



VM GROUP



The ever-increasing necessity of

Cyber Essentials & Cyber Essentials Plus

for Universities & Colleges



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Strengthening Security in Education with Cyber Essentials



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Overview of Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus

Cyber Essentials (CE) and Cyber Essentials Plus (CE+) are UK government-backed certifications designed to protect against common cyber threats. They provide a security framework that helps educational institutions safeguard sensitive data and ensure secure digital environments for their students and staff.

Why It Matters



In today's digital education landscape, it's critical to protect personal and academic data. CE and CE+ offer a clear path for schools, colleges, and universities to enhance cyber security and demonstrate a strong commitment to safeguarding students, staff, and their data.





Benefits of Cyber Essentials for the Education Sector

Reducing Cyber Risks

CE and CE+ help educational institutions identify and address vulnerabilities, making it harder for cyber criminals to exploit education networks. The certification covers critical areas of cyber security, mitigating risks through awareness training leading to implementation of best practices, security solutions and effective protocols.

Building Trust with Students and Staff

Achieving CE and CE+ certification strengthens your institution's reputation and demonstrates a proactive commitment to cyber security, assuring students, and staff that their data is well-protected.



Achieving CE and CE+ with VMGroup

What is provided

Our Expertise

Our team has extensive experience leading colleges and universities through both CE and CE+ certification, with a deep understanding of the education sector's unique challenges.

1- Engagement

This stage involves educating relevant parties on the process to certification, ensuring you get the most out of our services.

2- Gap Analysis

We conduct an in-depth gap analysis to assess your institution's current security posture and identify areas for improvement.

3- Report & Review

We provide thorough reporting aligned with the five domains of CE and other relevant cyber security benchmarks.

4- Remediation Plan

Based on our findings, we provide specific recommendations to meet Cyber Essentials requirements, helping you close any identified gaps.

OUR EXPERTISE

ENGAGEMENT

GAP ANALYSIS

REPORT & REVIEW

REMEDICATION PLAN



Comprehensive Support Across the Five Cyber Essentials Domains

1- Firewalls and Routers

We review your firewall and router settings to ensure optimal configuration, meeting the Cyber Essentials requirements for a secure network perimeter.



2- Secure Configuration

We provide guidance on securely configuring devices, including the removal of unnecessary applications and applying secure settings. This helps to reduce vulnerabilities as outlined in the Cyber Essentials framework.



3. User Access Control

We advise on setting up strict user access controls to ensure that users only have the permissions necessary for their roles, fully aligning with Cyber Essentials' access management standards.



4- Malware Protection

We provide expert guidance to keep your malware detection capabilities current, with real-time protection, as required by Cyber Essentials for effective threat mitigation.



5. Security Update Management

We work with your IT Team to help establish a structured program for identifying and remediating critical vulnerabilities within the 14 day timeline set by Cyber Essentials.



Cyber Essentials (CE) Certification

Self-Assessment Support:

We work closely with your team to complete the self-assessment, ensuring compliance across all five domains.

Control Implementation:

Our consultants assist with implementing necessary controls to meet CE requirements, including configuration, access controls, and malware protection.



Cyber Essentials Plus (CE+) Certification

Vulnerability Scanning and Remediation:

Using industry-leading technologies, we perform in-depth scans to identify and help remediate network vulnerabilities.

Audit Liaison:

As your audit liaison, we handle communication with certified assessors, ensuring a smooth CE+ assessment and achieving certification with confidence.



← → **End-to-End Project leadership** ← →

Our team manages every aspect of the certification process, from initial gap analysis to certification, ensuring a structured and seamless experience.

Why Choose VMGroup?



Experience & Proven Success



VMGroup has a proven track record in the education sector. We understand the unique cyber security challenges in education and provide a tailored approach for each client. Over the last few years, our experts assisted Belfast Metropolitan College, North West Regional College and South West College to successfully pass their CE & CE+ audits.

Comprehensive, Ongoing Support



From gap analysis to certification and ongoing support, we are with you at every step of the way. VMGroup's goal is not only to meet the Cyber Essential requirements, but to also build a lasting culture of cyber security awareness and good practice. We assist in sourcing certified assessors for the final CE & CE+ assessments, providing a streamlined and thorough experience.

Get Started Today



Secure your educational institution's digital environment. Contact us to learn how we can support your journey to Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus certification.

