

A person wearing a dark hoodie is shown from the chest up, leaning over a workbench. They are using a soldering iron on a glowing circuit board. The scene is dimly lit with a strong blue hue, and various electronic components and wires are visible in the background.

Data Danger

**Mobilising the Next
Generation to Protect
Digital Privacy**

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Introduction

In today's hyperconnected world, young people are living more of their lives online than ever before. From sharing moments on social media to using apps for education, entertainment, and communication, the digital landscape has become an integral part of everyday life. But while the internet offers endless opportunities, it also exposes young users to an array of risks—from data exploitation by tech companies to cybersecurity threats and online harassment.

The issue of **digital rights and privacy** is fast becoming one of the most pressing concerns for young people. With personal data constantly being collected, analysed, and monetised, many teenagers and children are unaware of the potential consequences. Furthermore, young people are often left vulnerable, lacking the necessary tools to protect their digital footprint or even understand the long-term impact of their online behaviour.

Legislators around the world have begun to address these challenges, but progress has been slow and uneven. Laws like the **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)** in Europe and the **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)** in the U.S. have made strides in protecting young users' data. However, the digital landscape is evolving faster than regulation, and too many loopholes still exist, allowing companies to profit from the data of minors. Moreover, these laws often leave young people as passive recipients of protection, rather than active participants in the fight for their rights.

This is where the model of **student-led advocacy**, exemplified by the PACTS initiative (Politicians Accountable for Climate To Students), offers a powerful framework for action. If young people can hold politicians accountable for their climate policies, why not for digital privacy too? Just as PACTS empowers students to engage directly with lawmakers on environmental issues, a similar model could mobilise youth to push for stronger digital rights and privacy protections. Through education and direct action, students can become the driving force for policy changes that reflect the realities of the digital world they inhabit.

This article will delve into the digital privacy challenges faced by young people, assess the progress of global legislation, and propose ways in which schools can empower students to advocate for their digital rights. By providing them with the knowledge and platforms to influence policy, we can ensure they play an active role in shaping the future of the digital world.

1. PACTS – A Model for Student-Led Advocacy

The **PACTS** initiative (Politicians Accountable for Climate To Students), designed in collaboration with Reboot the Future, The Harmony Project, and SEEd (Sustainability and Environmental Education), has emerged as a groundbreaking model for student-led advocacy. Through six structured activities, the initiative empowers students to engage directly with policymakers, demanding action on climate change. But its relevance extends beyond environmental issues, offering a framework that can be applied to other areas where young people's voices need to be heard—such as digital rights and privacy.

How PACTS Works

PACTS operates on a principle that places students at the center of the conversation with lawmakers. Instead of merely teaching students about climate change, the initiative gives them the tools to interact directly with politicians, providing structured guidance on how to craft compelling arguments and present their case for climate action. This form of engagement not only educates students on policy but also teaches them the power of civic participation and collective action.

The initiative includes activities such as:

- **Researching political processes:** Students are encouraged to learn how policies are made and how decisions that affect the climate (and other areas like data privacy) are implemented.
- **Drafting formal communications:** Students are guided on how to write letters, petitions, and policy proposals to present their concerns to elected officials.
- **Organising community events:** PACTS facilitates opportunities for students to engage their communities in awareness-raising events, extending their advocacy beyond the classroom and into the public sphere.

Tangible Successes of the PACTS Model

The PACTS initiative (Politicians Accountable for Climate To Students) has proven to be more than just an academic exercise—it's a practical and effective tool for empowering young people to make real changes in their communities and beyond. Unlike many student advocacy projects that may end in theory, PACTS has led to demonstrable successes where student voices have not only been heard but have also influenced policy discussions and decisions.

One of the most notable outcomes has been the ability of students to secure direct meetings with local Members of Parliament (MPs), notably in London's Dulwich & West Norwood and Bristol Northwest, and other government officials. In these meetings, students have presented climate action plans based on their own research, including specific recommendations for reducing carbon emissions in their local communities. The power of these student-led presentations lies in their combination of passion and well-researched proposals, which have forced lawmakers to take notice. For instance, in certain constituencies, MPs have acknowledged the students' contributions during parliamentary sessions and have committed to integrating youth-driven ideas into local environmental strategies.

