

# Level 1 Award in Cybersecurity

## Summary of Changes

**Purpose of Update:** Following a scheduled review of this qualification, changes have been made to ensure it remains fit for purpose, relevant, and engaging.

Staying current with the rapid evolution of digital technologies is essential in cybersecurity because the threat landscape shifts just as quickly as the tools designed to defend against it. When cybersecurity education keeps pace with these changes, learners gain more than technical skills. They develop the adaptability and critical thinking needed to navigate emerging risks with confidence. Teaching modern cybersecurity practices ensures students understand not only how attacks happen, but why they evolve, helping them build a mindset that anticipates change rather than reacts to it. This relevance boosts engagement, strengthens real-world readiness, and empowers learners to become proactive defenders in an increasingly complex digital world.

The information below outlines the specific changes to teaching from 1 August 2026 onwards.

Revision date	Updated by	Previous version	New version	What this means for you
December 2025	Product	Cybersecurity unit (Y/618/3631) is being withdrawn from 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2026.	The new unit has been created - 'Understanding cybersecurity' (A/651/9222)	Centres must ensure that they are registering learners onto the new unit as of 1st August 2026.  These changes mean providers will need to update delivery and assessment materials to reflect the revised learning outcomes and criteria, ensuring teaching remains accurate, current and aligned with the updated unit requirements.

December 2025	Product	The current qualification specification has information for both the Level 1 and Level 2 unit for Cybersecurity.	A new qualification specification has been published that is specifically for the Level 1 Award in Cybersecurity.	For information purposes only.
December 2025	Product	The unit aim is 'Learners will learn about cybercrime and the risks and effects it has on individuals and organisations. They will understand routine protective methods used to maintain cybersecurity including the principles of vulnerability and penetration testing and user access control.'	New unit aim is 'Learners will develop an understanding of the impact of cybercrime and importance of cybersecurity. They will learn about protective methods individuals and organisations should use to minimise the impact of cybercrime and how user access controls can prevent unauthorised access, data breaches and fraud.'  To better reflect the qualification purpose.	For information purposes only.
December 2025	Product	A Teaching and Learning pack is available for use with this unit for approved centres to download via Prism.	The following newly developed resources will be available for centres approved to offer the qualification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fully embedded Scheme of Work</li> <li>• three Session Plans</li> <li>• A session Plan template</li> <li>• An interactive PowerPoint</li> </ul>	These will be available online from 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2026.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Careers, Information and Guidance (CIAG) document with teaching/delivery support</li> <li>• A full interactive online learning course</li> </ul> <p>These are all mapped directly to the new units LOs and ACs.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--