



**Education
Scotland**
Foghlam Alba

Challenges and Opportunities – a Scottish Perspective

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For Scotland's learners, with Scotland's educators
Do luchd-ionnsachaidh na h-Alba, le luchd-foghlaim Alba

**What do we
Know?**



Scottish Schools

Context:

32 local authorities

- 705,874 learners
- 54,193 teachers
- 5067 schools
 - 2606 ELC
 - 1994 primary schools
 - 358 secondary schools
 - 109 special schools (2022)
- Around 1/3 of schools are considered rural
- Demographic changes, alongside geographical challenges, will require us to think differently about the delivery of education and the role of digital technology

Media use among 3-17s in Scotland in 2022



66% of children in Scotland have their own mobile phone



To go online: 73% use a mobile phone, 66% use a tablet and 37% use a laptop
↓ 44%



96% use video sharing platforms
56% use livestreaming apps/sites
82% use messaging sites/apps



38% of children in Scotland watch live tv
84% watch SVoD



82% watch tv or films on any type of device other than a tv set (85% on a tv set)




60% of children in Scotland play games online

↑↓ Arrow denotes increase/decrease from previous year

Challenges



Threats.....

	Content Child as recipient	Contact Child as participant	Conduct Child as actor	Contract Child as consumer
Aggressive	Violent, gory, graphic, racist, hateful and extremist content	Harassment, stalking, hateful behaviour, unwanted surveillance	Bullying, hateful or hostile peer activity e.g. trolling, exclusion, shaming	Identity theft, fraud, phishing, scams, gambling, blackmail, security risks
Sexual	Pornography (legal and illegal), sexualization of culture, body image norms	Sexual harassment, sexual grooming, generation and sharing of child sexual abuse material	Sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual messages, sexual pressures	Sextortion, trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation, streaming child sexual abuse
Values	Age-inappropriate user-generated or marketing content, mis/disinformation	Ideological persuasion, radicalization and extremist recruitment	Potentially harmful user communities e.g. self-harm, anti-vaccine, peer pressures	Information filtering, profiling bias, polarisation, persuasive design
Cross-cutting	Privacy and data protection abuses, physical and mental health risks, forms of discrimination			

Some statistics.....

In 2022, 63.050 IWF reports included abuse imagery of **seven to ten-year-olds** who were groomed, coerced or exploited online – **a 129% increase on the previous year.**

Self-generated content or content in which the abuser is not present makes up 78% of all reports received by the IWF.

During 2022-23 Police Scotland recorded 1928 online child sexual abuse crimes, a 6.6% increase on the five year mean.

In 2022-23, Police Scotland carried out 709 investigations, recovering both indecent images of children and/or child sexual abuse material.

Almost 4 in 10 children in Scotland aged 8-17 have experienced a person being nasty or hurtful to them, of these, 87% have via any communications technology

Just over 4 in 10 parents in Scotland mostly rely upon talking to their child to keep them safe online, a quarter mostly rely on trusting their child to be sensible



But what about AI?.....

Artificial Intelligence: the good, the bad and the ugly....

Critical thinking and problem solving skills

Mental and emotional support

Physical assistance

Personalised learning and pupil feedback

New learning experiences

Creativity



Reduction in human interaction

Harmful content

Identity protection and cyber threats

Misinformation and bias

Deep fakes, image generation and manipulation

“ The problem with quotes found on the internet is that they’re not always accurate. ”

— ABRAHAM LINCOLN

But what about young people....

- Created using fully clothed photographs of targeted girls
- Around 20 girls aged 11-17 impacted
- 11 boys aged between 12 and 14 involved in either creating or circulating images
- WhatsApp and Telegram apps
- One attempt to extort using a fake image
- Unknown whether images have been uploaded to pornography websites

NEWS

Home | Cost of Living | War in Ukraine | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Culture | Tech

World | Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | Latin America | Middle East | US & Canada

AI-generated naked child images shock Spanish town of Almendralejo

🕒 24 September



María Blanco Rayo's daughter was one of the girls affected

Opportunities



Role of the Scottish Government



National Performance Framework outcome:

- that people grow up loved, safe and respected so that they realise their full potential

The safe use of the internet by Scotland's children and young people is paramount.

Policy development and implementation.