In several cases, this engagement has gone beyond mere dialogue. Some schools involved in the PACTS program have successfully lobbied their local governments to take tangible steps toward addressing climate change. This has included measures such as:

- **Adopting student-proposed policies:** Several city councils have passed resolutions directly influenced by student petitions that call for greener urban planning, improved public transport options, and increased investment in renewable energy sources.
- **Engagement in national discussions:** Students have been invited to participate in larger environmental conferences and government-sponsored think tanks, where they can contribute to broader national conversations on climate policy. These opportunities for

student representation at high-profile events demonstrate how seriously their voices are being taken, as they continue to build momentum for systemic change.

- **Establishment of local environmental councils:** Inspired by student advocacy, some local governments have established youth environmental councils to provide ongoing input on policy decisions. These councils ensure that young people remain involved in shaping the future of climate policy in their areas, giving them a sustained role in influencing decisions that directly affect their lives.

PACTS has also fostered partnerships between students and local businesses, further extending the impact of their work. In several instances, students have collaborated with companies to reduce the corporate carbon footprint. This includes working with restaurants to reduce single-use plastics, engaging with retail outlets to promote sustainable shopping, and partnering with local farms to increase organic produce availability in school cafeterias. These initiatives not only influence policy but also foster tangible changes in the community's approach to sustainability.

One key success factor is the credibility students bring to the table. By equipping them with structured activities that emphasise research, communication, and policy engagement, PACTS ensures that students are not merely lobbying emotionally but presenting actionable, well-founded proposals. Their ability to articulate climate concerns in a clear, research-driven way makes it harder for politicians to ignore their demands.

Moreover, PACTS has been instrumental in changing how politicians perceive young people's role in governance. Traditionally, young people are often seen as too inexperienced to contribute meaningfully to policy debates. However, through PACTS, students have demonstrated that they are not only capable of understanding complex issues like climate change but also of proposing innovative solutions that can inspire change. This shift in perception has opened new avenues for youth participation in governance and policymaking.

The success of PACTS lies in its ability to move beyond classroom theory into the real world, offering a model of student engagement that produces tangible outcomes. By giving students the platform to directly interact with lawmakers and communities, the initiative shows how young people, when supported with the right tools and frameworks, can become powerful advocates for meaningful policy change.

This model of advocacy, with its focus on structured research, direct engagement, and policy influence, serves as a powerful example of what students can achieve when their voices are heard. Its success provides a compelling blueprint for other forms of advocacy, particularly in areas like digital rights and privacy, where young people have a direct and vested interest in shaping the future policies that will govern their digital lives.

Applying the PACTS Model to Digital Rights

The approach used by PACTS can be effectively applied to the issue of **digital rights and privacy**. Much like climate change, digital privacy is an issue that directly impacts the future of young people, yet their voices are often missing from the conversation. By empowering students to research, engage, and advocate for stronger privacy protections, schools can help them become informed digital citizens who understand their rights and how to defend them.

Through a digital rights version of PACTS, students could:

- **Engage with lawmakers:** Write to local representatives about the need for stronger data protection laws and more transparency around how their data is used by companies.
- **Organise awareness campaigns:** Inform their peers and communities about issues such as data exploitation, informed consent, and cyberbullying.
- **Advocate for clearer laws:** Push for simpler, more accessible language in terms of service agreements for digital platforms, so that young people can better understand what they are agreeing to when using online services.

This model can transform students from passive recipients of digital protections to active advocates, much like it has done for climate action. By equipping them with the skills to engage meaningfully with the policy process, schools can empower young people to fight for their digital rights and influence future legislation.

The success of PACTS in fostering real, student-led advocacy in the realm of climate change offers a blueprint for tackling other critical issues facing young people. Digital rights, with its complex legal landscape and fast-evolving challenges, is a field ripe for this kind of engagement. Schools, by adopting the PACTS model, can give students the tools they need to make meaningful contributions to the debate on digital privacy and protection. In doing so, they will not only shape better-informed citizens but also ensure that the future of digital rights is one that reflects the interests and needs of the next generation.

2. Digital Rights and Privacy – Understanding the Challenges for Young People

In today's digital world, young people face a host of challenges when it comes to protecting their personal data and privacy. With technology and social media platforms evolving rapidly, students are increasingly exposed to risks that they may not fully understand.

