Leigh Academy Strood

Digital Learning Policy

Academic year 2025/26

Date of issue	September 2025
Date to be revised	August 2026

Leigh Academy Strood Digital Learning Policy

Vision

'Technology alone is not enough. It's technology married with the liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields the results that makes our hearts sing.'
Steve Jobs

'I'm a great believer that any tool that enhances communication has profound effects in terms of how people can learn from each other, and how they can achieve the kind of freedoms that they're interested in.'
Bill Gates

It is our intention, at Leigh Academies Trust, to create and shape an inclusive and inspirational learning community, with an innovative digital curriculum. Our digital curriculum will be underpinned by the principles of the IB MYP programme and seamlessly embedded in all aspects of academy life through use of our 1:1 device scheme, creating learners who are highly competent in their use of technology and digitally literate. At Leigh Academy Strood, technology will not replace traditional teaching methodologies but instead will augment, and elevate the way that new content and skills are delivered, providing a rich and diverse learning experience for our pupils. Technology will support our pupils to be global citizens.

Technology and IT Infrastructure
Leigh Academy Strood has the necessary infrastructure to wholly support a digital curriculum from the outset. In addition to the necessary wired and wireless networks, there are computer rooms with desktop facilities for pupils to access and all pupils have a 1:1

Chromebook as part of their compulsory equipment and are expected to use these in lessons and for independent study when appropriate. The Leigh Academies Trust is a Google organisation meaning staff and pupils have access to the Google Suite and use this as their primary source of software. Google Classroom is the approved platform from which we deliver online learning for specific subjects, homework tasks, intervention and where necessary remote lessons. The Chromebook devices are considered equipment for pupils as stated in our behaviour policy.

The intended Digital Curriculum will ensure:
- Provide opportunities to develop digital literacy, problem solving and critical and creative thinking.
- Pupils have access to the world beyond the academy, maximising their exposure to local and global contexts to solidify understanding of concepts.
- Every teaching class has a Google Classroom through which they can access resources and learning tasks both within and beyond lessons.
- Teachers upload worksheets, tasks, Google Slides, extension tasks, linked videos/ YouTube clips, alternative instructions to the pupils Google Classroom.
- Opportunities for pupils to engage with a variety of multimedia learning platforms independently.

The intended Digital Curriculum will not:
- Replace exercise books - pupils will be expected to complete written work by hand, including assessments, unless a digital medium is a course requirement.
- Replace pupils opportunities or dedicated time to develop their handwriting skills, freewriting and 'self checking' skills for SPaG.
- Replace the teacher as the main point of instruction and support - teachers will not become mere facilitators but will balance the delivery of their curriculum with direct instruction and input, alongside coaching pupils through digital tasks.
- Be used for engagements sake - taking away the focus from the learning that must take place and increasing cognitive load

Digital Curriculum Implementation

- Pupils are given time to gain their Google Workspace Skills awards in Bronze, Silver and Gold to ensure they are able to gain the skills needed to access Google Workspace tools effectively.
- All lessons will be uploaded to a digital classroom. All lesson material is clearly labelled and organised by topic, with the most recent lessons at the top.

| Stream | Classwork | People | Marks |

A Christmas Carol (Literature)

