



Digital resources for the new school year



In the calendar year to date, we have had over 7,000 teachers access our online courses on digital technologies in teaching and learning. Many teachers, looking for support on how to teach remotely, accessed our 'Online Teaching' course (which is still available), while many others explored our other term-time courses looking to develop new skills and find tools to help them support pupils' learning during this challenging time.

One of the key skills involved in using digital technologies is knowing how and where to find high quality content. With that in mind, here is a reminder of three key resources for teaching, learning and assessment which are suitable for use in any classroom:

1. Scoilnet (www.scoilnet.ie)

Scoilnet contains thousands of resources, selected by Irish teachers and mapped to the primary curriculum.

Where to start:

- Select a topic you will be teaching this year, 3D shapes perhaps. Using the resource finder, select suitable resources for your class level and add each one to a 'Scoilnet Learning Path'. A Scoilnet Learning Path allows you to create a list of resources as one unique URL, which you can share with your pupils.
- Explore Scoilnet's themepages. These are very popular and contain suggested links in a collection around specific topics.

2. World Book Online (accessed via www.scoilnet.ie)

World Book Online is an authoritative and safe source of information for classroom work, homework and learning remotely.

Where to start?

- Access World Book Online, enter the Kids section and use the search bar to

select information on a topic. Try World War II. Explore the resources and assign articles to pupils and groups to explore independently. (The 'read aloud' setting is particularly useful for students with special educational needs).

- Select the 'For Educators' section on the Kids home page. Under Educator Tools explore Webquests. Webquests are a fun way of developing pupils' independent research skills.
- Did you know that World Book Online is now available as Gaeilge? Select any article and under Tools, translate the article to Irish (or another language!).

3. Webwise (www.webwise.ie)

Developing safe and responsible internet use skills among pupils has never been more important. Webwise is the Irish Internet Safety Awareness Centre and contains information, advice and free resources for teachers and parents on the topic of internet safety.

Where to start?

- Explore HTML Heroes and select a topic for your class. Try 'What Can I Trust Online' or 'Respectful Online

Communication'. Read the lessons and teacher instructions. Consider flipping the classroom by asking pupils to watch the videos at home before teaching the topic in class.

- Sign up for Safer Internet Day 2020 (www.saferinternetday.ie). Teaching HTML Heroes is a great first step for this.

Whatever resources you choose to support pupil learning this year, make sure you use trusted sources and content that is easily accessible by pupils.

For more resources and information check out www.pdst.ie and www.pdst.ie and the interactive digital learning framework at www.dlplanning.ie.

New online course!

During school closures we asked teachers on our online courses what areas they most needed support with. How to use digital technologies to provide formative assessment feedback to pupils came up frequently. We have now designed a short online course on this topic. The 'Digital Technologies for Assessment Feedback' online course will show you how to use digital technologies to provide formative feedback to pupils, including annotating images as well as providing text and audio feedback to pupils. The course is suitable for beginners and, together with several other online courses, is available for enrolment and access from 5 October via TeacherCPD.ie.

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