01 / UNDERSTAND THE ALERT

PHP security guidance

A practical guide for school leaders, office teams and IT coordinators.

Ask your IT lead or provider to confirm the position.

Temporary downtime can be a precaution. It does not, by itself, mean that a school or service has been breached.

What has happened?

PHP is software used behind many websites and online services. Two critical vulnerabilities, **CVE-2026-109618** and **CVE-2026-109619**, can allow an attacker to run code on an affected server without signing in. Fixes were released on 21 October. [1, 2]

For IT and hosting providers: PHP 8.2.35, 8.3.36, 8.4.27 and 8.5.12 address the original two vulnerabilities. Confirm the running service has the relevant fixes. CISA added both original issues to its known-exploited catalogue on 26 October. [2, 3]

Further advice: ask your IT or hosting provider

An informational advisory for **CVE-2026-115560** concerns an unusual session configuration. Providers should also check the 26 October Windows package update for CVE-2026-111497. Earlier confirmations do not automatically cover these later issues. [2]

Which services should we check?

Start with your school website and services accessible from outside school. Include learning platforms, school records, safeguarding and medical systems, payments, parent communications, visitor systems and equipment with web controls. Ask about connected third-party services separately.

These are checking prompts, not a list of affected products. A service being online, using HTTPS or appearing in a directory does not establish its security position.

Who applies the fix? Your IT team, hosting company or software supplier. Staff should not install a "PHP fix" from an email or pop-up.

02 / TURN INFORMATION INTO ACTION

Check, record and follow up

Coordinate checks through the school's IT lead or normal support provider.

1

Assign an owner

Keep a record of services, supplier replies, responsible staff and follow-up dates in an approved school location. Use the 30 supplier records from page 3, or the free website tool.

2

Get a clear answer

Ask which product, hosting arrangement and security alerts the reply covers. Record whether work is complete, outstanding or not needed. Check the date of every notice.

3

Follow up open actions

Review outstanding items with IT. If timely updates or suitable temporary mitigations cannot be applied, IT and the supplier should assess restricting access or taking the service offline. [1]

4

Keep essential work running

Agree how staff will manage attendance, safeguarding and medical needs during an outage. Keep any temporary records secure and available only to authorised staff.

5

Retain the evidence

Keep the supplier response, who reviewed it and the date. An update alone does not remove an attacker already in a system. Report unusual website changes, login prompts or missing information to IT; involve the DPO if personal data may be involved. [1]

A question to send your supplier

Please confirm the position for our service in relation to CVE-2026-109618 and CVE-2026-109619, the later CVE-2026-115560 advice and, where relevant, the Windows update for CVE-2026-111497. What work is complete or outstanding, and what action or disruption should we expect? Please give the scope and date of your response.

Using supplier information: public notices and customer communications have different evidence sources. A reported email is not an independently verified public statement. No public notice does not mean a service is affected. Check what the reply covers; this guide and the directory do not test or certify systems.

Supplier directory and free action-record tool

Sources checked 29 October 2026:

1. NCSC: critical security issue affecting PHP
2. PHP: original fixes and subsequent advice
3. CISA: original PHP issues added to known-exploited catalogue

SUPPLIER RECORDS 01 TO 03 / 30

School supplier review

Using this PDF: type into the fields in a PDF reader, save the file, then reopen it to continue. You can also print it and write by hand.

Using the website: choose **Save progress file**, then upload that file when you return. This PDF cannot be imported into the website tool.

School / trust (optional)

Person coordinating the review

Next review date

01 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

02 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

03 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

Keep unanswered questions open. A completed record does not certify a service as secure. Do not add passwords, pupil information or confidential technical details.

SUPPLIER RECORDS 04 TO 06 / 30

School supplier review

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Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

04 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

05 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

06 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

Keep unanswered questions open. A completed record does not certify a service as secure. Do not add passwords, pupil information or confidential technical details.

SUPPLIER RECORDS 07 TO 09 / 30

School supplier review

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Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

07 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

08 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

09 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

Keep unanswered questions open. A completed record does not certify a service as secure. Do not add passwords, pupil information or confidential technical details.

SUPPLIER RECORDS 10 TO 12 / 30

School supplier review

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Using the website: choose **Save progress file**, then upload that file when you return. This PDF cannot be imported into the website tool.

Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

10 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

11 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

12 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

Keep unanswered questions open. A completed record does not certify a service as secure. Do not add passwords, pupil information or confidential technical details.

SUPPLIER RECORDS 13 TO 15 / 30

School supplier review

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Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

13 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

14 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

15 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

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SUPPLIER RECORDS 16 TO 18 / 30

School supplier review

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16 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

17 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

18 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

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SUPPLIER RECORDS 19 TO 21 / 30

School supplier review

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Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

19 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

20 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

21 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

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SUPPLIER RECORDS 22 TO 24 / 30

School supplier review

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Using the website: choose **Save progress file**, then upload that file when you return. This PDF cannot be imported into the website tool.

Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

22 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

23 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

24 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

Keep unanswered questions open. A completed record does not certify a service as secure. Do not add passwords, pupil information or confidential technical details.

SUPPLIER RECORDS 25 TO 27 / 30

School supplier review

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Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

25 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

26 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

27 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

Keep unanswered questions open. A completed record does not certify a service as secure. Do not add passwords, pupil information or confidential technical details.

SUPPLIER RECORDS 28 TO 30 / 30

School supplier review

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Use one record per service. In your notes, say which security alert and service the supplier's reply covers. Keep this file in an approved school location.

28 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

29 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

30 Service or product

Supplier / support contact

Supplier's update

Person responsible

Follow-up date

Next action / notes / security alert covered

Evidence reference, checked by and date

Keep unanswered questions open. A completed record does not certify a service as secure. Do not add passwords, pupil information or confidential technical details.