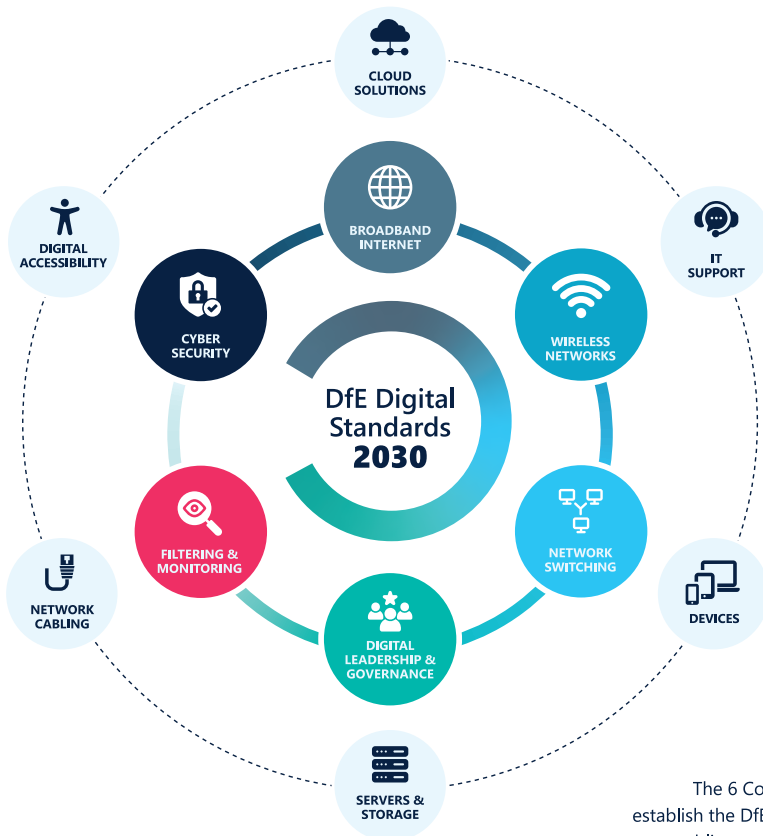
- ✓ Have a strong Digital Strategy
- ✓ Use digital technology safely and securely
- ✓ Make informed technology decisions
- ✓ Meet the wider Digital and Technology Standards Framework

More than technology

The Core Standards are not simply an IT initiative.

They directly influence safeguarding, educational delivery, operational resilience, risk management and long-term financial planning.

As a result, meeting these Core Standards by 2030 is now a key evaluation point within inspections.



The 6 Core Standards establish the DfE Framework, enabling progress across wider standards for a future-ready digital environment.

A roadmap to 2030^{!!!}

Many schools understand the importance of the DfE Standards but are less certain about their current position.

The challenge is rarely knowing the destination. It is understanding where you are today, identifying the gaps, and building a practical roadmap towards 2030.

This guide has been designed to help you assess your current position, prioritise investment and plan a clear path towards the DfE Core Standards.

A structured approach, *tailored to you*

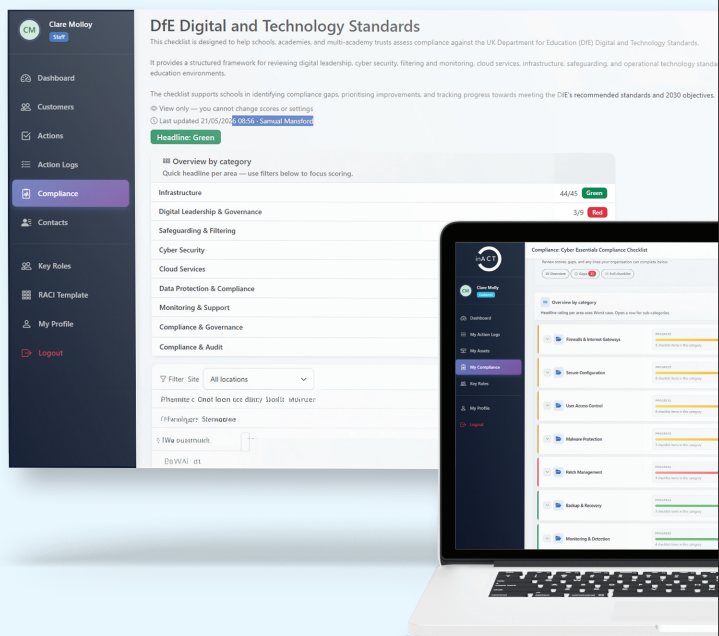
Technology estates often evolve over many years, creating inconsistencies, hidden risks and competing investment priorities.

