

Appendix 2: Schools and education promoting digital inclusion for Lewisham's children and families.

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How schools and education are working to increase digital inclusion in Lewisham

Schools accessing high quality resources

Schools continue to access a range of providers to get knowledge of IT good practice, software, resources, digital platforms, tools and websites for learning. They get up to date information through London Grid for Learning (LGfL) or their preferred provider. They also access a range of free online training through reputable sources.

LGfL in school support, training and conference events are part of the LGfL 'Energise curriculum' service provided at no extra charge for schools. We promote LGfL's excellent guidance on the best digital platforms, in relation to children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) <https://www.lgfl.net/Inclusion/>. They have a new page with resources to support Mental Health & Wellbeing, which we promoted in the newsletter.

Recent courses we have highlighted to teachers have included, for example:

- iPad: Out of the box accessibility features to support all learners
- Cybersecurity Training for School Staff from NCSC
- Computing: How to create your own Scheme of Work with LGfL resources

We are collating a list of resources collated a list of resources (tried and tested by Lewisham teachers), which will be shared on Lewisham Services to Schools

Getting information to parents about cheaper tariffs and devices

We have shared links for families with schools to reputable sites who collate information about low cost Wifi broadband for low income families- through the newsletter, headteacher forums and social media.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/utilities/broadband-and-tv/broadband-for-low-income-families/>

We are also publicising free online safety courses for parents

<https://parentsafe.lgfl.net/#h.7pzzapffhj9q>

We are also publicising Community Connections Lewisham's digital offer. Residents can access free training and borrow reconditioned devices.

<https://communityconnectionslewisham.org/digital-support-in-lewisham/>

Creating digital hubs

Baseline have set up a digital drop-in hub at Unit 19 in Lewisham Shopping Centre in consultation with the Young Mayor's Team. At Unit 19, Baseline provides support and advice for young people aged 16–18 (up to 25 years old for those with additional needs) not in employment, education or training (NEET). Baseline is part of the education department's Access and Inclusion service.

Baseline recognised that the drop-in needed to be in the heart of the community and also to prioritise digital inclusion for the young people who come there. Lewisham Baseline worked in partnership with [Catbytes](#), a Community Interest Company which runs digital drop-ins and loans equipment.

Catbytes sourced laptops for Unit 19 so that young people have digital access to be able to search for jobs and college courses; find apprenticeships; practice and write applications and CVs. Baseline recognise that digital exclusion can be one of the key barriers to many young people's route to employment or training. Some of the young people find themselves digitally challenged and Baseline staff signpost them to online and face-to-face courses, support them to use a for job/course search App and work to remove digital barriers to getting into employment, education or training

The next steps for promoting digital inclusion in schools and education.

March 2023's Executive Director's Briefing for Headteachers will include a substantial item on digital inclusion. This will include a pol to assess which are the key issues inhibiting digital inclusion in schools one year on from Covid and developing a plan on a page for achievable actions to promote digital inclusion in schools.

Lewisham learning will continue to support schools to self-evaluate and set priorities for their digital curriculum and the demands of e learning. Ofsted will continue to judge how well schools are meeting digital needs and the quality of their digital curriculum.