

UPSKILLING OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR DIGITAL FUTURES

Guide for education colleagues

The problem

- Inequitable digital access and insufficient digital skill development limits young people's access to education, services, and wellbeing support.
- The digital divide reinforces existing inequalities, especially for children from low-income families, rural communities, and minoritised groups.
- Schools struggle to promote digital inclusion and provide all pupils with the digital skills they need, leaving some children at a disadvantage in education and wider society.

What you can do as school staff

- **Audit and address digital access gaps** within your school community (e.g., device loans, data support, homework policies).
- **Integrate digital literacy and safety across the curriculum**, covering topics such as thinking critically about information, cybersecurity, and online safety.
- **Upskill staff through continuing professional development (CPD)** on digital technologies, AI, and inclusive teaching practices to boost confidence and innovation.
- **Support place-based partnerships** (e.g., with libraries, charities, or tech providers) to co-deliver training and improve family access to digital tools.
- **Encourage creative digital expression** (e.g., game design, digital storytelling, coding) to build confidence and connect learning to real-world skills.

Evidence-based insights

1 in 5 children lacked internet access during the pandemic, with long-lasting consequences for education, mental health, and opportunity.

Almost **half** of young people are teaching themselves digital skills.

Examples of good practice that you may wish to explore:

Living Well Schools

A digital hub connecting schools to tailored health and wellbeing services, helping address the digital divide and health inequity in education.

#Speakout

A student-led campaign tackling online harassment through education, surveys, and youth-informed digital safety strategies.

Impact Gamers

A non-profit engaging young people in digital creativity by teaching game development and integrating tech skills into the curriculum.

NCCE West Yorkshire Computing Hub

The hub upskills teachers and provides support to schools to help prepare students for a digital future.

Check out the innovative approaches outlined in this briefing and **consider implementing these practices into your school.**



Scan the QR Code for the report

Please share this guide and start a discussion in your school about how we can all play our role in building a country that works for all children and young people.