As a result, working towards the DfE's Core Standards can feel complex, particularly when balancing competing priorities, limited budgets, varying levels of digital maturity and the day-to-day demands of running schools and trusts.

That's why our approach starts with understanding your current position against the DfE Framework.

By assessing your estate, systems, governance and digital provision, **we help you identify where you already align to the standards, where gaps exist and what actions will have the greatest impact.**

More importantly, we help you build a practical route towards meeting the 6 Core Standards by 2030 and to create the strong foundations needed to support your progress across the wider Digital and Technology Standards Framework.



An *easy-to-understand* executive report

Our findings are presented through our **inACT platform** in a concise, RAG-rated Report that bridges the gap between executive oversight and technical detail.



Standards Overview

A clear, RAG-rated view of compliance across each school and your Trust.



Strengths & Risks

Instantly identify what's working well and where attention is needed.



Plain English Insights

Straightforward explanations that every Leadership Team can understand.



Priority Actions

Recommended next steps ranked by impact, urgency and strategic value.



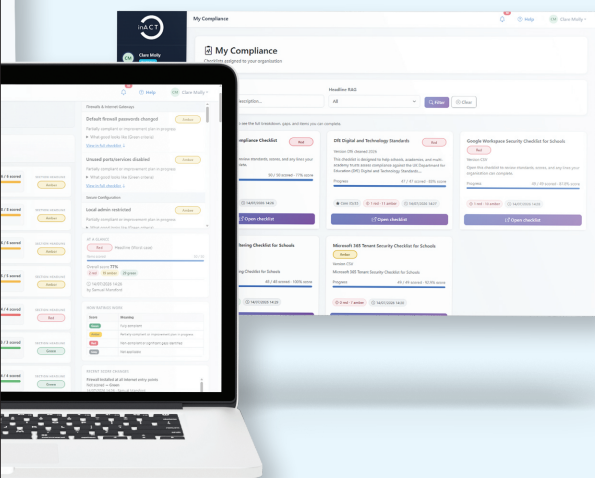
Safeguarding Focus

See how digital improvements support safeguarding, resilience & educational outcomes.



Trust-Wide Visibility

Compare schools consistently using one reporting framework.



A roadmap to compliance *and beyond*

Meeting the Core Standards is the priority,
but the greatest value comes from using them
as the foundation for a stronger digital strategy.

We translate our findings into a practical, phased roadmap that helps you:

- ✓ Address immediate risks and priority actions
- ✓ Progress towards meeting the 6 Core Standards by 2030
- ✓ Strengthen consistency across schools and Trusts
- ✓ Prioritise investment based on evidence rather than assumption
- ✓ Create the foundations needed to support the wider DfE Standards Framework

Each recommendation is linked to clear organisational outcomes, helping your Leadership Team to understand not only what needs to be done, but **why it matters**.

The Outcome

By combining assessment, prioritisation and strategic planning, we help schools and trusts move beyond compliance alone.

The result is:

- ✓ A clear understanding of your current position
- ✓ Confidence that investment is focused correctly
- ✓ A practical route towards the 6 Core Standards
- ✓ Stronger foundations for achieving the wider DfE Standards Framework
- ✓ Improved resilience, safeguarding and long-term sustainability
- ✓ A future-ready digital environment that supports teaching, learning & operational excellence

From compliance to confidence.
From today's position to a stronger digital future.

One *transparent* workflow^{!!}

Four Steps to 2030...

Step 1

Discovery & Planning

Spanning a week, we begin with a series of Discovery Workshops to understand your organisation, explain the DfE Framework, identify key stakeholders and agree the information required for the review.

Step 2

Remote Analysis

Following our Discovery Workshops, we will deploy secure monitoring tools for two weeks, to help identify risks and opportunities before the onsite assessment begins. These tools will assess infrastructure, network health, resilience and technical maturity.

Step 3

Onsite Assessment

Next, our Technical Engineers will conduct an onsite assessment to review infrastructure, governance, safeguarding arrangements, cyber security, network, policies and operational processes against the DfE Standards.

Step 4

Reporting & Roadmap

Once our assessments are complete, we put all findings into the **inACT** portal and produce a clear, evidence-based report with colour-coded ratings per standard. This then enables Leadership Teams to understand current compliance levels.

The Outcome

- ✓ Understand your current position
- ✓ Establish a route towards the Core Standards
- ✓ Identify risks, gaps and priorities
- ✓ Create the foundations for full Framework readiness

From *insight* to *action*

Turn assessment findings into measurable progress.

The most successful schools and trusts do not attempt to address every challenge at once.

Our review helps you move towards compliance in manageable, budget-aligned phases.