Data Exploitation: A Hidden Threat

Young people are often unaware of the extent to which their personal data is being harvested and exploited by tech companies. From social media platforms to educational apps, companies collect vast amounts of personal information—from browsing history to geolocation data—and use it for marketing or selling to third parties. Unlike adults, young users may not fully understand the implications of this data collection, especially when it is buried deep in lengthy terms of service agreements.

Many platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok, rely on user data to drive targeted advertising. These companies often collect sensitive information without fully transparent consent, leaving young people vulnerable to exploitation. Furthermore, algorithms designed to maximise engagement often manipulate user behaviour by serving content that keeps users online longer, subtly encouraging data sharing. This creates a hidden ecosystem where students, without realising it, are trading privacy for convenience.

Cybersecurity Threats: Increased Exposure

As young people spend more time online, their exposure to cybersecurity threats increases. Hacking, phishing attacks, and identity theft are some of the risks young users face daily. Adolescents are often targeted by cybercriminals due to their relatively low awareness of online security measures. Many do not use strong passwords, or they reuse the same password across multiple platforms, making them easy targets for hackers.

Educational platforms and apps that students rely on for schoolwork can also be vulnerable to data breaches, putting sensitive personal information at risk. Even apps designed to help students learn can be compromised, further exposing them to cybersecurity threats. Despite these risks, schools and parents often lack the resources to properly educate students about online safety.

Digital Footprint and Privacy: A Permanent Record

Another significant challenge young people face is the management of their **digital footprint** — the permanent trail of data they leave behind as they navigate the internet. This digital footprint can have long-term consequences, from future career prospects to personal relationships. Many young people are unaware that the content they post online can be accessible long after it is shared, potentially impacting them when they apply for jobs or scholarships.

Without a clear understanding of how their digital actions are recorded, students often post personal information, photos, or opinions that they may later regret. Even when content is deleted, it can remain accessible through archived data or screenshots. Schools must play a critical role in educating students on the importance of managing their digital identities and ensuring they understand that their actions online have long-term repercussions.

Informed Consent: The Complexity of Digital Agreements

One of the major pitfalls in digital privacy for young people is the complexity of **informed consent**. The lengthy and jargon-filled terms of service agreements that come with most apps and websites are difficult for even adults to comprehend. For students, navigating these agreements is often an impossible task, leaving them unaware of the full extent of the rights they are giving up.

While laws such as **GDPR** in the EU and **COPPA** in the U.S. have attempted to provide better protection for young people's data, many platforms still exploit these complexities. They often make it difficult for users to opt out of data tracking or fully understand how their data will be used. Schools can play a vital role by teaching students about the importance of informed consent and helping them understand what they are agreeing to when they use digital platforms.

Cyberbullying and Online Harassment: Emotional and Mental Impact

One of the most immediate and emotionally damaging risks that young people face online is **cyberbullying**. Unlike traditional bullying, which may be confined to the school environment, cyberbullying can follow students home, continuing 24/7 through digital platforms. Social media and messaging apps can be breeding grounds for harassment, spreading rumours, sharing private information, or creating harmful content that can have severe psychological impacts.

Despite various laws aimed at curbing online harassment, cyberbullying remains a persistent issue, with many platforms still struggling to enforce their anti-harassment policies effectively. The

anonymity of the internet often emboldens bullies, making it difficult to trace or stop their behaviour. Schools need to be proactive in educating students about the dangers of cyberbullying and equipping them with the tools to report and respond to harassment.

The digital space presents a complex and ever-evolving set of challenges for young people. From data exploitation and cybersecurity threats to managing digital footprints and navigating informed consent, students are constantly exposed to risks that they may not fully understand. Additionally, the emotional toll of cyberbullying and online harassment adds another layer of vulnerability. It is crucial for schools to take an active role in addressing these issues, providing students with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves in the digital world.

3. Assessing Global Progress in Protecting Digital Rights for Young People

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of digital privacy, the global response has been uneven, with some regions making substantial strides while others lag behind. While laws like **GDPR** in the EU and **COPPA** in the U.S. represent significant advancements in protecting young people online, they are often limited in scope and enforcement. A deeper look into how these laws function—and the gaps they leave—shows that there is still a long way to go in safeguarding the digital rights of young people.

The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, introduced by the European Union in 2018, remains one of the most robust privacy laws globally. It mandates that companies obtain parental consent for users under 16 and requires clearer terms of service. GDPR has led to improvements in how personal data is handled, providing individuals—including young people—with more control over their data. However, enforcement across the EU has been inconsistent. While some countries have enforced large fines for non-compliance, others lack the resources to do so, which means that many tech giants still skirt full compliance.

