



Digital Strategy Framework

A Quick Guide

2025-2026

Introduction

Welcome to the instructional guide for Madeley School's Digital Strategy. At Madeley School, we are dedicated to preparing our students for a technology-driven future by embracing a 1-to-1 approach. This means every student has access to a tablet device, used to actively enhance their learning experience. Our core goal is to ensure all students are equipped with the essential tools and resources to achieve their full potential.

Our comprehensive digital literacy program is designed to cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and creativity. Students will learn to use technology effectively and responsibly, while also developing a strong understanding of digital citizenship and online safety.

Our commitment is delivered through a four-pillar strategy:

1. **Instructional Design:** Collaborating with teachers to create engaging, relevant, and technology-enriched lessons.
2. **Curriculum Development:** Building a forward-thinking digital literacy curriculum that meets the evolving needs of our students.
3. **Professional Development:** Providing ongoing training for our staff to stay at the forefront of digital learning trends.
4. **Assessment and Evaluation:** Continuously monitoring student progress to ensure our curriculum is effective and goals are being met.

We are confident that this digital strategy will empower our students to become confident, lifelong learners, fully prepared for the demands of college, career, and life beyond Madeley High School.

Pillar 1 - Infrastructure

At Madeley School, our commitment to digital learning is built upon a robust and reliable infrastructure. We leverage state-of-the-art technology to ensure that every classroom and every student has the tools necessary for seamless teaching and learning.

1. **High-Speed Wi-Fi Network:** The foundation of our digital environment is a powerful, high-speed Wi-Fi network. Students, faculty, and staff can enjoy reliable and secure access to online resources and the internet from anywhere across the campus.
2. **ICT Devices Program:** We have implemented a smart device system to enhance school management. This technology assists in tracking attendance, managing student records efficiently, and providing real-time feedback loops between students and teachers.
3. **Data Analytics Platform:** To ensure continuous improvement, we use a data analytics platform. This allows us to identify areas for development, track individual and cohort student progress over time, and make informed decisions about curriculum, teaching strategies, and resource allocation.

4. **Cloud Computing Infrastructure:** Our secure and scalable cloud computing infrastructure provides the necessary storage and processing power for our school community. This is vital for managing large volumes of data, supporting collaborative projects, and helping research.
5. **Collaboration Tools:** We have invested in a suite of collaboration tools to foster communication and teamwork. These include video conferencing platforms, instant messaging systems for staff, and project management software to help students work together effectively.
6. **Security Measures:** Protecting our data and systems is paramount. We have implemented robust security measures, including advanced firewalls, up-to-date antivirus software, and regular, thorough security audits.
7. **Sustainability Initiatives:** Our digital strategy aligns with our commitment to environmental stewardship. We promote energy-efficient practices, encourage digital submission of work to reduce paper use, and advocate for sustainable technology use across the school.
8. **Community Engagement:** We believe in the power of partnership. We actively engage with the local community through hosting technology workshops, participating in local events, and collaborating with businesses to support educational initiatives.
9. **Future-Proofing the Site:** We are continuously investing in our infrastructure to ensure Madeley High School remains at the cutting edge of educational technology. This involves regularly upgrading our network, piloting new and emerging technologies, and adapting our facilities for future learning needs.
10. **Interactive Classroom Technology:** Every classroom is equipped with interactive panels and displays, transforming lessons into dynamic and engaging experiences for both teachers and students.

2. Instructional Design

At the heart of our digital strategy is a commitment to exceptional instructional design. We believe technology should not just be an addition to the classroom, but a tool that fundamentally enhances how teachers teach and students learn.

Our approach involves dedicated collaboration between our digital learning specialists and teaching staff. Together, they design lessons that are not only engaging and relevant but also use technology to promote deeper understanding. This includes integrating multimedia resources, using interactive software, and creating opportunities for students to show their learning in innovative ways. The focus is always on pedagogy first, using technology to bring the curriculum to life and meet the diverse needs of all learners.

3. Curriculum Development

To complement our instructional design, we are developing a forward-thinking digital literacy curriculum. This curriculum is designed to be comprehensive and progressive, ensuring students build essential digital skills year after year.