Instead, they use evidence, prioritisation and structured planning to focus effort where it will deliver the greatest impact.

Phase 1

Establish the Baseline

Understand current alignment against each DfE Standard and capture evidence, risks and gaps.

Phase 2

Prioritise What Matters

Use RAG ratings and operational impact to focus on the areas that present the greatest risk or opportunity.

Phase 3

Build a Practical Roadmap

Create a phased improvement plan that balances risk reduction, operational priorities and budget cycles.

Phase 4

Track Progress to 2030

Monitor improvements, update evidence and demonstrate ongoing progress towards the DfE's 2030 objectives.

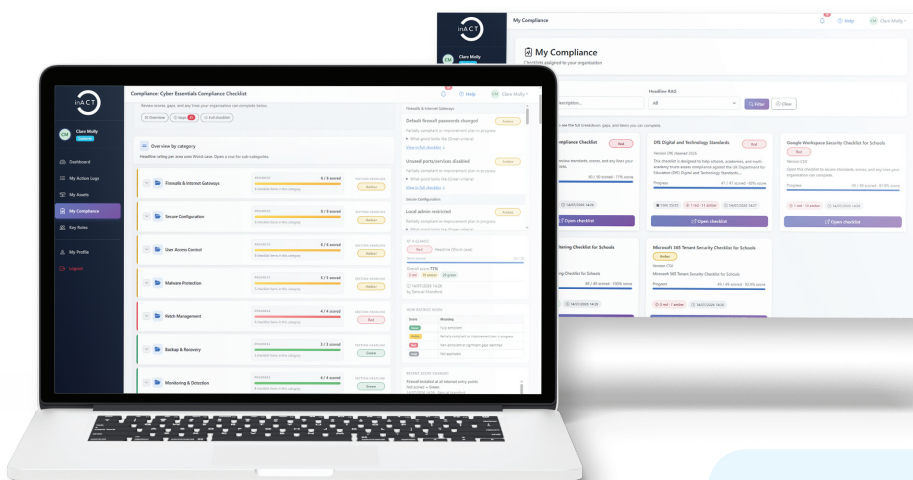
Powered by inACT¹

Our findings are captured within our **inACT Portal**, providing a live, RAG-rated view of compliance, risks and improvement activity across individual schools and wider trust estates. Rather than a static report, **inACT** provides a single location to:

- ✓ Monitor progress against the Core Standards
- ✓ Track actions, evidence and improvements
- ✓ Maintain visibility of risks and priorities
- ✓ Demonstrate ongoing progress towards 2030

What You'll Gain

- ✓ Clear visibility of compliance, risks and priorities
- ✓ A prioritised roadmap aligned to budgets and organisational goals
- ✓ Trust-wide visibility of progress and readiness
- ✓ Confidence that investment is targeted, justified and aligned to DfE guidance



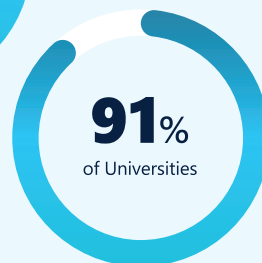
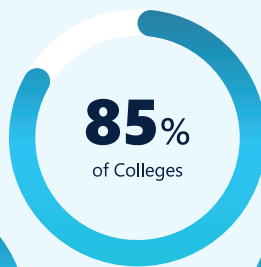
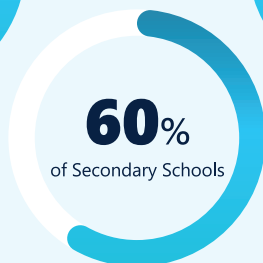
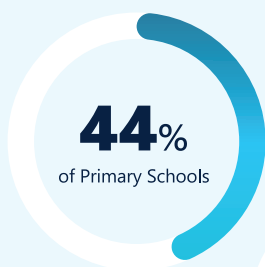
Cyber Security



Protecting your organisation, your data and your ability to operate.

As schools become increasingly reliant on technology, cyber security is no longer simply an IT concern – it is a business continuity, safeguarding and leadership priority.

In 2025 alone, the UK Government Cyber Security Breaches Survey reported the following percentages of educational institutions who identified a breach or attack in the preceding 12 months:



What Is Required

- ✓ 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 back-up data and review this every year
- ✓ Report all cyber attacks

What We Deliver

- ✓ A clear understanding of your current cyber security maturity
- ✓ Visibility of areas that may present operational, safeguarding or compliance risks
- ✓ Prioritised recommendations aligned to DfE expectations and priorities
- ✓ A practical roadmap that supports safer, more resilient and standards-aligned operations

Filtering & Monitoring



Creating a safer digital environment for students and staff.