Similarly, the U.S.'s **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)** provides a foundation for protecting children under 13 by requiring parental consent for data collection. However, it is not without flaws. COPPA's age limits are easily bypassed by young people, many of whom falsify their age to gain access to popular platforms. This leaves younger users vulnerable, as platforms can collect and use their data in ways that would otherwise be restricted. Furthermore, COPPA does not impose the same level of accountability on companies regarding how data is used once it's collected, creating further loopholes.

Outside Europe and the U.S., countries like **Canada** and **Australia** have made progress in privacy law, but these regulations are often outdated or lack the comprehensiveness required to address the modern digital landscape. **Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)**, for example, applies to the private sector but lacks the specific provisions that protect minors. Similarly, **Australia's Privacy Act 1988** has been amended to keep up with digital transformations, yet the complexities of digital consent for younger users remain under-addressed.

Elsewhere, progress is much slower. In many regions, particularly in parts of **Africa**, **Asia**, and **Latin America**, comprehensive data protection laws are still being developed or are only lightly enforced. This lack of regulation leaves many young people at greater risk of data exploitation, cyberattacks, and privacy breaches. In these countries, the digital rights landscape is shaped more

by the platforms themselves, many of which operate under lax regulations, making it difficult for users, especially younger ones, to control how their data is used.

The limitations in global legislation also extend to cybersecurity. While nations such as **the UK** and **South Korea** have implemented strict cybersecurity protocols, these initiatives often fail to include provisions specifically aimed at protecting younger users. **Cybersecurity laws** tend to focus on protecting infrastructure and national security, leaving young people vulnerable to cyberattacks such as phishing or identity theft. Although cybersecurity campaigns exist, their reach and effectiveness in educating young people on best practices remain limited.

There is also a growing awareness of the need for better regulation around **informed consent**. While GDPR mandates clear and understandable terms for data collection, most platforms continue to present lengthy and convoluted terms of service, which are difficult for young users to navigate. Many young people do not fully comprehend what they are agreeing to when they sign up for a platform, especially in regions where the legal framework is not as robust as in the EU.

Similarly, cyberbullying continues to plague young people worldwide, despite the implementation of anti-harassment policies by social media platforms. In countries like **New Zealand**, where cyberbullying laws are relatively strong, progress has been made in reducing the emotional and psychological toll of online harassment. However, in countries where these laws are either non-existent or poorly enforced, young people continue to face severe mental health challenges as a result of cyberbullying, with minimal recourse for justice.

Overall, the global response to protecting digital rights and privacy for young people is moving in the right direction but at an inconsistent pace. The digital landscape is evolving faster than legislation, leaving gaps in protection, particularly in regions where laws are either underdeveloped or difficult to enforce. More needs to be done, not just in terms of creating regulations but also in educating young people about their rights, helping them understand digital consent, and equipping them with the tools they need to protect themselves online.

As we look to the future, it is clear that the legislative process alone cannot address all the challenges of digital privacy. Schools and educators have a crucial role to play in filling these gaps by empowering young people with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world safely.

4. Engaging Young People in Advocacy – Schools as a Platform for Change

The challenges of digital rights and privacy for young people require more than just legislative solutions—they demand active engagement from students themselves. Schools are uniquely positioned to become hubs for this engagement, offering a platform for young people to not only understand their digital rights but also advocate for stronger protections. Through structured programmes, student-led initiatives, and the integration of digital rights into the curriculum, schools can empower young people to become effective advocates.

Schools as Hubs for Advocacy

One of the most effective ways for schools to engage students is by integrating digital privacy education into the curriculum. Just as students are taught about history, geography, and citizenship, they should learn about digital rights, the ethical use of technology, and how to protect their

personal information online. This could be done through standalone modules or as part of broader courses in citizenship or information technology. By grounding these lessons in real-world examples, such as recent data breaches or cases of online exploitation, educators can help students understand the risks they face and the importance of taking action.

Beyond the classroom, schools can serve as incubators for student-led digital rights campaigns. By following models such as PACTS, students can learn how to research policy, draft letters to lawmakers, and organise advocacy efforts. Schools could establish clubs or committees dedicated to digital rights, where students work on issues like data privacy, cybersecurity, and ethical tech use. These groups could collaborate with local businesses, NGOs, and lawmakers, mirroring the PACTS approach, to create real-world change.