- Digital literacy, including internet safety and cyber resilience, are an integral part of the school curriculum.
- Police Scotland will pursue cases where online illegal content and activity occurs, and work to see those responsible brought to justice.
- National Guidance for Child Protection: Support for local areas to ensure effective, evidence-based responses to concerns

The Scottish Government

Looking to the future: Protecting children online in Scotland

- Online Safety Bill
- Effective partnership and collaboration
- Delivering campaigns aimed at parents and carers to keep children and young people safe online.
- Funding third-sector organisations involved in child safeguarding, preventing and responding to child abuse

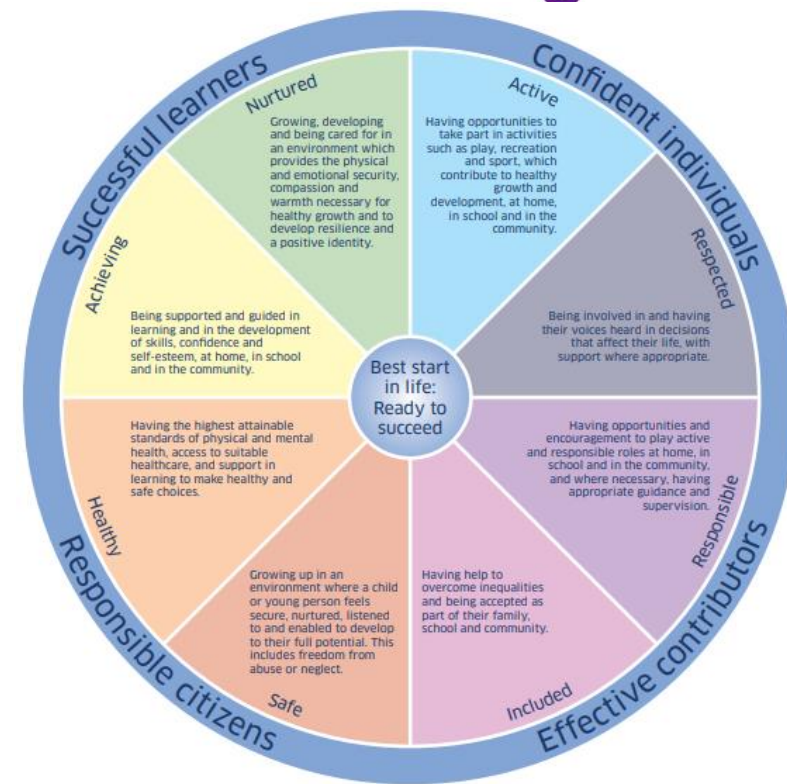
Safeguarding Context



National
Guidance for
Child Protection
2021

Getting it right
for every child
(GIRFEC)

United Nations
Convention on
the Rights of the
Child (UNCRC)