It goes beyond basic software ability, encompassing critical areas such as online research, data analysis, media creation, and understanding the ethical implications of technology. Crucially, it includes a strong focus on digital wellbeing, teaching students how to navigate the online world safely, responsibly, and positively. This curriculum is a living document, continuously reviewed and updated to reflect the latest technological advancements and prepare our students not just for their next exam, but for a lifetime of digital fluency.

Showbie

At Madeley school, our approach to curriculum delivery is integral with our digital infrastructure. This ensures that all staff, departments and students have a cohesive and structured learning environment. The cornerstone of this strategy is **Showbie**.

Showbie is the central hub for curriculum design, lesson delivery and can be implemented as homework management in some subjects.

Collaborative Curriculum Building.

To ensure we can maintain consistency and quality across all subjects, every department member is expected to actively collaborate in creating a comprehensive and accessible curriculum which can be used in conjunction with Showbie.

Staff upload all teaching resources, including lesson slides, videos, worksheets, revision notes, and assessment questions to Showbie.

Resources are structured to align with the school's long-term plans and schemes of work, ensuring consistency across subjects and year groups.

Shared Ownership: Departments collaborate to share lesson plans and materials to reduce duplication of effort and workload, and promoting best practice across the school.

Lessons Management

Each Class must be systematically set up on Showbie using the following criteria

Subject – Class Code – Teacher – Year

This will ensure students can find the correct Showbie file for the lesson with ease.

Teachers are to create folders of each block/unit/term of work, and colour code for which folders are in use (eg: green for current and grey for past/future)

Lesson tasks are created for each lesson on Showbie, with all resources published for easy identification. The due date for this task will be set for the date and time of the lesson during which it is being used to support easy identification of work for the student.

Student work and submissions

Students work on tasks directly in Showbie, using its annotation tools or uploading their responses.

Submissions are made within the platform, creating a streamlined process for both students and teachers.

Live Marking

Showbie supports the ability to live mark during lessons

Teachers should aim, if appropriate, to live mark and review at-least 3 student submissions per lesson.

Live Feedback can be provided using Showbie annotation, text, or verbal feedback (recorded or in person) to provide immediate, personalised feedback to students work.

The impact of this live marking helps to address misconceptions promptly and encourages students to make real-time improvements.

Monitoring and analysis

Annotation tools: Highlight, Underline, or write comments directly on students' submissions for detailed feedback.

Audio Feedback: Record personalised verbal feedback for students, adding a human touch to your comments.

Overview tool allowed you to have an "at-a-glance" view of class performance including grades and trends in student submissions.

Overview tool can be used to identify patterns, track individual progress, and adjust lesson plans accordingly.

All Staff work onto Showbie and using Showbie to do modelling. Baseline Expectations for Showbie assessment/folders.

Apple Classroom

At Madeley School, Apple Classroom is a core component of our digital strategy, supporting both safeguarding and effective classroom management. It is an essential tool that must be used in any lesson where iPads are in use. Apple Classroom allows teachers to monitor and guide student device activity in real time, ensuring a safe, focused, and controlled learning environment.

Why Apple Classroom Matters

In a 1-to-1 iPad setting, it's critical to ensure that technology enhances learning rather than distracts from it. Apple Classroom empowers teachers with the visibility and control needed to manage digital classrooms confidently and responsibly.

Core Features and Uses

1. Real-Time Monitoring

Teachers can view each student's screen live during the lesson, allowing them to instantly spot off-task behaviour or inappropriate content.

Monitoring encourages accountability and keeps students focused on the task at hand.

2. Screen Control and Guidance

Teachers can lock student iPads into a specific app or webpage to ensure everyone is on the same activity.

With a single tap, teachers can navigate all students to the same resource, website, or digital textbook, reducing wasted time and confusion.

3. Individual and Group Support

Teachers can group students for differentiated activities and control what each group sees on their devices.

This is ideal for tailoring tasks to student ability levels or facilitating group-based learning.

4. Privacy and Safeguarding

Apple Classroom supports safeguarding by providing transparency and oversight in digital lessons.

If a safeguarding concern arises, the teacher has full visibility into the student's activity and can intervene immediately.

The app also promotes a safe digital culture by reinforcing expectations for responsible device use.

5. Efficient Transitions and Pacing

Apple Classroom makes lesson transitions smoother by allowing teachers to launch resources, pause screens, or refocus the class instantly.

This level of control keeps the lesson flowing and minimises downtime.

