

## Background

A Chromebook is type of device rapidly growing in popularity in education; it is essentially a Google Chrome Browser in a highly portable laptop style device. When used in education - the devices can be set so pupils are required to login with a school or local authority provided account.

Normal software cannot be installed onto the Chromebook like on a Windows device but you do have access to a wide range of educational apps and also, of course, the usual browser based content, tools and services. Any updates are installed without disruption and anti-virus software is not required. Logging into Glow on a Chromebook provides access to all Glow tools and services.

They are very light, portable and due to the very minimal operating software they boot up to desktop in a few seconds - a very attractive feature for educational purposes, especially in a classroom setting. Operating time on battery can be up to 13 hours. Depending on the model, they can have HDMI, USB, SD Card ports which mean they can connect to projectors or peripheral devices easily.

## Chromebooks in Aberdeenshire

In Aberdeenshire's schools we have linked our Glow accounts to Google's G Suite. This means that everyone who has a Glow account can have a matching Google account which is used to log onto the Chromebooks. Passwords are also synchronised between the two systems, so if you reset your password in Glow, Google will also be changed and vice-versa. Chromebooks are ideal for shared use, due to their fast boot up and log on times. Also, since each user has their own login account, work will remain separate between users. Chromebooks have very little on-board storage space, so everything is saved to Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive within Glow.

## Transition and Transformation

G Suite for Education are the standard set of tools provided by Google to run on Chromebooks. These can also be used on a standard PC, Mac or tablet through the web browser. Schools who use G Suite for Education tools prior to using a Chromebook will help users become familiar with the core apps and collaborative tools. When they access a device in school, they can just log in with their username and their entire content tools and service will be available to them. As a transition activity this is invaluable, using G Suite on managed PCs or personal devices, then using G Suite on the Chromebook is seamless.

## A Tool for Learning

Chromebooks are designed for multiple users with each user having access to their own content, tools and services. No documents or apps with contents are accessible to another user of that Chromebook. This also means that if a user logs on at school on another device, all their content and services will still be available. G Suite apps such as Google Classroom can also work on personal devices such as an Android, iPad or iPhone or even at home.

## Apps not Software

There are thousands of educational apps that can be instantly rolled out to the Chromebooks in a school. The apps exist the web browser and not the device itself, so no installation is required. Most apps are free. Remember that standard Windows software cannot be installed onto Chromebooks, so alternatives may have to be found. Resources that run in the web browser, however, can generally be used on Chromebooks.

The Chromebook can be used for some digital exams. Websites such as SOLAR are compatible and test/research sites such as ePIPS, InCAS, SNSA or SSLN have full functionality. Currently, completing PDF digital exam papers on Chromebooks can be tricky. If you require this functionality please ensure you have sufficient Windows computers for the time being.

## In Summary

- You have the 'swappability' factor! Chromebooks support secure multi-user access through simple logins.
- They are secure, always requiring a Glow account to log in.
- Battery life is a minimum of 13 hours and charge time is about an hour
- They can't run normal Windows software, so might not be suitable for every situation
- Chromebooks are sleek at less than an inch thin and very light. It is fan-free for whisper-quiet classroom or library usage.
- They boot up in a few seconds, reducing teacher stress and valuable teaching time
- They require less technical support from ICT meaning greater availability
- Completing PDF digital exams on Chromebooks is not recommended at this stage

For more information, please click the links to Google's literature below.

[Chrome Devices](#) - [Google for Education Training](#) - [Privacy & Security](#)

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