Becoming a Digital Defender: Your Cybersecurity Guide

Success criteria (tick when done)

[ ] I have defined personal data clearly.
[ ] I have explained why strong passwords are essential.
[ ] I have used at least two words from the word bank.
[ ] I have written in a clear, formal, and helpful tone.
[ ] I have checked my spelling and punctuation.

What to expect at this age

Year 6 pupils should be able to explain digital safety using formal vocabulary and logical structure. They should be able to connect their ideas using conjunctions and adverbials.

Good, better, best: model responses

Good: Personal data is information like your name, address, and school. You should keep passwords secret because if a friend knows them, they could log into your account. Always tell an adult if you see something worrying.

Includes the basic definitions and identifies the correct person to report to.

Better: Personal data is any information that identifies you, such as your full name or home address. It is essential to use strong passwords with symbols. Furthermore, you should never share these, as your account would be vulnerable to hackers.

Uses formal vocabulary from the word bank and explains the 'why' behind the security advice.

Best: Personal data includes private details like your phone number or school name. To stay safe, you must use complex passwords with encryption. Consequently, you should never share these with anyone. If you see a suspicious email, report it to a trusted adult immediately.

Uses advanced terminology correctly, maintains a professional tone, and provides a clear, logical flow of information.

What a secure answer looks like

Encourage students to use the word bank to elevate their writing. Remind them that the audience is their peers, so the tone should be helpful rather than bossy.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to imagine they are teaching a younger sibling how to use a tablet safely. What is the most important rule they would tell them first?

Common mistakes to watch for

Children often think 'personal data' only means passwords; remind them it includes photos, locations, and school names. Some may confuse 'sharing' with 'being kind'; clarify that online safety is about protecting privacy.