PASSWORDS AND SIGN-IN METHODS: SIGN-IN METHODS POLICY

All clients

Harbour IT

PREPARED BY	DATE	CLIENTS
Harbour IT	29 Nov 2026	3

How people sign in and how strong that is: methods by strength, admins without phishing-resistant MFA, the methods policy, and password age and expiry.

Sign-in methods policy 36

Which methods people may register and use, from the tenant's authentication methods policy, against what's recommended for a small business.

Flag	Client	Setting	Current	Recommended	Why
	Contoso Legal LLP	Passkeys and security keys (FIDO2)	On for Break glass	On	Needed for phishing-resistant sign-in, which admins should use.
	Contoso Legal LLP	Microsoft Authenticator	On for All users	On	The second factor most people should use.
	Contoso Legal LLP	Authenticator shows which app is signing in	Microsoft managed	On (Microsoft managed turns it on)	Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs.
Low	Contoso Legal LLP	Authenticator shows where the sign-in is from	Off	On (Microsoft managed turns it on)	Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs.
Low	Contoso Legal LLP	Text message (SMS)	On for All users except Break glass	Off, once people use Authenticator	Texts can be intercepted or moved to another SIM.
	Contoso Legal LLP	Voice call	Off	Off	Calls can be redirected, and are easy to approve by mistake.
	Contoso Legal LLP	Email one-time passcode	On for All users	Off, unless guests or password reset need it	Not a second factor for members; only for password reset and guests.
	Contoso Legal LLP	Temporary Access Pass	Off	On, for setting up passkeys	A time-limited pass for setting up a new phone or passkey.
	Contoso Legal LLP	Registration campaign (asks people to set up Authenticator at sign-in)	Microsoft managed, for All users, can be skipped for 1 day	On, or Microsoft managed	Moves people off text messages and calls.
Low	Contoso Legal LLP	System-preferred MFA (asks for the strongest method a person has)	Off	On, or Microsoft managed	Otherwise people are asked for their own default, often a text message.

Flag	Client	Setting	Current	Recommended	Why
	Contoso Legal LLP	People can report an MFA prompt they didn't expect	Microsoft managed	On	A reported prompt blocks the account's risky sign-ins and alerts admins.
	Contoso Legal LLP	Methods managed in this policy (not the old MFA and SSPR settings)	Yes	Yes	Microsoft has retired the old per-user MFA and SSPR method settings.
	Fabrikam Dental Group	Passkeys and security keys (FIDO2)	On for Break glass	On	Needed for phishing-resistant sign-in, which admins should use.
	Fabrikam Dental Group	Microsoft Authenticator	On for All users	On	The second factor most people should use.
	Fabrikam Dental Group	Authenticator shows which app is signing in	Microsoft managed	On (Microsoft managed turns it on)	Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs.
● Low	Fabrikam Dental Group	Authenticator shows where the sign-in is from	Off	On (Microsoft managed turns it on)	Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs.
● Low	Fabrikam Dental Group	Text message (SMS)	On for All users except Break glass	Off, once people use Authenticator	Texts can be intercepted or moved to another SIM.
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	Fabrikam Dental Group	People can report an MFA prompt they didn't expect	Microsoft managed	On	A reported prompt blocks the account's risky sign-ins and alerts admins.
	Fabrikam Dental Group	Methods managed in this policy (not the old MFA and SSPR settings)	Yes	Yes	Microsoft has retired the old per-user MFA and SSPR method settings.

Flag	Client	Setting	Current	Recommended	Why
	Northwind Traders	Passkeys and security keys (FIDO2)	On for Break glass	On	Needed for phishing-resistant sign-in, which admins should use.
	Northwind Traders	Microsoft Authenticator	On for All users	On	The second factor most people should use.
	Northwind Traders	Authenticator shows which app is signing in	Microsoft managed	On (Microsoft managed turns it on)	Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs.
Low	Northwind Traders	Authenticator shows where the sign-in is from	Off	On (Microsoft managed turns it on)	Helps people spot a sign-in that isn't theirs.
Low	Northwind Traders	Text message (SMS)	On for All users except Break glass	Off, once people use Authenticator	Texts can be intercepted or moved to another SIM.
	Northwind Traders	Voice call	Off	Off	Calls can be redirected, and are easy to approve by mistake.
	Northwind Traders	Email one-time passcode	On for All users	Off, unless guests or password reset need it	Not a second factor for members; only for password reset and guests.
	Northwind Traders	Temporary Access Pass	Off	On, for setting up passkeys	A time-limited pass for setting up a new phone or passkey.
	Northwind Traders	Registration campaign (asks people to set up Authenticator at sign-in)	Microsoft managed, for All users, can be skipped for 1 day	On, or Microsoft managed	Moves people off text messages and calls.
Low	Northwind Traders	System-preferred MFA (asks for the strongest method a person has)	Off	On, or Microsoft managed	Otherwise people are asked for their own default, often a text message.
	Northwind Traders	People can report an MFA prompt they didn't expect	Microsoft managed	On	A reported prompt blocks the account's risky sign-ins and alerts admins.
	Northwind Traders	Methods managed in this policy (not the old MFA and SSPR settings)	Yes	Yes	Microsoft has retired the old per-user MFA and SSPR method settings.

Prepared by Harbour IT (help@harbourit.example · 0161 496 0000). Read from Microsoft 365 with read-only access; nothing was changed. Data collected 29 Nov 2026, 04:00 UTC.