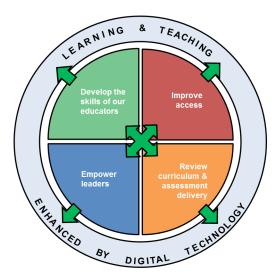# ENHANCING LEARNING AND TEACHING THROUGH THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

A DIGITAL LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Scottish Government is committed to delivering excellence and equity in Scottish education. The use of digital technology can make a significant contribution to this commitment. If used appropriately and effectively, digital technology can **enhance learning and teaching** across all parts of Curriculum for Excellence; equip all of our learners with **vital digital skills**; and lead to **improved educational outcomes**.

This strategy seeks to ensure that these benefits are realised by focusing actions around four essential and interrelated objectives that are central to successful digital learning and teaching.

- **Develop the skills and confidence of educators in the appropriate and effective use of digital technology to support learning and teaching**

- **Improve access to digital technology for all learners**

- **Ensure that digital technology is a central consideration in all areas of curriculum and assessment delivery**

- **Empower leaders of change to drive innovation and investment in digital technology for learning and teaching**

The strategy sets out national level actions under each objective. These actions include a **refresh of the Experiences and Outcomes** in the Technologies area of Curriculum for Excellence, commencing September 2016 with a focus on digital skills; and a **strengthening of references to digital technology and skills in Professional Standards** set by GTCS, which will begin early in 2017. In addition to the national level actions, the strategy also sets out a number of expectations of our local authorities and education establishments. Taken as a whole, these actions and expectations will form the foundations that will enable all of Scotland's learners, educators and parents to take advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technology in order to raise attainment, ambition and opportunities for all.

Smarter Scotland
Scottish Government

The Role of the Scottish Government and National Bodies

To help to achieve our objectives, the Scottish Government and national level delivery partners will work with local partners to:

DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF OUR EDUCATORS

- Ensure Professional Standards for Registration and for Career Long Professional Learning reflect the importance of digital technology and skills.

- Ensure that Initial Teacher Education (ITE) providers instil the benefits of using digital technology to enhance learning and teaching in their students, in line with GTCS Standards for Registration.

- Ensure that a range of formal and informal professional learning opportunities are available to educators at all stages to equip them with the skills and confidence to use digital technology appropriately and effectively, in line with GTCS Standards for Career Long Professional Learning.

IMPROVE ACCESS

- Continue national investment into initiatives that support digital access in education establishments.

- Provide guidance at a national and local level around learner access to digital technology.

- Promote approaches to digital infrastructure in education that put users' needs at the heart of the design.

- Encourage and facilitate the development of partnerships that will improve digital access and digital skills development opportunities for our learners.

REVIEW CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT DELIVERY

- Ensure aspects of Curriculum for Excellence relating to the use of digital technology and the development of digital skills are relevant, ambitious and forward looking.

- Support, develop and embed approaches to assessment that make effective use of digital technology.

EMPOWER LEADERS

- Ensure that the vision laid out in this strategy is adequately captured in Professional Standards, self-evaluation guidance and inspections of educational provision in Scotland.

- Support local leaders and decision makers to lead change in their local contexts through accessing and sharing relevant research in order to identify effective approaches to the use of digital technology in education.

The Role of Local Authorities

DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF OUR EDUCATORS

- Provide their educators with access to a range of career long professional learning opportunities to support digital learning and teaching.
- Actively share experiences, information and opportunities that will support the professional development of their educators.

IMPROVE ACCESS

- Have an ambitious strategy regarding the use of digital technology in education and actively look for opportunities to continually invest in a sustainable digital infrastructure; including the procurement of appropriate digital devices.
- Ensure that digital technology is a key consideration in all local authority investment programmes pertaining to improvements in the education estate.
- Facilitate dialogue between local authority IT and education departments to ensure that education establishments receive appropriate and effective digital access and that the future needs of learners are proactively and regularly considered.
- Support education establishments in delivering digital access to all learners.
- Actively participate in Education Scotland's 'Digital Leaders Group' and look to share knowledge across local authority boundaries.
- Ensure that all learners and educators within the local authority area can access relevant digital tools and services by assigning them with a Glow login.

REVIEW CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT DELIVERY

- Actively work with SQA to help develop and improve approaches to digital assessment.
- Support education establishments in delivering the revised technologies area of Curriculum for Excellence, with particular focus on digital literacy and Computing Science.
- Support education establishments in identifying how digital technology can be used to enhance learning and teaching across all curriculum areas.

EMPOWER LEADERS

- Develop local strategies that will help educational leaders to ensure that all learners can benefit from an education enhanced by digital technology.
- Provide access to a range of career long professional learning opportunities for educational leaders, allowing them to make informed decisions about the best use of digital technology to enrich education and promote digital skills development.
- Actively share knowledge and examples of how digital technology can enrich education and facilitate digital skills development across education establishments and local authority boundaries.

The Role of our Education Establishments

DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF EDUCATORS

- Encourage educators to share innovative and effective practice both face to face and through digital platforms.
- Ensure that students and newly qualified staff are sufficiently supported in the appropriate and effective use of digital technology.
- Look for opportunities to use digital technology to engage with parents and carers, allowing them to understand the benefits of digital technology in education.
- Ensure that appropriate career long professional learning opportunities are offered to a range of educators.
- Ensure learners are involved in sharing their digital experiences and skills and that they are given opportunities to comment on the use of digital technologies to deliver learning and teaching.

IMPROVE ACCESS

- Work with the local authority to obtain appropriate digital hardware and software that can support learning and teaching.
- Ensure all learners including those with additional support needs are able to access appropriate digital technology for learning and teaching.
- Ensure that all learners become resilient users of digital technology and can stay safe online.

REVIEW CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT DELIVERY

- Ensure that the use of digital technology is a central consideration in the planning and delivery of any learning and teaching across Curriculum for Excellence.
- Provide a range of opportunities for learners to develop their digital skills across Curriculum for Excellence.
- Work to identify opportunities to enhance assessment using digital technologies.

EMPOWER LEADERS

- Ensure that the use of digital within their establishment aligns closely with evolving self-assessment and improvement guidance such as 'How Good is Our School'.
- Actively seek to identify existing expertise within the staff complement and ensure that their knowledge is shared with senior leaders at the establishment.
- Ensure that cyber resilience and internet safety is central to all digital technology use in the establishment.
- Involve parent councils and parent/carer groups in discussions around the use of digital technology to help realise anytime/anywhere learning.