

DIGITAL LITERACY & ONLINE SAFETY

THE SOVEREIGNTY PATHWAY

STAGE 1: AWAKENING
Key Stage 3

STAGE 2: CHANGE
Key Stage 4

STAGE 3: AUTONOMY
Key Stage 5

COMPLIANCE

KCSIE 2026 ALIGNED

UK CISIS STANDARD



THE STATEMENT OF INTENT

Digital literacy at Elevated Futures Education is architected to move learners from a state of passive digital consumption toward full technological sovereignty. We recognise that for the neurodivergent student, the digital world is often the primary vehicle for social and vocational connection, but it also carries significant risks of sensory overload, predatory design, and executive function depletion. This curriculum provides the pedagogical scaffolding required to transform digital platforms from addictive enclosures into tools for autonomy.

The journey follows the Elevation Arc, specifically designed to address the clinical and statutory requirements of modern digital life. In Key Stage 3, we establish the safe base by demystifying privacy and settings. In Key Stage 4, we transition to the change phase, applying forensic logic to algorithms, dopamine loops, and AI misinformation. In Key Stage 5, the student emerges into full autonomy, achieving the professional agency needed to manage their digital reputation, legal rights, and workplace interoperability.

THE DELIVERY PROMISE

Asset preservation through high, density digital specialisms.

Pedagogy as change, rejecting surveillance in favour of critical logic.

Systemic agency that empowers learners to outsmart addictive design.

CURRICULUM PROGRESSION MAP

KEY STAGE	ELEVATION PHASE	CURRICULAR FOCUS	DIGITAL MILESTONE
Key Stage 3	Awakening	Foundations of digital safety, identifying high, arousal content, private vs public data logic, and the establishing of a digital safe base.	Technical Competence: Identifying core hardware and software safety rituals.
Key Stage 4	Change	Forensic algorithm analysis, managing dopamine loops, AI misinformation spotting, and the clinical impact of ad tech.	Critical Fluency: Application of logic to identify and mitigate addictive platform design.
Key Stage 5	Autonomy	Workplace digital agency, legal rights in app terms, professional reputation math, and independent usage strategies.	Digital Sovereignty: Creation of an independent digital wellbeing portfolio for adult life.

SEQUENTIAL GOLDEN THREAD

The sequence is built to ensure that regulatory safety precedes technological demand. Every Key Stage leads with the DDP pillar of Appreciation, celebrating the student's existing technical superpowers. In Key Stage 5, the Sovereignty pathway is secured through a synoptic project, where the student proves they can translate theoretical digital safety into the clinical management of their own online life. This ensures that safety is not a set of external rules, but a verified record of autonomous stewardship.

KEY STAGE 3: THE AWAKENING PHASE

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

PHASE INTENT

To demystify digital systems as logical and predictable tools. In this phase, we focus on identifying the personal boundaries between the screen and the self. We utilise student interests to frame the first encounters with online interaction, removing the abstraction that often leads to social vulnerability.

The Digital Sanctuary Audit

Students perform a sensory audit of their favourite apps, identifying high, arousal zones and configuring settings to create a digital safe base.

LINGUISTIC ASSETS

Building a vocabulary of privacy, moving from simple secrets to statutory data rights, and articulating personal sensory preferences online.

LOGICAL ASSETS

Introduction to digital sequences, pattern matching in phishing detection, and the basic three, stage task decomposition of a secure login.

RESILIENCE ASSETS

Normalising emotional responses to online conflict through solution, focused planning, preventing the catastrophic panic response to cyberbullying.

KEY STAGE 4: THE CHANGE PHASE

STATUTORY OBJECTIVES

PHASE INTENT

Transitioning to forensic digital analysis. We move toward external application, where students learn to audit algorithms for addictive triggers and navigate the complexities of AI with scientific precision.

ALGORITHM FORENSIC

Identifying the “nudge” logic that creates addictive usage patterns.

AI TRUTH LOGIC

Applying forensic evidence to identify deepfakes and misinformation.

STRAND	CHANGE: THE NEXT STEP	WORKABLE EXPERIENCE
Platform Logic	Forensic auditing of dopamine loops, infinite scroll mechanics, and attention extraction models.	“Nudge Audit” project, mapping the psychological triggers in a popular social app.
AI & Truth	Decoding AI hallucinations, verifying information sources, and identifying algorithmic bias.	“Deepfake Detective” project, utilising forensic clues to verify video and text authenticity.
Digital Health	Developing strategies to mitigate over, usage, managing digital dopamine, and sleep hygiene.	“Sovereign Timer” project, creating a student, led strategy for independent usage control.

The realisation of full digital self, advocacy. In Key Stage 5, the student is no longer a recipient of digital instruction but an active author of their technological future. This phase acts as the synoptic component of the Sovereignty pathway, where students demonstrate the forensic brokerage required to navigate employment platforms, legal app agreements, and professional digital boundaries, ensuring they enter adulthood with agency.

LEGAL SOVEREIGNTY

Decomposing App Terms of Service, interpreting data rights, identifying legal age boundaries, and managing independent digital contracts.

PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION

Forensic digital footprint math, professional networking etiquette, managing online work identities, and career mapping in the tech sector.

DIGITAL AGENCY

Self, advocacy scripts for digital access, professional auditing of workplace tech, and stakeholder liaison for digital impact.

FINAL SYNOPTIC EXPERIENCE: THE DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY PORTFOLIO

Student produces a forensic 12 month roadmap for digital adult life, including a verified usage strategy that outsmarts algorithm triggers, a professional digital footprint audit, and a community advocacy artefact.

THE INTEGRATED OPERATING SYSTEM

ACADEMIC SCAFFOLDING

Mathematics: Providing the numerical skeleton for algorithm math, statistics in misinformation, and data probability logic.

Science: Providing the inquiry logic for investigating dopamine loops, biological addiction circuits, and light spectrum impacts.

English: Providing the linguistic tool for persuasive marketing analysis, identifying biased text, and drafting advocacy scripts.

VOCATIONAL GATEWAYS

Digital Literacy is the Technological Operating System of our vocational pathways. By mapping student superpowers—such as forensic attention to detail or systemic logic—directly to tech careers, we ensure that every student sees a clear pathway from the classroom to the professional digital economy.

CYBER SECURITY

DATA AUDIT

UX DESIGN

AI ETHICS

PRACTITIONER IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

RECOMMENDED LESSON RHYTHM

- 1. Retrieval Ritual:** Quick recall of previous digital logic or safety wins.
- 2. Teacher Modelling:** Worked examples of algorithm audits or fact, checking.
- 3. Guided Practice:** Parallel work in safe digital sandbox zones.
- 4. Independent Application:** Portfolio evidence capture of sovereignty.
- 5. Restorative Reset:** Closing appreciation of digital agency.

SEND INCLUSIVE ADJUSTMENTS

- Accept video/audio evidence for digital audits to reduce written load.
- Use high, contrast visual cues for identifying hidden marketing triggers.
- Colour, coded logic for truth levels (Green: Verified, Amber: Bias, Red: False).
- Predictable routines for all digital transitions and logouts.

STATUTORY SIGN OFF AND QUALITY AUDIT

This scheme is designed to support the Digital Sovereignty pathway. Delivery must be aligned to the DDP framework, KCSIE 2026, and National Online Safety standards to ensure forensic evidence of progress.