

# Digital Learning Strategy

2017-2020



Community Services: Education

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## 1. Introduction

Digital technology is embedded in all aspects of modern life. Children, young people and adults alike have access to technologies today that are transforming how and where they connect, share, work and play in innovative and exciting ways. Children and young people are growing up in a world surrounded by technology. A digital lifestyle has become the norm.

Argyll and Bute is economically fragile due to the highly rural environment. Our economic future must have digital learning and people with digital skills at its heart.

The Scottish Government launched a Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy in September 2016. Their vision is for Scotland's educators, learners and parents to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technology. In order to raise attainment, ambition and opportunities for all. Conditions must be created to realise this vision and unlock the potential of digital technology in schools. The number of key curriculum developments within digital learning requires teachers and learners to be confident and competent in the use of technology. Argyll and Bute establishments, staff and pupils must be ready to embrace the changes that will inevitably take place. Digital Learning within Education in Argyll and Bute is more than just providing students with a device it is:

- a combined use of technology, use of digital content, creation of digital content and teaching;
- a recognition that technology is the tool, not the teacher, and
- using technology to deliver learning that engages and motivates pupils.

In response to the 2017 internet safety strategy, the 5Rights civil society movement that articulates the existing rights of children and young people in a digital environment created the “5Rights framework” offering a rights-based approach to children and young people’s online experience.

The demand to create a better digital environment for young people is often synonymous with a call to curtail access. 5Rights does not support this view. Children and young people consider access desirable and essential. We agree and therefore welcome the rapid growth of the digital environment on terms that meet the needs of young people. Every child should be able to access the digital world creatively, knowledgeably and fearlessly. 5Rights’ response to the Internet Safety Strategy considers the rights and needs of children and young people in the digital environment.



The 5Rights include:

- The Right to Remove
- The Right to Know
- The Right to Safety & Support
- The Right to Informed & Conscious Use
- The Right to Digital Literacy

The full 5Rights Framework can be viewed at <https://5rightsframework.com/the-5-rights/>

Teachers are essential to digital learning. Technology may change the role of the teacher but it will never eliminate the need for a teacher. The growth and development of different types of digital learning is rapid and constantly changing.

Argyll and Bute Education Service's aspiration in "Our Children Their Future", is to ensure that Argyll and Bute is the best place in Scotland for our children to grow up.

This vision will be delivered for all our children through the following 6 key objectives.

We will:

- raise educational attainment and achievement for all;
- use performance information to secure improvement for children and young people;
- ensure children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed;
- equip young people to sustain positive destinations and achieve success in life;
- strengthen partnership working and community engagement, and
- strengthen leadership at all levels.

## **2. Digital Learning in Argyll and Bute**

Digital learning will play a key role in delivering the vision and these objectives. Across Argyll and Bute digital learning is delivered and experienced in a range of settings, including:

- Early Learning and Child Care;
- Primary and secondary schools;
- Youth learning services, and
- Partnerships with local colleges and business partners.

The size of schools varies significantly across the authority with primary school rolls ranging from under 5 to around 400, and secondary school rolls ranging from around 25 to over 1300.

There are currently 25 primary schools with a roll of fewer than 20 pupils.

The number of devices across the Education estate totals 5403 computers (Primary estate 2313, Secondary estate 3090) and 1877 iPads.

Despite these challenges a number of schools have achieved national recognition for work in computer programming, games design and use of technology. Examples of this work can be found at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/sal>.

Argyll and Bute Education Services continue to support digital learning as an important feature of the delivery of high quality learning and teaching. The Digital Learning team currently consists of Education Officer, Education Support Officer, Digital Technician and 2 Modern Apprentices.

From 2010, the IT service embarked on an ambitious plan which laid the foundations for learning technologies across Argyll and Bute education establishments. This included investment in wireless technologies, ipads, the Pathfinder North Network, rolling refresh of education hardware, deployment of a single Microsoft licence, domain extension and Lync pilot. It is recognised that digital learning is constantly evolving and a new strategy action plan is required to build on these developments.

The existing positive working relationship with IT, a fast and reliable education network and continued investment in our infrastructure are vitally important to the successful implementation of our strategy. Education and IT work closely to facilitate digital learning, support the development of digital leaders and the provision of digital opportunities and experiences for our learners.

Our strategy includes a renewed Vision for Digital Learning. Learners are at the heart of our vision, by learners we mean all learners, pupils, staff and the community.

Our 3 year strategic action plan is structured around the following 4 objectives which clearly support the 6 Education outcomes outlined on page 2:

- Develop the skills and confidence of educators and learners in the appropriate and effective use of digital technology in learning, life and work;
- Improve opportunities and access to digital technology for all learners enabling them all to develop as digital leaders;
- Ensure that digital technology is a central consideration in all areas of curriculum and assessment delivery, and
- Empower leaders of change to drive innovation and investment in digital technology for learning and teaching;

### **3. Digital Learning - Our Vision**

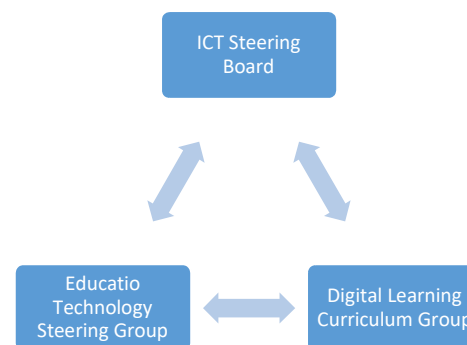
We will ensure that digital learning in Argyll and Bute:

- reshapes learning environments to increase motivation, engagement and empowers learners;
- provides our young people with the skills required to contribute to the rapidly growing global digital economy including jobs which don't exist yet;

- supports our young people to acquire the skills, attributes and competencies necessary to flourish in life, learning and work now and in the future.
- provides exciting computer science and technology related learning opportunities for our young people, which will allow them to have the knowledge to create in addition to just being consumers of technology, and
- strives to increase the technology employment opportunities available locally giving our young people a choice in where they live and work.



## 4. Digital Learning Strategic Groups



Given the ever evolving nature of emerging digital technologies it is imperative that we communicate effectively with staff, pupils, parents and partners to successfully move towards achieving our vision.

The following groups will ensure that the education resources digital learning team continue to work closely with colleagues from schools and IT to implement our action plan.