Student-Led Campaigns for Digital Rights

One of the most powerful tools at students' disposal is the ability to organise campaigns around digital rights. Schools can provide the necessary support, offering students guidance on how to create and run these campaigns. Students could develop petitions calling for stronger data protection measures in their region, or they could organise awareness campaigns to educate their peers on cybersecurity best practices. This not only gives students the chance to advocate for their own protection but also spreads awareness within the broader school community.

For instance, a group of students might decide to focus on a specific issue, such as the lack of transparency in the way social media platforms handle their data. They could start by researching the issue, gathering evidence, and working with teachers to develop a coherent argument. From there, they might draft an open letter to local MPs or even the platform itself, demanding clearer policies and better protections for young users. With the support of the school, this campaign could grow to include other students, parents, and even external organisations, creating a community-driven push for change.

Debate Clubs and Mock Parliaments

Schools can also encourage student advocacy through debate clubs or mock parliaments, where students can engage in discussions about current digital privacy laws, propose new ones, and debate their merits. These platforms not only build students' understanding of the legislative process but also help them develop critical thinking and public speaking skills—skills essential for effective advocacy.

By focusing on digital privacy, these clubs could engage students in debates on controversial issues, such as whether tech companies should have access to users' browsing history, or how far schools should go in monitoring students' online activities. These debates could lead to more formalised policy recommendations, which students could then present to local lawmakers or school boards, making their voices heard in real-world decision-making processes.

Collaborating with NGOs and the Tech Industry

Schools can also act as a bridge between students and external organisations, such as NGOs focused on digital rights and privacy, or tech companies themselves. By inviting guest speakers from these organisations or partnering on joint initiatives, schools can expose students to different perspectives on the digital rights debate. Collaboration with tech companies, in particular, could lead to meaningful dialogue about how these platforms can better protect their young users.

For example, students might work with a local NGO to organise a "Digital Privacy Day," where they host workshops for peers on how to protect personal information online or invite tech industry representatives to speak about the challenges of maintaining privacy in a digital age. These activities would allow students to engage with both the problem and potential solutions, while also giving them a platform to advocate for better protection from those directly responsible for their data.

Youth Conferences on Digital Rights

Schools can go a step further by organising youth conferences on digital rights. These conferences could bring together students from various schools to share ideas, present research, and engage in discussions with experts and policymakers. Students could take the lead in organising the event, determining its agenda, and inviting speakers, thus fostering a sense of ownership over the advocacy process.

At these conferences, students could present their findings on digital privacy issues and propose actionable solutions. Lawmakers, tech industry leaders, and educators could then respond to these proposals, creating a direct line of communication between young advocates and the decision-makers responsible for shaping digital policy. This format would not only give students a platform to voice their concerns but also allow them to see how their advocacy efforts can directly influence change.

Building a Culture of Advocacy in Schools

To ensure that these initiatives are effective and sustainable, schools need to create a culture of advocacy, where students feel empowered to raise their voices on issues that matter to them. This requires supportive teachers, an open school administration, and access to the necessary resources, such as time, space, and expertise. Schools that embrace a culture of student-led advocacy will not only foster digital literacy but also help develop the next generation of informed, active citizens who are capable of engaging with complex social and political issues.

By transforming schools into advocacy hubs, young people can become more than just users of digital platforms—they can become key players in shaping the future of digital rights and privacy. Schools that nurture this sense of agency will help students not only protect themselves but also contribute to the broader conversation about how technology should evolve to serve society's best interests.

5. Long-Term Impact: Achieving Lasting Change through Student Engagement

By empowering young people to engage in digital rights advocacy, schools and educators can catalyse long-term change that goes far beyond awareness-raising. When students are equipped with the knowledge, tools, and platforms to influence policy, their contributions can lead to substantive reforms, not only in their communities but on a larger scale. By embedding these initiatives into the fabric of education, we can foster a generation of informed, engaged citizens who understand how to safeguard their digital futures.

Success Stories of Youth-Led Advocacy

The impact of youth-led advocacy is already evident in several global movements. The climate change activism spearheaded by students, inspired by figures like **Greta Thunberg**, has had a profound effect on policy discussions worldwide. Similarly, student involvement in pushing for stricter gun control laws in the U.S., particularly following the Parkland shooting, demonstrates how young people can drive political change. These examples show that when students are supported in their advocacy, they can achieve real, measurable success.