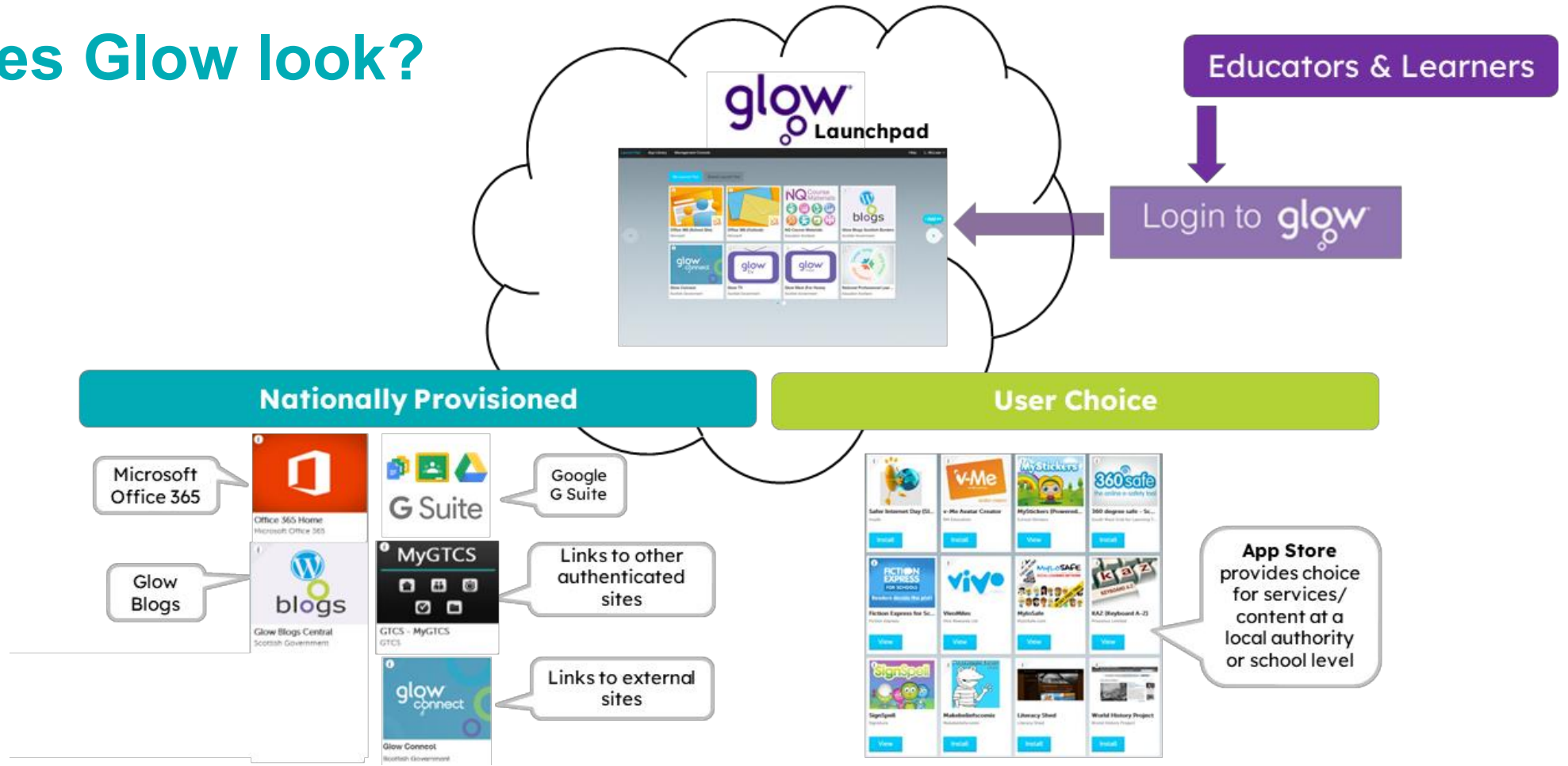


glow[®]



Scotland's national digital learning platform provided by Scottish Government and managed by Education Scotland

How does Glow look?



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Safeguarding Across Glow

Prevention



Empowerment



Proportionality



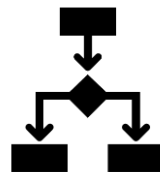
Partnership



Protection



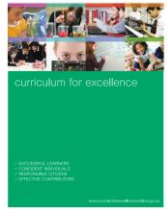
Accountability



Education Scotland

Curriculum for Excellence

- Experiences and Outcomes
- Benchmarks



Cyber resilience and internet safety	I can explore, play and communicate using digital technologies safely and securely. TCH 0-03a	I can extend my knowledge of how to use digital technology to communicate with others and I am aware of ways to keep safe and secure. TCH 1-03a	I can explore online communities demonstrating an understanding of responsible digital behaviour and I'm aware of how to keep myself safe and secure. TCH 2-03a	I can keep myself safe and secure in online environments and I am aware of the importance and consequences of doing this for myself and others. TCH 3-03a	I can explore the impact of cyber-crime for business and industry and the consequences this can have on me. TCH 4-03a
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Learning and Teaching - examples

- Digilearn Scot, Digital Schools Awards, Teacher Digital Skills Framework
- Health and Wellbeing – PSE, PL for staff
- MVP programme – gender-based violence
- Facilitation of national networks to promote collaboration and sharing of good practice eg: National Safeguarding in Education Network, GKC's
- <https://education.gov.scot/resources/safeguarding-and-child-protection/#>
- <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/digilearn/>

I know that all forms of abuse are wrong and I am developing the skills to keep myself safe and get help if I need it.

HWB 2-49a

- Identifies abusive and bullying behaviour, for example, on-line, face to face and knows where to go for help.
- Explains own rights and responsibilities in relation to abuse.
- Describes the concept of consent.

Education Scotland
Teacher Digital Literacy Framework
February 2017



Partnership...



IWF
Internet
Watch
Foundation

Scottish Government partners with
IWF to further enhance children's
safety online

Stop It Now!

SCOTLAND | ALBA

Helping prevent
child sexual abuse



National Cyber
Security Centre

glow

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It's hard, when you're up to your armpits in alligators, to remember you came here to drain the swamp.

Ronald Reagan



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