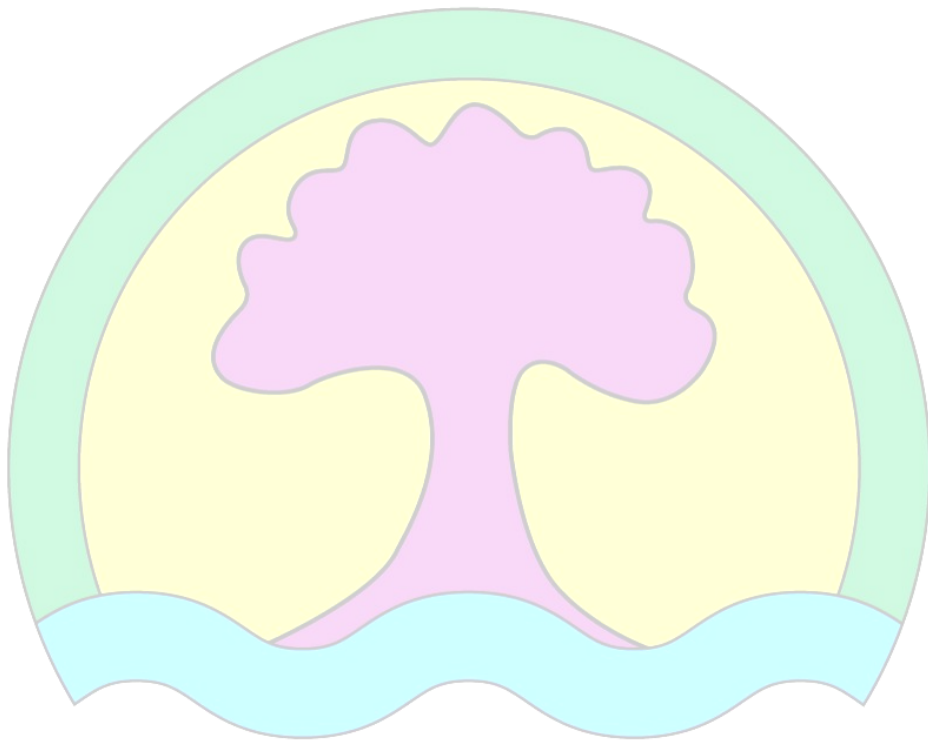


Cults Primary School



Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy

Session 2024 - 2025



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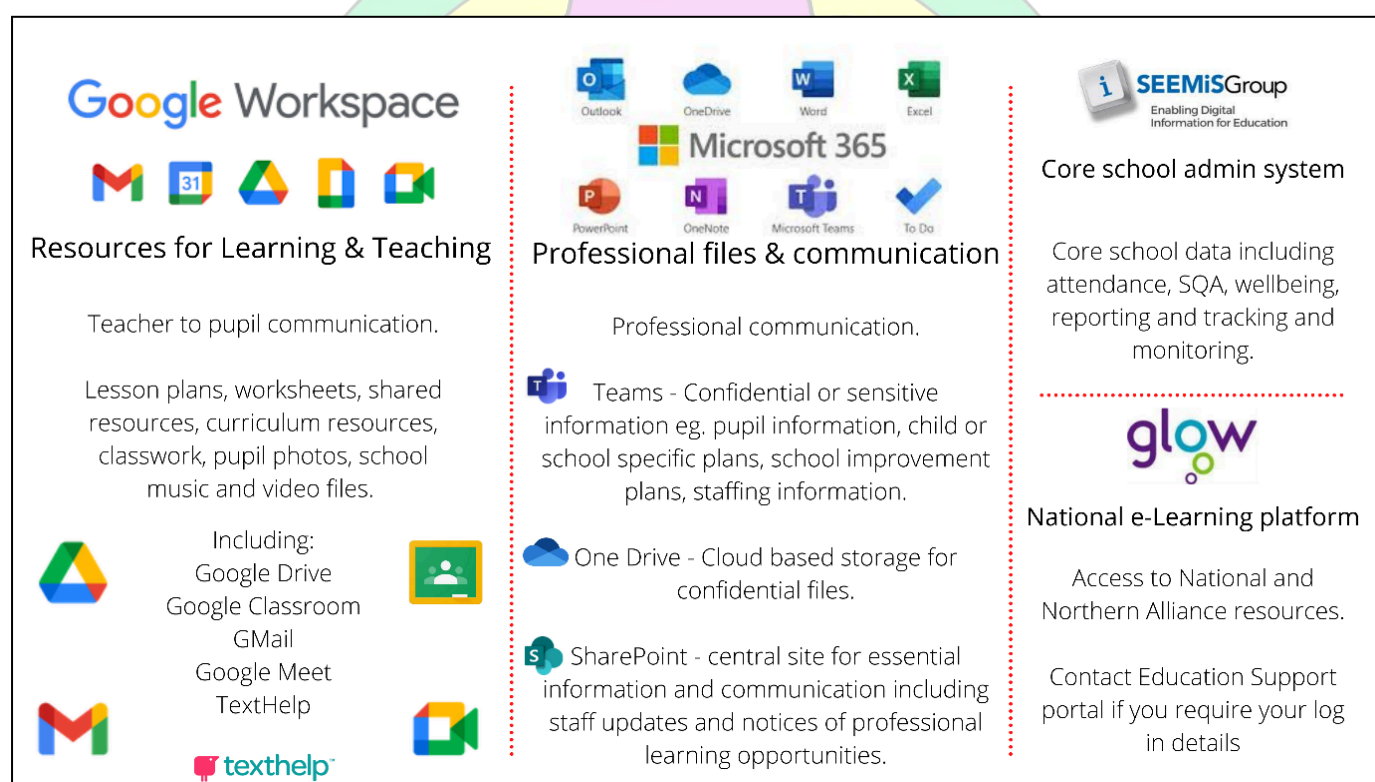
Aberdeen City – Digital Strategy for Schools (Interim)



