

**7**

**reasons**

**why schools should blog**

*A Webanywhere Free Guide*

Blogging is nothing new - in fact, the term alone (from the words 'web' and 'log') has existing since the late 1990s. Recently, more and more schools have been getting learners blogging - because not only is it fun, but it also meets many national curriculum criteria.

Whether you've just taken up blogging in your school, you're considering it, or even if you've only just heard of blogging - we've compiled seven reasons why school children of all ages should be writing blogs.

**1**

**It's about being part of a community**

As a community, children will be encouraged to participate and share with each other in a fun and dynamic online environment. Blog posts can be published as part of a collected series where everyone is able share their perspectives, comment on each other's posts and engage in collaborative learning together.

A young learner can build skills in understanding the opinions of others, expressing their own opinion and contributing to open discussion.

**2**

**It improves literacy skills**

Giving children access to a space where they can reflect on their experiences is a great way to develop critical thinking and writing skills. Giving them interesting topics to write about or discuss, particularly if it's something they like or are interested in, will give them greater motivation to think more about what they write.

It's especially effective as their blog posts will be visible to all their peers - what greater incentive to ensure they write the best blog post they can?

Other skills that blogging can help develop are writing for different audiences, persuasive writing and retelling an event.

**3**

**It inspires creativity**

Giving children the opportunity to write about an exciting topic, and the time to reflect, will allow them to get creative with their writing. Creating friendly competition between pupils to write the best blog posts will also inspire them to write the most interesting and engaging blog posts.

**4**

**It encourages online collaboration**

Along with improving literacy and typing skills - both part of the national curriculum for KS1 and KS2 pupils - blogging allows children to work together. Whether it's writing blog posts to generate ideas for a particular assignment - and then commenting on each other's ideas - or writing a blog post together, pupils can learn how the internet can be used as a tool for learning - and creating.

Online collaboration is also a great opportunity to teach them about internet etiquette, e-safety and cyberbullying - and make them positive, eager 'digital learners.'

**5**

**It builds confidence**

The opportunity to have blogs published directly to your school's website is a fantastic incentive for children who want to exhibit their writing flair to a wider audience. It is also a great way to showcase your school's talent to family, relatives and potential visitors.

Giving them a platform to express their thoughts and ideas to a wider audience will build their confidence no end.

6

It acts as a permanent archive

Bloganywhere is a permanent archive of information which can be accessed at any time, anywhere. Children will be more likely to retain knowledge when they can look back through previous posts and remind themselves what they have done throughout the year. Over time, a pupil's blog can become a detailed and accurate account of their development.

Plus, teachers will also be able to use blogging as a means for children to submit their homework while avoiding the stress of having to manage and organise written work at the same time.

7

It's fun!

Blogging is a fun activity for children - it's creative, competitive and gives them a voice - so even those who are naturally quiet in class can say what they want to say, and get feedback on it. Try blogging in your school today - and see how much children enjoy it!

## Where next?

Webanywhere's new app, Bloganywhere, is available now as part of Jotter Suite. Allowing you to create inspired bloggers in your school, it can be used to improve literacy and typing skills, inspire creativity, encourage collaborative working, and builds a 'picture' of each child's development.

For more information, go to [www.bloganywhere.co.uk](http://www.bloganywhere.co.uk).

# About Webanywhere

Since 2003, Webanywhere has provided website services and e-learning solutions to help schools communicate, collaborate and promote themselves online. As a provider of websites, VLEs, design services and e-learning content, Webanywhere is also recognised by leading organisations. Webanywhere is an approved supplier to the UK Crown Commercial Service a Mahara Partner and a Google Apps Authorised Reseller.



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