In the context of digital rights, we are seeing the early stages of a similar movement. In countries like the **UK** and **Germany**, student-led campaigns have contributed to discussions around the ethical use of AI and data protection. For example, young people have influenced changes in how social media companies approach user data, prompting clearer privacy policies and more robust controls over content moderation. These are not small victories—they represent real shifts in how companies operate and how governments regulate.

By expanding these efforts to address the full spectrum of digital rights, young people can continue to lead the charge in demanding better protections. The integration of student voice into digital rights policy will create a more inclusive, transparent approach to technology regulation, ensuring that the needs and vulnerabilities of young users are not overlooked.

Policy Changes Driven by Student Advocacy

When students engage with policymakers, their fresh perspectives often introduce new, innovative solutions to long-standing issues. Youth involvement in advocating for digital privacy can lead to concrete legislative outcomes, such as:

- **Stronger regulations on data collection:** Student campaigns can push for tighter controls over how companies gather and store data, particularly when it comes to sensitive information from minors.
- **Clearer terms of service:** By advocating for simplification of terms of service, students can drive the creation of more accessible, understandable user agreements, ensuring that young users are fully aware of what they are consenting to.
- **Mandatory education on digital rights:** Youth advocates can lobby for the inclusion of digital literacy as a core subject in school curricula, empowering future generations to protect themselves online.
- **Enhanced protection against cyberbullying:** By sharing their experiences and insights, students can influence the development of more robust online safety laws, compelling platforms to take greater responsibility for user safety.

These policy changes, driven by the advocacy of young people, will help to create a safer, more equitable digital landscape. The key lies in ensuring that student involvement is not tokenistic but genuine, with policymakers actively listening to and engaging with youth concerns.

Building Digital Resilience

The ultimate goal of student-led advocacy in digital rights is to build **digital resilience**. This means equipping young people not just with the ability to navigate today's digital challenges but with the capacity to adapt to future ones. As technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, the issues surrounding data privacy, cybersecurity, and digital consent will become more complex. By fostering a culture of advocacy, schools can help students develop the skills they need to be proactive, critical thinkers in the digital world.

This approach goes beyond simply teaching young people to use technology safely. It involves empowering them to question how technology is created and regulated, to understand their rights as digital citizens, and to take action when those rights are threatened. Building digital resilience ensures that young people are not passive consumers of technology but active participants in shaping the digital environment.

A Future Shaped by Student Voices

When young people are given a platform to advocate for their digital rights, they have the potential to reshape the digital landscape in ways that benefit not only themselves but society as a whole. Schools that embrace this opportunity are not only protecting their students—they are helping to cultivate a generation of leaders who will be at the forefront of the digital rights movement.

The long-term impact of this approach will be a world where young people's voices are integral to the development of technology policy, where their rights are respected, and where they have the tools and knowledge to navigate the complexities of the digital age with confidence and agency.

By fostering this engagement, we can move beyond short-term solutions and create a lasting legacy of student advocacy, one that drives systemic change in how we approach digital privacy, cybersecurity, and the ethical use of technology. The potential for students to influence the future is vast—what's needed now is the support and structure to make that potential a reality.

Conclusion: The Power of Youth in Shaping Digital Futures

The future of digital rights and privacy is in the hands of today's young people, and the role of schools in fostering this responsibility cannot be overstated. By creating platforms for advocacy, education, and action, schools can empower students to become active participants in shaping the policies that govern their digital lives. The PACTS model shows that young people can be effective advocates when given the right tools, and this same energy can be harnessed to address the growing challenges of digital privacy and rights.

As technology continues to evolve, so too will the risks and vulnerabilities young people face. However, by equipping students with a deep understanding of their digital rights, providing opportunities for real-world engagement, and fostering a culture of advocacy within schools, we can ensure that young people are not only protected but also positioned to lead the conversation on these crucial issues. Their voices, ideas, and leadership will help shape a future where digital privacy is safeguarded, and their active participation in this process will drive meaningful, long-term change.

By recognising and supporting the power of student voice, we open the door to a world where young people play a central role in the creation of ethical, transparent, and fair digital environments. Schools, educators, and policymakers must embrace this potential, helping students move from digital consumers to digital advocates. In doing so, we can ensure a safer, more equitable digital future for all.