

## Cybercrime Alert: Hackers targeting Microsoft 365 credentials

According to the government's [Cyber Security Breaches Survey](#), during 2024, 60% of secondary schools and 44% of primary schools identified a cyber incident, higher than the 43% figure for UK businesses overall. These figures only capture attacks schools are aware of, the true number is likely to be higher.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) published an alert on 7th April 2026 warning that Russian military intelligence group has been compromising home routers for around two years to steal Microsoft 365 and Outlook login credentials and the attack is designed to be invisible to the person it's happening to.

When a staff member logs into Outlook from a compromised router, they may be silently redirected to a fake login page. Their credentials are captured without any sign that anything has gone wrong. With Microsoft 365 widely used across the sector and staff perhaps checking their school email account from home, the exposure is real.

The advisory names specific [TP-Link](#) and MikroTik router models, but the broader risk applies to any home router that is unpatched, out of manufacturer support, or still running factory default credentials. Although every model named in the advisory is officially discontinued, many will be in use and are still available second-hand. Many home routers were sold with identical default passwords (for example, admin/admin) being typical on the assumption users would change them. Most people never did.

### Best defence: Use Multi-factor Authentication (MFA)

The most important mitigation for this attack is Multi-factor Authentication. Using MFA means that even if someone has your password, they can't get into your account without a second check, usually a code sent to your phone or a prompt in an authenticator app. It's the same thing that happens when your bank asks you to approve a login on your mobile.

Staff should also feel confident reporting anything that feels slightly off, an unexpected login prompt or a page that looks different.

The full NCSC advisory, including a list of affected routers, is at [nsc.gov.uk](https://nsc.gov.uk).



## 'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': a guide for parents and carers on children's digital lives (Children's Commissioner)

### SCENARIO OF THE WEEK

A Year 7 pupil starts secondary school in September, walking a route they'll use every day. By January, that same journey looks very different, darker, wetter, colder, and with a mobile phone in their hand.

How well does your school understand the specific hazards on the routes children take to and from school and when did you last review them?

Potential risks could include:

- Level crossings, particularly passive crossings without barriers or warning lights, where the full burden of safety falls on the individual
- Busy or fast-moving road junctions where sight lines are poor or crossings are informal
- Poor lighting on footpaths, underpasses, or cut-throughs that feel safe in September but become hazardous in winter darkness
- Mobile phone distraction, which significantly reduces situational awareness at precisely the moments when it matters most
- Bus stops and the roads around them, including the supervision gap between leaving school and boarding
- Poor pavement width or clutter

The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, has published a guide to help parents and carers navigate the challenge of managing children's everyday online habits. Written with direct input from children and young people, including teenagers consulted in schools and the Commissioner's Youth Ambassadors. The guide is designed to make difficult conversations easier and more regular. The guide covers setting boundaries around phone use, talking about harmful content, and building ongoing communication that goes beyond a one-off conversation. The voice of young people runs through it, including this from one teenager: "Don't be afraid to be firm... If you are worried your child is seeing harmful content and you don't know what they're watching and it's affecting their behaviour, just take it that you know best, they don't."

The downloads can be found here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives>

### Optional CPD opportunities:

ONLINE CONFERENCE: Bridging the Gap  
Between the Child's Lived Experience and the  
Classroom

This Friday 17th April 2026, 1:00 - 4:00pm