

St Joseph's College, Dumfries

Learner Confidence is Positively Impacted by globalbridge Implementation

St. Joseph's College is a rural Catholic secondary school located in the town of Dumfries, South West Scotland. In September 2023, with a school roll of 941, they rolled out globalbridge access to their S1-S4 learners. The school's strategic implementation of globalbridge has fostered a positive impact on learner confidence.



A Multifaceted Approach For Whole School Impact

In September 2023, globalbridge was launched through small group sessions, giving learners dedicated time to set up their profiles. Pastoral Care teachers and members of senior management also attended the sessions to familiarise themselves with the platform.

Following the launch, two dedicated 15-minute lessons were integrated into the Social Education curriculum. The first session, "What Makes A Good Bio," equipped pupils with the skills to craft impactful profiles. The second session, "How to Record an Experience," provided a step-by-step guide for capturing achievements and experiences on the platform. By allocating class time for guided practice, the school offered valuable support during learners' initial exploration of globalbridge. Social Education was chosen as the ideal subject for these lessons due to its focus on personal development, making it a natural fit for profile building and reflection on experiences. To further embed globalbridge into the school culture, St. Joseph's College revised their Wider Achievement and Skills Policy. This revision incorporated a monthly school-wide skills focus. By aligning these skills with relevant activities, the school fostered a cohesive personal development experience and encouraged pupils to actively utilise the platform to showcase their development.

Obtaining parental permission for pupil data upload was a key step in the implementation process. While a small number of parents initially declined permission or did not return the form, as the year progressed, learners saw the value in being able to document their experiences and achievements and reflect on these. As a result, many learners proactively requested permission slips to take home and obtain an account. This pupil-led initiative demonstrates the growing appeal of globalbridge. The positive impact is reflected in participation rates: approximately 92% of learners in each year group (S1-S3) now have their own globalbridge profiles.

Fostering Confidence and Ownership Through Digital Learner Profiles

In May 2024, the school's S3 learners used their globalbridge profiles as their end of BGE record of achievement. Previously for many pupils, completing their record of achievement in May can be difficult, either because they have forgotten the activities they have engaged in, or due to personal challenges. This year, pupils found this exercise quick and easy as they had been recording and reflecting on their experiences all year through globalbridge. Increased use of the digital learner profile within the school has even sparked independent exploration of globalbridge outside of the classroom environment.



One pupil in particular when logging into their profile made the comment, "I don't think my profile will be very good, I haven't done much." After bringing up their profile and looking through it their response was "Oh, I've actually done loads!". The class teacher commented that they could see a change in the learner's level of confidence before their eyes.



85% of St Joseph's learners think a digital learner profile will help them to better understand their skills and talents

From a pupil sample of 206

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The use of the platform by both pupils and staff is slowly being built into the school culture, and its integration into what is currently done in the school, is supported by the fact that pupils and staff find globalbridge easy to use.

The globalbridge platform has empowered pupils to take ownership of identifying their own achievements, which in turn has encouraged many of them to begin seeking out further opportunities to develop life and workplace skills.

Overall St. Joseph's College has found engagement with globalbridge to be a great benefit in recording and tracking all forms of achievement.

Astra Belille-Sharp, Depute Headteacher at St Joseph's College

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