Cyber resilience and internet safety

Along with every other area of life, COVID-19 has had an impact on the educational landscape across the country. Many schools are investigating and implementing aspects of blended learning, utilising digital teaching tools like Seesaw, Google Classroom and Teams to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning during school closures. As educators and pupils are spending more time online, it is more important than ever that everyone knows how to stay safe, manage risk and communicate appropriately using digital tools. This programme has been developed in collaboration with the Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

Led by SSERC, the Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety (CRIS) mentor programme is a new 'train the trainer' programme for educators in Scotland to develop and share their expertise in key areas of CRIS.

The key aim is to facilitate the development of CRIS Mentors across Scotland to build confidence and address common CRIS issues with teachers, parents and other stakeholders in education.

The materials for the project have been developed by four experts in their respective fields.

Scott Tees has developed a module on awareness of your digital footprint. He has over 30 years military and police experience which has seen him oversee the safety of people and organisations in various countries and arenas. Scott was the first Police Scotland National Lead for Cybercrime Prevention, creating and shaping the Police Scotland National Cybercrime Prevention strategy.

Jess McBeath has trained hundreds of people across Scotland and the UK to keep children, vulnerable adults and themselves safe online. This includes teachers, social workers, safe guarders, foster carers, police, charities, youth workers and more. She has created a module with resources to support the development of staff expertise when dealing with online bullying.

Gareth Rae is Principal Teacher of Computing Science & Business Education at Girvan Academy - he has developed a module on securing your personal devices, focusing on understanding your home router settings.

Craig Steele designs and delivers interactive training that brings digital skills to life for people of all ages and abilities. He has delivered digital skills workshops to thousands of people across Scotland and internationally. He has created an interactive module and resources to tackle the topic of encryption and password safety.

Due to COVID-19 and current restrictions in place across schools and professional learning environments, the CRIS project will now be hosted on the new SSERC Online Learning platform. >>

Participants will gain access to webinars and training materials to work through and reflect on to develop their own personal knowledge and skills. Mentors will be supported to work together at cluster and local authority level to create an action plan as to how they will move CRIS forward in their settings. These digital resources will be available for the CRIS mentors to use in their own training sessions as their CRIS next steps are identified. The CRIS project will be recruiting delegates from across Scotland from October 2020, with the project beginning early November 2020.

SSERC Online Learning

SSERC Online Learning is where you can find an expanding range of interactive e-learning resources to support professional learning in STEM subjects. The first digital skills course, Laying the foundations of Computer Science, is now available
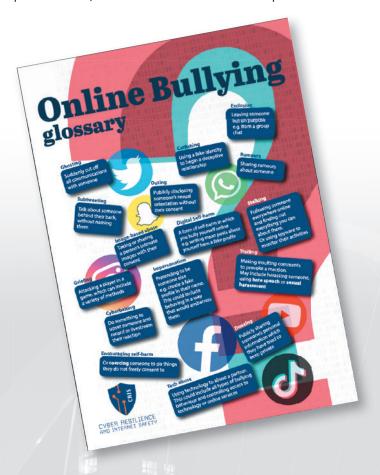
for free online. A brief overview of some of the activities can be found on You Tube [1] .

This course is an adaptation of a face to face day course and explores key recurring themes in the Computer Science experiences and outcomes.

There will be opportunities to explore pedagogical approaches to teaching Computer Science through a forum, plugged and unplugged lessons to work through and remix building personal confidence in teaching Computer Science in the primary school. There are lots of high-quality free resources linked to enable you to start teaching computational thinking in an interdisciplinary way immediately.

To gain access to the course please apply online - through the SSERC website – professional learning section [2].

Once you have registered your interest, you will be emailed a link to the SSERC Online Learning site and a course joining code to enter when you create your username and password for the site.

References
[1] https://youtu.be/7SHFitA_hIw.
[2] https://www.sserc.org.uk/professional-learning/secondary-clpl/digital-clpl/.