Overview

Aberdeen City Council is committed to high quality Computing Science and Digital Learning across all our schools. We encourage the innovative use of technology in all aspects of learning and aim to be sector leading.

We work positively with our colleagues in Digital and Technology to support digital learning in our schools and we are working towards establishing a consistent digital learning experience across Aberdeen City; for every learner and educator, using the digital services, devices and content to meet their needs. We use key tools as part of learning, teaching and professional practice.



Digital Learning & Teaching across Authority

Our core tool for learning and teaching is Google Workspace for Education. Our cloud first digital learning approach allows learners and educators to access resources from anywhere. Our refreshed Digital Skills Framework is aligned with the CfE Benchmarks and our ACC Skills Framework referencing meta skills with a strong focus on Computing Science.

Staff have access to our Resource Library to borrow resources for innovative and creative digital learning experiences for their learners. There are a wide range of professional learning opportunities available for staff to support digital learning in school including online webinars and asynchronous resources. Each school has a designated Digital Champion to support digital learning in their setting. The Digital Champions community is a positive space where staff support and inspire each other to develop their digital learning practice.

Across the local authority, all services use Microsoft Teams and Office 365 to communicate and collaborate. This is our platform for professional communications.

Supporting learners

Learners in Aberdeen City benefit from our ongoing device roll out programme. We support learners and their families to develop positive use of technology. Internet safety and cyber resilience resources are available through our partnership with Ineqe and the Safer Schools app. We also support families with Internet connectivity according to need.

Quality Improvement of Digital Learning

Our consistent approach to digital learning and clear focus on a unified experience for all stakeholders has been recognised [nationally](#)¹ and [internationally](#)² and has been praised in inspection reports.

Moving forward, we will continue to review and develop the use of digital as an embedded aspect of learning and teaching. This is reflected in our Quality Improvement Framework and our National Improvement Framework (NIF) Plan.

Most of our schools have achieved or are working towards their Digital Schools Award. We will expand this programme to include the use of the EU SELFIE tool to support schools to reflect on their digital journey and to understand their next steps. We will also encourage schools to achieve the Digital Schools SELFIE awards.

Support of Digital Learning Services

We provide Operational Support for education staff via a dedicated support portal. Assistance is available for our learning platforms, account provisioning and library resources. Our support team also evaluates new technologies and innovation in Digital Learning, ensuring any technology purchases are aligned with the Digital Strategy.