Expectations at Madeley School

Mandatory Use: Apple Classroom must be used in every lesson where iPads are in use. This includes core subjects, creative lessons, and independent work periods.

Active Monitoring: Teachers should actively monitor devices throughout the lesson to safeguard students and maintain engagement.

Consistent Control: Use the app to guide students through the lesson structure without distractions.

Benefits of Apple Classroom in Practice

Enhances Focus: Students are less likely to stray off-task when they know their screens are visible to the teacher.

Supports Inclusion: Allows for more personalised instruction and support within a managed digital space.

Promotes Responsibility: Reinforces the importance of digital citizenship and respectful technology use.

Improves Safeguarding: Provides staff with a powerful tool to protect students in an increasingly digital learning environment.

Arbor

At Madeley School, Arbor plays a key role in our digital strategy by serving as the central system for managing student information, tracking behaviour, and facilitating communication. While Arbor offers a wide range of advanced features, we focus on a set of core functions that are critical to daily school life and effective classroom management.

1. Registering Attendance

Taking an accurate register at the start of every lesson is essential for safeguarding and monitoring student engagement.

Speed and Accuracy: Arbor's intuitive interface allows staff to register students quickly and efficiently.

Live Data: Attendance records are instantly available to key pastoral and safeguarding staff, ensuring swift follow-up where needed.

Compliance: Regular use ensures the school meets statutory attendance requirements and keeps parents informed.

2. Seating Plans with 'My Classroom'

Customisable Layouts: Teachers can use the My Classroom feature to create visual seating plans that reflect the actual room layout.

Data-Rich Profiles: Hovering over a student shows useful data like SEN status, behaviour history, and academic performance and reading age, helping staff make informed decisions.

Behaviour Monitoring: Seating plans support behaviour management strategies by allowing staff to strategically place students based on need.

3. Behaviour and Pastoral Logging

Arbor enables staff to log both positive and negative behaviour incidents in real time.

Behaviour Events: Log classroom disruptions, missed homework, lateness, and other concerns quickly with relevant context.

Achievements: Recognise and reward positive behaviours, effort, and academic success, helping to reinforce high expectations.

Pastoral Notes: Record safeguarding or wellbeing concerns to support early intervention and multi-agency working when required

Transparency and Accountability: Logs are visible to relevant staff and used to build a view of each student's school experience.

4. Communication with Students and Parents

Effective communication underpins strong home-school relationships, and Arbor makes this simple and reliable.

Email Communication: Teachers and pastoral staff can send targeted messages to individual students or parents directly through Arbor.

Timely Updates: Communicate behaviour incidents, praise, attendance issues, or general updates swiftly and professionally.

Record Keeping: All correspondence is logged automatically, ensuring accountability and traceability.

Expectations at Madeley School

Registers must be completed at the start of every lesson without exception.

Seating plans should be kept up to date and used to inform teaching and behaviour management.

Behaviour and pastoral events must be logged accurately and consistently across all staff.

Communication via Arbor should be timely, purposeful, and professional in tone.

Health, Safety, and Wellbeing in Device Use

At Madeley High School, the use of iPads is carefully managed to ensure that technology enhances learning while safeguarding students' physical health, focus, and overall wellbeing. We are committed to promoting a balanced approach, where digital learning is complemented by non-digital activities and healthy classroom routines.

Planned Screen Breaks

- ❖ Teachers will incorporate regular breaks from screen use within every lesson to reduce eye strain and support student concentration.

Use in Well-Lit Environments

- ❖ Classrooms will remain well-lit during iPad use to minimise visual fatigue and promote safe, comfortable working conditions.

Balanced Learning Approaches

- ❖ Students will continue to complete written work in exercise books and use textbooks regularly alongside digital tasks.
- ❖ This ensures the development of handwriting, note-taking, and broader study skills.

Structured Device Downtime

- ❖ Teachers will build in planned periods where iPads are placed face down or closed.
- ❖ These moments will support direct instruction, class discussion, and reflection without digital distraction.

Staff Modelling and Monitoring

- ❖ Staff will model positive device use and actively monitor students to ensure expectations around health and safety are consistently followed.

Through these measures, Madeley High School ensures that iPad use is safe, purposeful, and balanced, supporting both high-quality learning and student wellbeing.