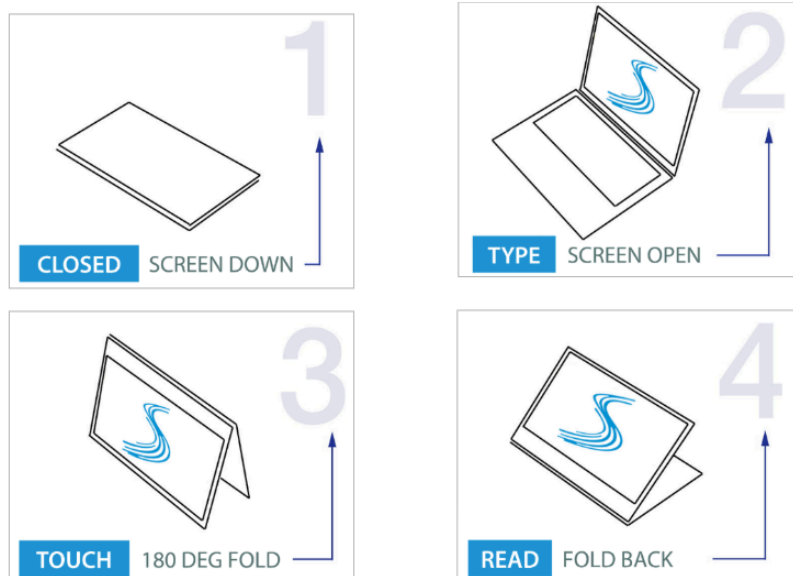| | 7. ACC - GAP | Posted 28 Mar |
	6. Fezziwig, the antithesis of Scrooge	Posted 5 Feb
	5. ACC Assessment	Posted 30 Jan
	ACC - Supernatural Assignment	Due 30 Jan, 23:59
	4. The theme of FAMILY	Posted 23 Jan
	3. The introduction of Marley (gothic feat...	Posted 16 Jan
	1. How is Scrooge presented in the exposi...	Posted 8 Jan
	Full text: ACC	Posted 8 Jan

- All pupils will have a Digital Exercise Book, in addition to their physical exercise book, to show classwork completed digitally. Pupils that are 'laptop learners' work digitally using their Digital Exercise Book. All 'laptop learners' will be decided in collaboration with our SEND department.
- Links: Digital Exercise Books: Teacher set up Digital notebook book template

Pupils will be expected to follow Chromebook Modes within the lessons.

1 CLOSED SCREEN DOWN

2 TYPE SCREEN OPEN

3 TOUCH 180 DEG FOLD

4 READ FOLD BACK

Training and Digital Levels

All teaching staff receive necessary training to become proficient in using Google Workspace. All teachers should either complete the Google Level 1 certification or reach the Gold standard for Google Workspace Skills. The academy staff come together through Wednesday CPD sessions to share best practice. The Leigh Academies Trust also provides ongoing support and a toolkit of resources via their termly Leigh Academies Trust Digital Update to further enhance all teachers' understanding of how to use technology in the classroom.

Link: https://lat.sharepoint.com/sites/ITServices/SitePages/LAT-Digital-Toolkit.aspx

Using feedback from the academy's baseline Digital Levels Survey, the Academy's Digital Lead will continue to drive training opportunities to further upskill staff. The Digital Levels score of the Leigh Academy Strood from March 2025 was 4.25. It is the academy's goal to have the highest score in the trust.

Digital Wellbeing

As part of our commitment to ensuring pupils at Leigh Academy Strood are model Digital Citizens, the academy's Personal Development and IT curriculum includes opportunities to systematically teach pupils about E-safety and online etiquette. The academy has access to a wealth of resources for pupils, staff and parents to ensure they are educated on all aspects of online safety as per the Leigh Academies Trust's Online Safety Policy.

The academy also recognises the need to ensure that staff and pupils have a balanced use of screen time and will actively promote opportunities for children to access traditional teaching and learning methodologies where use of technology would simply substitute, not augment, modify or redefine the task. Devices will not be used by pupils during social times (apart from in homework clubs) and the academy will continue to work with families about ways to effectively manage screen time beyond the academy.

Quality Assurance

As part of our ongoing quality assurance framework the academy will continuously monitor and review the effectiveness and impact of technology in the classroom and beyond. This will be done by:
- Ensuring 100% of teaching staff complete their Google workspace skills and/or Level 1 Certified Google Educator training when they join the academy
- Effective deployment of the Digital Lead Practitioner with robust line management to ensure their role is impactful and driving standards in use of technology

- Learning walks and observations by middle and senior leaders against which coaching feedback will be provided to drive standards and identify model practitioners to support others.
- Routine evaluations from pupils and staff voice about the use of platforms such as Sparks Maths, Book Creator, Read and Write and SENECA to support learning and embed consistency across subjects and curriculum
- Line management meetings that systematically review the types and quality of resources, platforms and digital toolkits used by departments at a subject specific level
- Academy wide sharing of best practice through leadership meetings, staff briefings and academy CPD to develop consistency in the standard of technological approaches