Updated: 11/03/2022


To be reviewed: 01/09/2022

¹ [Praise for council's learning support during school closures](#)

² [Aberdeen city makes digital accessible](#)



Device allocation at Cults Primary School



Device Allocation in School for Session 2024 - 2025.

Red Unit -

- ★ All P6&7 learners have laptop devices provided by ACC.
- ★ iPads are available to book out.
- ★ PSAs have a Chrome Tab exclusively for their use and access to Chromebooks form which they can print.

Blue Unit -

- ★ P5 have 1 to 1 devices provided by the school (5D have laptops, 5S/R and 5J/C have Chromebooks)
- ★ P4 and P3/4 have 1 to 1 bus of Chromebooks provided by the school
- ★ iPads are available for general access to book out
- ★ PSAs have a Chrome Tab exclusively for their use. JS has Chromebook for UoS and AC a Chrome Tab for ELSA.

Green Unit -

- ★ P2 have 30 Chromebooks to share provided by the school
- ★ P1 have a bus of Chrome Tabs to enable 'Adult you don't have' use
- ★ PSAs have a Chrome Tab exclusively for their use and access to Chromebooks form which they can print.

Purple Unit -

- ★ Both P3 classes have 1 to 1 Chromebook access provided by school

Other -

- ★ iPads for Hub and ELC
- ★ Hub have a SMART Panel and laptop and PSAs have a Chrome Tab exclusively for their use and access to Chromebooks form which they can print.
- ★ Hub Learners have 1 to 1 access to a laptop (ER) and Chromebooks
- ★ ELC have dedicated Chromebooks for staff use from which they can print. SEVPs have laptops.
- ★ ELC have 2 interactive boards and a Magic Carpet (Magic Carpet can be used by any stage)

SLIDESMANIA

The skilful deployment of digital technology in our schools and early learning settings will also ensure our learners develop a level of general and specialist digital skills that are so vital for learning, life and work in an increasingly digitised world.

John Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, September 2016

At the forefront of our digital strategy is our aim to ensure that our learners have the best access to devices possible. We have organised our devices for this session to optimise their usage, as well as to enable the development of skills and further embedded use. Following our Northern Lights upgrade in September 2024, we have been able to ensure 1 to 1 devices for P3 - P7 learners. Our P2 learners have 30 devices to share and our P1s have access to a bus of 20 Chrome Tabs. Our commitment to early intervention continues and Digital Skills are delivered to P2-4 classes as Non Class Contact Time for 1 hour every week. There are 32 laptops allocated to do this.

Learning and Teaching at Cults Primary School

The upgrading of our WiFi, devices and SMART Panels as part of the Northern Lights Project is enabling greater usage of devices in classrooms as we now have a WiFi infrastructure that can support the high number of logins this requires. This, in addition to the manner in which we have deployed the devices enables greater learner and teacher choice to fully embed technology into daily practice.

The learners will have the opportunity to work independently on devices, as well as in pairs and small groups to develop digital literacy skills, in addition to other outcomes across the curriculum. They will be able to communicate and collaborate both in person and using the technology.

Use of the [Aberdeen City Council Digital Skills Progression](#), which encompasses the Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes and benchmarks, is supplemented by our own [Core Digital Skills planner](#), to establish key skills, embedded use of technology and consistency of coverage throughout the school.

Areas of digital learning covered across these planners include:

- Google Workspace and Google Classroom
- Word Processing
- Desktop design and publishing
- Presentations
- Data Handling
- Multimedia Manipulation (sound, picture and video)
- Coding and Programming
- Animation
- Electronic Communication
- Searching, processing and managing information responsibly
- Internet Safety and Cyber Resilience
- Computational Thinking

Additional Support Needs

Technology continues to be an important tool in supporting learners with additional support needs. Individual Educational Plans will outline specific applications suggested by school and other agencies and how they will be used. Identified learners benefit from the use of programs of work such as Units of Sound and regular discussions about how learning can be facilitated using technology, including for example speech to text software, occur informally throughout the school and also in progress tracking and review meetings.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is used by all P1-P7 classes across the school. We use Google Classroom as a teaching tool within school and many teachers operate more than one Classroom to resource groups in areas such as maths, reading, spelling etc. Homework is issued, and in many classes completed, through Google Classroom.

