

# Glow Position Statement

---

## Glow's purpose within Scottish Education

This position statement sets out the purpose of the Glow service and its role in supporting, enhancing and enriching learning and teaching.

### Vision

The vision for the Glow service is aligned to that of the Digital Learning and Teaching Strategy for Scotland.

***'Glow is the national educational intranet for Scotland. It supports Scotland's learners and educators in taking full advantage of and benefiting from the significant opportunities offered by digital technologies'.***

### Strategy Objectives

Glow promotes the delivery of the objectives outlined in the strategy, which are:

- ***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.***

### Glow's Key Purpose

The key purpose of Glow is to:

- provide a suite of services to support curriculum delivery.
- support the acquisition of skills for learning, life and work
- provide equitable access to the most appropriate technologies for all learners
- enable and enhance collaboration across the educational landscape
- provide a national solution and encourage local authority savings through access to appropriate technologies that support learning and teaching
- reduce teacher workload through the provision of excellent and appropriate services

Glow is for children and young people	Glow is for educators
<p>Learners live in a networked world where online social collaboration is part of their everyday lives. Their future working lives will similarly encompass a whole range of digital connections. Where the skills to connect, share, collaborate and adapt to an ever changing range of technologies are at a premium, children and young people who do not possess these skills will be at a disadvantage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glow provides learners with access to a learning environment that adapts and evolves to meet future needs</li> <li>• It offers a protected environment, appropriate for learning</li> <li>• It enables children and young people to gain important skills and experiences that enhance learning. This prepares them for a world of work in which digital skills and competencies are in demand</li> <li>• It actively promotes and encourages the development of independent and responsible learning</li> <li>• It provides equitable access to the most appropriate technologies for all learners</li> <li>• It enables the development of differentiated learning opportunities that remove barriers to learning for children and young people with additional support needs.</li> </ul>	<p>The GTCS Standards for Full Registration state that teachers are expected to “<b>have secure knowledge and understanding of current guidance on the use of digital technologies in schools and know how to use digital technologies competently to enhance teaching and learning</b>”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educators face a challenge in constantly updating their own digital skills, knowledge and practice.</li> <li>• The Glow platform maximizes the efforts of individual teachers through facilitating collaborative learning networks across local authority boundaries</li> <li>• Glow based Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) enable teachers to discuss and share approaches to learning and teaching, as well as opening up access to Education Scotland education officers</li> <li>• Glow supports a deeper understanding of the use of digital technologies and how they can be used to support and enhance learning and teaching across all curriculum areas</li> <li>• Glow provides a protected online environment where teachers, children and young people can connect, share and collaborate in and away from the classroom</li> <li>• Glow enables access to digital services that allow teachers to design and co-design learning resources, along with digital tools that support approaches to assessment and reduce teacher workload.</li> </ul>

## Glow is for education authorities

Education authorities are responsible for delivering a world class education that is engaging, relevant and enjoyable. They are accountable for school improvement.

- The provision of a central, single authentication portal and the choices this offers education authorities in personalising services to meet local needs, is a unique and evolving element of the Glow service.
- Glow ensures best value as time and resources are not unnecessarily wasted as individual authorities or schools seek their own solutions and establish their own support and data protection arrangements.
- Glow supports education authorities in accessing and making available commonly used and relevant services, applications and networking technologies within an online environment that promotes child safety and reduces risk.
- Scottish Government ensures that Glow conforms to agreed standards in relation to the use and security of data, whilst recognising that education authorities are individually responsible for implementing legal requirements and codes of practice relating to the use of information technology

## The role of Education Scotland

Education Scotland manage the Glow service on behalf of Scottish Education.

- Education Scotland ensures that the tools and services available through the Glow platform are educationally relevant and evolve to support the needs of learners and educators.
- Education Scotland encourages collaboration between learners and educators and the generation of user created content that benefits a wider audience.
- Education officers lead the way in developing and supporting professional learning communities that facilitate networking and the sharing of knowledge and resources between educators.
- Glow opens up opportunities for professionals from a range of organisations to become actively involved through partnership work with teachers in supporting learning in Scottish schools. These professionals are sponsored by Education Scotland to ensure that their input is of the highest quality and relevant to Curriculum for Excellence.
- Through Glow Connect, Education Scotland gathers and publishes advice and exemplars of practice, including approaches to e-safety, that illustrate the benefits of the service.
- With its new and enhanced role from 2019 onwards Education Scotland will support and promote even more effective networking opportunities at a local and regional level, in partnership with the Regional Collaboratives. The opportunities to use Glow services and tools in support of this will be promoted by Education Scotland.

## Conclusion

Scotland is amongst a small number of countries to have taken a lead globally in developing a national online learning platform. The Glow platform provides a specifically Scottish solution to comprehensive support for all learners and educators. It is a key enabler of a world-class education system.