Keeping students safe online is a fundamental responsibility for every school and trust.

Effective filtering and monitoring helps Leaders identify safeguarding concerns, maintain oversight of online activity and create a secure environment where technology supports learning with confidence.

What Is Required

- ✓ Identify and assign roles and responsibilities to manage filtering & monitoring systems
- ✓ Review your filtering & monitoring provision at least annually
- ✓ Blocking harmful and inappropriate content without impacting the classroom
- ✓ Effective monitoring strategies that meet the safeguarding needs of your school

What We Deliver

- ✓ Greater confidence that safeguarding controls support the needs of students and staff
- ✓ Clear oversight of online safety risks across your organisation
- ✓ Improved visibility of Leadership and Safeguarding teams
- ✓ Practical actions that strengthen compliance and support safer digital learning

Broadband Internet^{!!!}



Providing reliable teaching, learning and school operations.

Dependable internet connectivity now underpins almost every aspect of education.

Insufficient capacity or resilience can impact learning, productivity and operational continuity.

What Is Required

- ✓ A full fibre connection for your broadband service
- ✓ A backup broadband connection to ensure resilience and maintain continuity of service
- ✓ Appropriate IT security and safeguarding systems in place, in line with legislation

What We Deliver

- ✓ Confidence that your connectivity can support teaching, learning and operations
- ✓ Insight into where bandwidth, resilience or capacity may limit future growth
- ✓ Investment planning aligned to educational priorities and budget cycles
- ✓ A more reliable foundation for cloud services and digital learning initiatives

Wireless Networks



Ensuring staff and students can access the resources they need, when they need them

Reliable wireless connectivity is essential to modern teaching and learning.

As device usage continues to grow, schools need wireless networks that can support increasing demand without compromising performance or user experience.

What Is Required

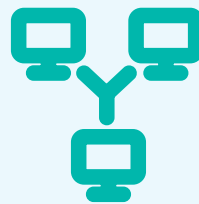
- ✓ Using the latest wireless network standards
- ✓ A fully functional signal from your wireless network throughout the estate
- ✓ A solution that can centrally manage the wireless network
- ✓ Install security features to stop unauthorised access

What We Deliver

- ✓ A clearer understanding of how network performance impacts the school experience
- ✓ Identification of coverage and capacity issues affecting learning environments
- ✓ Recommendations that support seamless access to digital resources
- ✓ A wireless strategy designed to support future device growth and evolving classroom needs

Network Switching[!]

Providing the resilient foundations that digital learning depends upon.



Network switching may sit behind the scenes, but it provides the foundation for every connected service within the organisation.

Weak or ageing infrastructure can affect reliability, performance and resilience across the entire school environment.

What Is Required

- ✓ Fast, reliable and secure connections to all users (wired and wireless)
- ✓ A platform that can centrally manage the network switching infrastructure
- ✓ Security features to protect users and data from unauthorised access
- ✓ Connection to at least one UPS to reduce the impact of outages

What We Deliver

- ✓ Visibility of infrastructure risks that may affect reliability and performance
- ✓ Clear priorities for strengthening resilience across the estate
- ✓ Improved confidence in the network foundations supporting all digital services
- ✓ Long-term planning that reduces reactive replacement and unplanned disruption

Digital Leadership & Governance



Turning technology investment into informed strategic decisions.

The schools that gain the greatest value from technology are those with clear leadership, strong governance and a well defined digital strategy.

Without effective oversight, organisations can struggle to prioritise investment, manage risk and make informed decisions.

What Is Required

- ✓ A Senior Leadership Team member to be responsible for digital technology
- ✓ Keep registers relating to hardware and systems up to date
- ✓ Include digital technology within Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity Plans
- ✓ A digital strategy that is reviewed every year

What We Deliver

- ✓ A clearer picture of digital maturity across your organisation
- ✓ Executive-level insight to support informed decision-making
- ✓ Greater alignment between technology investment and organisational priorities
- ✓ A strategic roadmap that helps Leadership Teams plan for 2030 with confidence

Your *roadmap* to 2030

Every organisation starts from a different position.

Whatever your starting point, understanding where you are today is the first step towards building a more resilient, secure and future-ready digital environment.

Start With Confidence

Powered by inACT, our DfE Digital Standards portal provides:

- ✓ A clear, colour-coded overview of your current position
- ✓ Identification of key risks and opportunities
- ✓ Prioritised recommendations aligned to the Core Standards
- ✓ A practical roadmap towards 2030
- ✓ Ongoing visibility of progress and DfE readiness

Book your DfE Digital Standards review

Call **0330 555 5550** or email **education@inteceducation.com** now!



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