Our Classrooms are shared resources with all teaching and support staff who work with classes, as well as stage partners and SLT. This makes our Classrooms integral parts of our daily class organisation.

Our [Google Classroom policy statement](#) clearly outlines to our stakeholders the expectations of the use of Google Classroom.

Microsoft Teams

Staff access and use Microsoft Teams for all professional interactions, as per ACC policy (see above). Staff meetings, In Service training and pupil review meetings were carried out through the platform during the COvid19 pandemic and whilst a transition back to in person events has taken place, the option to use Teams meetings will still be available as many stakeholders find it enables them easier access. The migration of resources from Google Drive to Microsoft Teams will continue in the coming months to ensure that ACC policy of Google for Learning and Teaching and Teams for professional communication is adhered to. Channels have been and will be created within the school Teams space to ensure ease of use and organisation. Staff training sessions will continue to be planned and delivered to ensure everyone is confident in using the system.

Following our Northern Lights upgrade, we will begin the process of transitioning to the use of Teams for Education by beginning staff training in the latter part of this session, to allow us to tentatively begin using the platform with learners from the start of the 2025-2026 school session.

X (formerly known as Twitter)

Our school [X \(formerly known as Twitter\) account](#) is a means by which we can engage the school community in the life of our school. Whilst not the sole means of communication, our school Twitter account also enables us to share useful information and draw attention to events of interest for our families. We endeavour to have a minimum post per Unit per week. We have a team of people (Team Twitter) who are responsible for the uploading of content and they are fully aware of permissions in place for tweeting. Our [X \(formerly known as Twitter\) Position Statement](#) clearly outlines the purpose and controls in place surrounding our use of Twitter and will be reviewed and updated annually.

Internet Safety

Internet safety and responsible online behaviour is continually reinforced in all classes due to the increasing presence of technology in everyone's daily life.

The topic is covered as per ACC plans, using a range of suggested and recommended resources. Learners are encouraged to speak to a trusted adult should they come across anything online which worries them or should they find themselves in a situation where they are unsure what to do.

Digital Dynamoos

For many years, the school has had TextHelp mentors; P7 pupils who deliver sessions in classes and support peers and staff in the use of ReadWrite Texthelp. A system is in place for these learners to train their replacements prior to leaving for secondary school.

We have been developing our pupil digital leadership within the school, by allocating roles to our P7s who have applied for roles within our [P7 Leadership scheme](#). We hope to establish the roles and then develop them beyond P7, with the senior pupils mentoring their younger peers. Our P6 and P7 classes are Digital Buddies for our P1 and P2 classes, providing support and guidance in weekly sessions to help with the development of key digital literacy skills for all P1s and P2s.

Staff Development and CPD

Staff are supported both formally and informally to develop their digital skills and talents. Assistance can be sought from colleagues and the school's Digital Champion at any time.

Training needs are considered when planning staff development times, with priorities identified and addressed based on staff request and identification and school development needs. Staff also have the opportunity to complete anonymous audits, the data from which feeds into such planning to ensure continuity and development for all.

The school Digital Champions are part of relevant Teams channels hosted by ACC. Information is cascaded by email and uploaded to the school's Teams channel, where there is a dedicated Digital updates section. Staff are kept up to date with the information available regarding upcoming training (both ACC provided and externally) and course availability.

School Policies



The school follows ACC's guidance in terms of Acceptable use for staff and pupils, with Google Forms being completed to accept the conditions, based on their documentation.

In addition to these, the school has policies on [Social Media](#), [Mobile Devices](#), [Google Classroom](#) and an [X \(formerly known as Twitter\) Position Statement](#). These are updated and reviewed annually and are available for all staff in our Staff Drive. They are also shared with parents and carers.

Device Maintenance

All stakeholders are encouraged to look after devices carefully. Training is given as required to ensure that potential damage is limited. Learners are encouraged to immediately report issues to their class teacher(s). These can then be passed on to the school Digital Champions, whereupon appropriate steps are taken and support calls logged as needed.

Digital Schools Scotland Award

In June 2023, we were awarded the Digital Schools Scotland Award. The Digital Schools Award Scotland is a 3-step programme to help schools assess progress and recognise excellence in the use of digital technology at nursery, primary, special education and secondary level while providing practical support and encouragement.

