# The CyberFirst Girls' Competition 2020
## Information pack for teachers.

This is a
**CyberFirst** world.
Get them into it.

National Cyber
Security Centre
a part of GCHQ

# In a few months, their team solves our digital puzzles.
## In a few years, they're securing our digital world.

## What is the CyberFirst Girls' Competition?

Set up by the National Cyber Security Centre, the CyberFirst Girls' Competition is an annual UK-wide competition to introduce young female-identifying students to the world of cyber security – and the skills that could start an incredible career.

Through rounds of puzzles and challenges, the Year 8* girls form teams of up to four, to take on challenges that train them in the skills they need to defend our digital world.

The best part is, they don't need to know anything about IT yet: they'll learn it all along the way.

- **Open to girls in Year 8***
- **24,000 participants since 2016**
- **3,350 teams entered in 2019**

*Year 9 in Northern Ireland, S2 in Scotland

> This competition is a lot of fun; very exciting. The girls get so much out of it. And it's very little teacher effort – so it's a win on all sides."
>
> **– Caroline, CyberFirst 2019 team teacher, Armagh**

# How does the competition work?

### 1 Register your school

Before signing up a team, you'll need to register your school. With most of the details auto-filled for you, it's a really straight-forward process, and you can do that at: cyberfirst.ncsc.gov.uk/girlscompetition from **2 December 2019.**

### 2 Nominate a team guardian

Each team needs a teacher to act as their team guardian, and that can be the same teacher for every team in the school, no matter how many there are. As guardian, you don't need any IT or cyber security knowledge, and you shouldn't help the girls with their work at any point. You'll be there to register them, help them find space to work, and accompany them if they qualify for the semi-finals or grand final.

### 3 Sign up your team(s)

If you're acting as the team guardian, then once your school is registered, you can sign up your team(s) at the same site as above, with up to four girls per team.

### 4 The online qualifier round

The online qualifier round opens at midday on 13 January 2020. The girls will go through a series of puzzles and challenges, over the course of ten days, with the round closing on 22 January 2020. They'll solve these challenges online, so all they'll need from you is a space where they can work with your supervision – whether that's a classroom at lunchtime or an IT room after school. They can also continue to compete at home in their own time too.

### 5 The semi-finals

Due to the competition's popularity, we're introducing semi-finals for the first time this year. The highest-scoring teams from the qualifier round will be notified that they're through to their region's semi-final, and where that event will be held. With the semi-finals on a Saturday, eligible teams can attend either with their team guardian or with a parent. At the event, they'll compete against other teams from their region, aiming for the national grand final.

### 6 The grand final

From across the country, our winning semi-finalists will gather together for the last stage of the competition: the grand final. Here, the girls will put their new skills to the test, competing in a scenario based on real world cyber security instances. The girls will also have the opportunity to meet inspirational female leaders from the cyber security and technology industries.

> " The experience of the final is quite something for the girls. We've been in jaw-dropping locations all over Edinburgh. It's something we'll take back to encourage more girls next year, because there's always a story to tell."
>
> – Roger, CyberFirst 2019 team teacher, London

## Key dates for your diary

Please make yourself and the girls aware of the following dates. It's important that the team guardian is able to accompany their team should they qualify for the further stages of the competition. The only exception to that is the semi-final, where girls can be supported by a parent, but team guardians do need to be at the grand final:

**Online round:** 13-22 January 2020
**Semi-final:** Saturday 8 February 2020
**Grand final:** 15-16 March 2020

"At first we were just happy to have come first in our school - then when we heard that we were in the top 10 in the whole country, we were ecstatic and leapt about, screaming!"

– Hazel, CyberFirst 2019 participant, Kent

## Getting started

We want everyone to take part in this amazing opportunity, so if you know there are girls in your school who could be interested, then download the posters from our website below to spread the word. You could even share our footage of the 2019 final, again available on our website.

Remember: as team guardian, you can enter as many teams as you like, and we only need one team guardian per school. So, the more interest you have, the better.

Plus, don't forget you can also follow the competition, and our other opportunities, on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, with the hashtag #CyberFirst.

"It was easy for the school to sign up. Once we knew about the competition, it was so quick to put the details in place!"

– Sue, CyberFirst 2019 team teacher, Hertfordshire

**Registration opens 2 December 2019 at cyberfirst.ncsc.gov.uk/girlscompetition**

This is a
**CyberFirst** world.
Get them into it.