glow

A guide for parents

glow

Linking learning at home and at school

Glow is the world's first national safe and secure online community for pupils, parents and teachers.

Glow is an award winning national intranet for education, developed exclusively for Scotland's educational community. Enhancing and supporting pupils' learning, Glow allows pupils to learn using the tools of technology they are familiar with.

The sort of personalised learning that Glow can offer children and young people is a key aspect of Curriculum for Excellence.

What does it do?

Glow gives access to information and activities including interactive educational games, revision papers, links to other sites and news features. These resources support pupils to learn in innovative and exciting ways. Glow has a number of key features and access to, or restrictions to, these features is dependent on the permissions set by your local authority.

Not all features are relevant to all users.

Key features include:

National Directory
Provides an index of all users, making it easy to find others with similar interests or expertise. What is seen when you log in to this area will depend on the permissions granted, so a parent's view will be different from their child's and different from a teacher's. A child's data is only seen by relevant people within the child's school.

Glow Mail
Is a web-based email system integrated into Glow. It is simple to use and the main benefit is a single sign-on. Once signed onto Glow you have instant access to your mail. Not all users will have access to Glow Mail and it will not be available toparents and carers.

Glow Learn
This virtual learning environment (VLE) includes tools to share, organise and search for digital resources and courses, monitor student progress and provide learners with access to structured content.

Glow Groups
An area which connects people and ideas through communities. Inside a Glow Group, you can use tools such as discussion boards, chat rooms, document stores, image galleries and web conferencing. Tools can be customised to meet the users of a particular group, for example a teacher can create a Glow Group to work on a particular theme or unit of work with a class, or a school council can be given permission to gather feedback from fellow pupils.
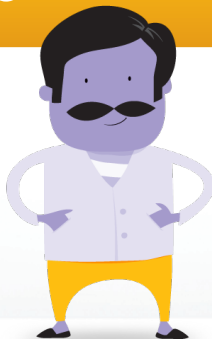
Glow Chat
Is a moderated chat room which sits inside the secure online environment. This is a more spontaneous and informal means for groups to communicate than email.

Glow Blogs
Are mini websites or web logs. Blogs are usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video.

Glow Meet
Glow Meet is a web conferencing tool available throughout Glow. It allows people to interact using video and audio, and provides easy sharing of documents, desktops and whiteboard space. In addition to classroom use, a full calendar of national Glow Meets is available on Glow and teachers can use these to link into topics, discussions and events for their pupils and for professional development.

How does it work?

Each child, teacher or parent is given unique logins to access this trusted, safe environment where they can create personalised programmes of work, share resources or help parents understand and become more involved in their children's learning possibly by keeping up to date with their progress and achievements.

Glow is set up in a tiered system with a national level, local authority level and school level. Local authorities are working to different deadlines so it will be dependent on the area in which you live, what content you see and when you will get access to Glow. Your school or local authority will be able to advise you on their timetable for providing pupils and parents with Glow logins.

All parents with a Glow login will have access to the national site.

How does it assist my child's learning?

Children can seek out information and adapt Glow for themselves, allowing pupils to learn in the way that suits them best. It also allows teachers and schools to plan class activities or projects, and have the necessary resources to steer the children on a particular path.

Glow is transforming the way we teach and the way our children learn in Scotland, whilst supporting the Curriculum for Excellence. It encourages collaboration and communication through its secure site, bringing schools, teachers or pupils from across the country together to share ideas. It is important for the promotion of best practice across all areas of the curriculum.

Why use it?

The world in which our children live varies dramatically from our own experiences, with constantly evolving digital world and technological advances having an impact on almost every aspect of our children's lives. It has transformed the way in which our children communicate, network, seek help and access information to learn. Young people today are an online population and as technology advances further, we must recognise the need to provide our children with relevant and contemporary experiences that allow them to successfully engage with technology and prepare them for life after school.

Glow provides tailored resources, appropriate to the children in a safe, secure and engaging way.
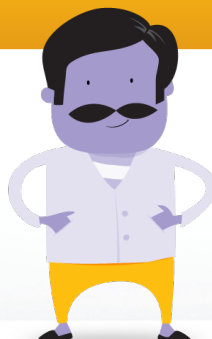
What are the benefits?

Your child will have access to the world's first educational intranet in a secure and safe setting. Teachers at their school can share experiences and best practice to ultimately improve teaching and learning across Scotland.

Your child is learning life skills and embracing technology in a constantly evolving world and it is the role of educators and parents to ensure children are in the best position to be prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. Glow is a crucial part of the 21st century learning journey.

How does my child get access?

Your child will be given access by their school via a unique login using a secure username and password. This gives the child access to information and resources suitable to them. A pupil's access to, and view of, Glow will be different from a teacher's or a parent's.

Can my child access Glow during school?

Glow can be accessed either within the school or, as it is web-based, wherever an internet connection is available, such as at home or in a public library.

All your child needs is their unique username and password.

How can I, as a parent, use Glow?

Parents can use Glow to access a variety of information. This is dependent on how your local authority has set this up. You will be able to access the national site, but what is available at a school level will vary. You may be able to view information that keeps you up to date with your child's progress and achievements, homework tasks, attendance and timetables. Schools may also showcase pupils' work, providing improved communications links between pupils, parents and teachers.

Glow provides regular updates throughout the year on developments, including Curriculum for Excellence. Its dedicated parent area can be used to feedback thoughts, questions and suggestions to your child's school, providing parents with the opportunity to share their views on key issues.

How does a parent get access?

Parents, like all users, will need a unique login to access Glow. You should contact your child's school in the first instance to see if this is available yet and to have this set up for you. All local authorities are working to their own roll-out plans so it may not be available to all pupils or parents yet. What you see on Glow at a local authority and school level will be different from that which your child sees.

How is it monitored?

Every user has a unique login and activities on the site can be monitored at a school or local authority level. All children can report anything inappropriate through a link on every page. Your child will only be able to access information that is relevant and age appropriate for them.

How secure is it?

Users login using a unique username and password. We use a safe and secure technology to ensure that personal information is never shared, and users can only engage within a trusted federation of educational websites and services. No-one can ever be anonymous in Glow, so any comments or work they post can be always traced to the source.

For more information on Glow or for advice for parents, go to:

LTScotland.org.uk >

cookbooks.glowscotland.org.uk/cookbooks >

ltsblogs.org.uk/glowscotland >

ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone >

parentingacrossscotland.org >

sptc.info >

Learning +Teaching Scotland