Literacy and ICT

Technology offers many ways to support and improve literacy. It is important for parents and carers to keep a close eye on what their young people are accessing online. Below are ways in which technology can be used effectively and safely for literacy. If you have any concerns in this area, you may find these websites useful:

* [National Action Plan on Internet Safety for Children and Young People](http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/1061)
* [UK Safer Internet Centre](https://saferinternet.org.uk/) – Find e-safety tips, advice and resources to help children and young people stay safe online
* [Think U Know](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/) – Guide to internet safety and safe surfing for young people

School Linked Software

Glow

Microsoft Office 365 Home

Show My Homework

Social Media e.g. Facebook, Twitter…

Glow for Learners 

 <https://glowconnect.org.uk/>

All pupils are given a login for Glow that lets them access a number of very useful applications that can support their literacy in particular and learning in general. Glow allows learners to work in a variety of ways, from working with other learners to working individually at their own pace. Glow services are free to all students with a Glow login and can be accessed at anytime, anywhere, and on any device.

Benefits of Glow for learners

* **Office 365** – Glow provides full access to Microsoft’s Office suite including: Mail, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, OneDrive and SharePoint. As well as using this service online through Glow, [learners can download a full version of Office 365 at no cost](https://glowconnect.org.uk/help-hub/microsoft-office-365/office-365-proplus/). This can develop their skills with Office applications, support their learning outside school and use collaborative tools such as Sway to create and share interactive presentations demonstrating their learning both inside and outwith Glow.
* **G Suite** – G Suite for Education is a set of cloud-based productivity tools for communication and collaboration. G Suite for Education in Glow is a managed service that offers the following core services: Classroom, Drive, Docs, Hangouts, Calendar, Sites and Vaults. These tools can be used to support learning both inside and outwith the classroom and support collaboration between learners.
* **Collaborative working** – Glow is a cloud-based service, meaning learners can work both individually and collaboratively on documents, projects and homework from any connected device.
* **Anywhere, anytime learning** – Learners can access the resources and features of Glow using any device at any time. This means that learning can continue outside the classroom on any device that is connected to the internet
* **Glow Blogs** – Glow Blogs allows learners to build their own blogs, giving them experience of developing an online community which they can keep private or share with other Glow users.

All of these encourage and support learners’ literacy through developing their communication skills.

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**Microsoft Office 365 Home**

The Microsoft Office software suite enables users to access documents and create their own texts: very useful skills for improving literacy. As well as being available online through your young person’s Glow account, they are also able to download a free full version of the suite for use offline. We would recommend that our learners take advantage of this if they have a suitable PC.

**Show my Homework**

“Show my Homework” is the app through which staff issue and track homework. In some instances, it will also be submitted via this app. As a parent/carer you too will be able to access it via a unique login. This allows you to see the sort of homework being issued to your young person as well as checking if they are handing it in on time. Ms Wood and Mr Sargent are in charge of this and are happy to support you in any way.

**Social Media**

Lochend has a high profile on social media, across Facebook and Twitter in particular. Please follow us to see what’s happening in the wider school and for tips to help you support your young person with their literacy.

External Websites

It can be difficult to identify suitable websites from all that are available. Below are links to a wide range which can be used by parents and young people to support their literacy. All of these have free resources and while some are US based, they still have useful materials and information. We have also included sites which may be of use to younger brothers and sisters. Supporting others is an excellent way of reinforcing literacy skills.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

<https://ed.ted.com/> (ideal for improving listening skills and providing opportunities for discussions)

<https://www.smartspeechtherapy.com/>

<http://literacyapps.literacytrust.org.uk/> (for younger siblings)

[This Photo](https://techworld4u.wordpress.com/2011/11/08/how-to-surf-internet-through-a-calculator/) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com>

<https://improvingliteracy.org/family> (USA)

<https://jamesdysonfoundation.co.uk>

<http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/>

<https://www.sparklebox.co.uk/>

<https://www.adultliteracyleague.org/resources/> (most suitable for senior students)

<http://www.readwritethink.org/> (has parental resource section)

[https://www.khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org/)

<https://www.noredink.com/>

The BBC website has excellent materials specifically developed for Curriculum for Excellence. These cover all levels and are found in the “Bitesize” section of the site. There are also materials targeted at adults which may be useful for older learners.

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z7mtsbk> (BGE, video clips)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise/english/zjg4scw>

Newspapers are an excellent source of reading material that will help to improve not only your young person’s vocabulary but also their ability to cope with complex ideas and texts.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/>

<https://metro.co.uk/tag/glasgow/>

Many websites exist which will read aloud written text. Most require that the text be copied and pasted onto them. Some require payment but those listed below can be accessed without cost.

<https://www.naturalreaders.com/online/> - a basic but very effective version is available free online. This has many excellent features and can be particularly helpful for those with dyslexic type difficulties.

<https://www.getspeechify.com/> - by adding an extension (the website takes you through this clearly) to Google Chrome browser, you have the option to have all web pages read aloud. There is also an app available for iOS and Android.

Apps

While a lot of people use apps for social media and gaming, there are also many available which will support literacy. An excellent list is available at:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/literacyapps>

Bear – only available for Apple devices, this is writing software which encourages notetaking and produces stylish texts. While there is a paid version, the free one has many excellent uses and features.

Evernote: Evernote lets you save projects, documents, notes, lists, webpages, photos, audio and more and syncs them across all your devices so you can access them anywhere. It’s available for Android and iOS, on the web, and for Windows and Mac computers.

Kindle – although this is an app from a commercial site (Amazon), there are many free books available to download.

Quizlet: by creating or using digital cue cards, users are able to improve their literacy while working on all of their subjects.

Text2speech all three of these enable text to be copied to the app and then read

Text to Speech back to the listener. “Speechify” is possibly the most user friendly and

Speechify versatile.

Word of the Day – this simple app provides a new word every day with a definition. Users can also review previous words.