

## Enhancing Parental Engagement through Digital Technology

### Kirkton of Largo Primary School – Fife

#### Introduction

Digital technology is at the heart of learning for pupils at Kirkton of Largo Primary School and this is summarised in their 2016 Technologies Policy:

The majority of children in Kirkton of Largo Primary school are at ease using technology and from an early start they increase their skills to present, communicate, create, share, edit, photograph, find out, explore and research. We encourage the use of digital learning to enhance and supplement learning and teaching experiences. Children are developing skills to manage their own learning now, for future study and into the world of work. By maintaining e-portfolios, children are keeping a record of their skills and experiences and are evaluating these in a reflective manner which leads to improvement. We recognise we are living in an ever changing digital world and want to equip our children with transferable skills and allow them to think about digital solutions to existing problems. We want our children to be digital creators rather than mere consumers.<sup>1</sup>

With pupil's digital skills developing, it became a natural step to change paper Learning Logs to a digital version. This developed and resulted in each pupil creating a blog/e-portfolio to share their learning. The e-portfolios provided a different way for parents to engage with their child's learning and develop the link between home and school.

#### E-Portfolios to Enhance Parental Engagement

Many schools have Learning Logs in paper form, whereby pupils wrote about their learning alongside printed photographs and photocopied evidence of work. This became an onerous task for staff and pupils, with pupils commenting that it was something that they did not enjoy.

As the school began to explore the tools available within the first version of Glow, staff created class blogs for pupils and staff to share learning digitally. Pupils engaged with this way of sharing their learning and were excited to share the blog at home with their parents. Pupils from Primary One to Primary Seven were able to contribute to the blog, by typing a post or using audio recording tools to publish their work. Staff were able to share photographs and videos of learning experiences with ease and pupils continued their learning through discussions in comments.

The staff evaluated the use of paper Learning Logs, listening to feedback from pupils and parents, and with the update to Glow, staff developed personal blogs to create e-portfolios for every pupil in the school. Once created, pupils began to record their learning through typed posts, audio recordings, photographs and videos, with staff also contributing to support the sharing of learning. Parents are encouraged to upload photos and contribute to their child's e-portfolio with many pupils now sharing achievements from home on their e-portfolio.

Parents were invited into school to learn about the e-portfolios, with their children demonstrating how to access and add posts. Since the e-portfolios were rolled out across the school, staff have held e-portfolio training and update sessions for parents each year to ensure that all parents are confident accessing the e-portfolio and understand how their child is using the e-portfolio to document their learning.

Parents have commented on the ease of access and the media rich content of the e-portfolios. For one parent, whose child has Additional Support Needs, this has enabled them to be part of their child's learning journey and helped them to support learning at home through watching videos of their child engaging with different learning activities.

Using e-portfolios across the school has helped parents to be part of their child's learning journey. The success of the e-portfolios created by the school have been used by Fife Council as a basis to create an e-portfolio solution for all pupils across Fife.

<sup>1</sup><https://sway.office.com/iwXI5KnMZSJvn6R7?ref=Link>