

The Hertfordshire Grid for Learning – Getting the Best from the Grid

Helpsheet No:

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The Hertfordshire Grid for Learning (HGfL) web site (www.thegrid.org.uk) forms the principal means by which Hertfordshire Children's Services both communicates with and supports its schools and other educational establishments.

The web site provides information, advice and support to the whole school workforce, including specific curriculum information from subject advisers. There are 7 main sections:

- eServices
- Curriculum – teaching and learning
- School Admin
- Leadership
- School Improvement
- School Web Sites
- School Workforce

The Hertfordshire Grid for Learning web site is usually known within the Local Authority as '*The Grid*'.

www.intra.thegrid.org is the Hertfordshire Schools' intranet which is only available on computers within schools. The intranet web site provides access to a suite of centrally purchased on-line services which support all phases and most areas of the curriculum as well as information designated for Hertfordshire schools only. We put as much information as possible on the internet site and place on the intranet only that which is absolutely necessary.

If you are in a Hertfordshire School, you are able to see both of these sites. If you are outside of a Hertfordshire school (for example at home) you will only be able to see the internet site (that means any pages whose address begins www.thegrid.org.uk).

Finding Information on the Grid

There are a number of different ways to find information on the Grid and which way you use will depend on how you prefer to search for information on the internet.

- **Search** - Use the Google search box on each page to type in your keywords to search the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning.
- **Site Map** - There is a link to a site map for the HGfL at the top of every page which gives an outline of the content of each main section of the Grid.
- **Navigation** - There is a navigation bar at the top of each page with tabs to the main areas of the Grid and you can navigate down to the individual pages in each section.
- **A-Z Topics** – Here the topics on the Grid are arranged alphabetically, so all you need to do is select the initial letter of the subject you are looking for, and select the link you require. The A-Z is on the top navigation bar.

Keeping Up to Date

- **New information** - New or updated information on the Grid is usually highlighted on the Grid home pages unless it is a minor change. A yellow 'new' or 'updated' sticker highlights new information on individual Grid pages.
- **Home page news** - Both home pages carry the same news, but you may find it more helpful to set your default home page to be the 'blue' page in school (www.thegrid.org.uk) because it gives more of a summary of the news item but still includes links to email logins for EasyMail and Live@Edu. You can move from one home page to the other in school by using the links on the top navigation bar.
- **Missed something?** If you think you have missed information there are links to the news archive at the bottom of the blue internet home page (www.thegrid.org.uk).

RSS News Feed

There is an RSS News feed on the Grid which enables you to use a news reader to see when new items have been added to the Grid along with news updates from your other favourite websites. If you are interested in finding out more about this then follow the links 'Subscribe to News Feed' on the home pages of the Grid.

What's on the HGfL Home Pages

There are two home pages on the Grid and they contain essentially the same information but the intranet home page is only accessible from within school.

www.thegrid.org.uk – internet home page (blue) – accessible from home and school

- Latest news items on the Grid updated daily
- RSS feed for latest news
- Essential Grid links down the right hand side
- Email logins for Easymail and Live@Edu
- Hertfordshire Learning Platform login (at the very top of the page)
- Links to iLearn, online booking for courses, Compass (HCC intranet) and Inform Online (newsletter for schools)

www.intra.thegrid.org.uk – intranet home page (orange) – only available from within a Hertfordshire school

- Latest news items on the Grid updated daily
- Email logins for Easymail and Live@Edu
- Hertfordshire Learning Platform login (at the very top of the page)
- Access to elearning resources for primary/secondary
- Quick access to online management and administration resources
 - Schools Bulletin
 - Training & CPD Courses (online booking)
 - SOLERO
 - Access to Compass (the HCC intranet)
 - Performance and Management Resources (PRS)

eServices

eServices – www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices

General information about the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning including:

- Email services – help and FAQs
- Web site hosting services – for your school web sites
- E-safety advice on using the Internet and HGfL; internet filtering
- Technical and management information
- Central ICT services for schools
- Web Team contacts

Curriculum

Curriculum – www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/

Teaching and Learning with sections for each curriculum subject. Each curriculum subject aims to contain information and resources to support teaching at each key stage, news and events, training & CPD, research and good practice, and contacts.

Also included in this section:

- Strategies – Foundation, Primary, Secondary, 14-19
- Inclusion – Health and Well-Being (including Healthy Schools; Bullying, PSHE, Emotional Well Being and Citizenship), Gifted & Talented, Mecs, Behaviour, SEN
- E-learning – safe access, e-learning resources, free digital media
- Learning support – Assessment; Hertfordshire Music Service; Hertfordshire Outdoors; HALS, Schools Library Service

School Admin

School Admin – www.thegrid.org.uk/info/

Resources to assist schools in their management and administration tasks including:

- **CSF** - Essential information on Children's Services – strategies, plans, reports, guidance and policies, contact information, Schools Address Book, Schools' Bulletin and other news such as Inform Online and Children's Services News
- **Pupil Welfare** including attendance, child protection, counselling services, hospital and home education; exclusions guidance.
- **Financial and resource information** including information from the School Funding Unit and Financial Services for Schools.
- **SOLERO** - Access to Schools On Line Electronic Returns and Outputs for electronic free school meals reports and capital returns
- **Data and reporting information** such as the data collection calendar, data protection and information from the Management Information Unit
- **Plus.....** information on admissions, school milk; health & safety; school premises; snowline; schools' commissioning toolkit guidance and information on traded Support Services – including SITSS, Standards & School Effectiveness, Hertfordshire Supplies etc.

Leadership

Leadership – www.thegrid.org.uk/leadership/

Resources and support for school leaders in Hertfordshire including:

- News including Head teacher and Governors briefings & updates
- Leadership essential resources
- Hertfordshire Strategy for School Improvement – SSE Director's Report
- School self evaluation and Ofsted
- Leadership strategy and leadership development
- Leadership programmes, conferences & CPD
- School Improvement including SIPs
- Information on integrated children's services and safeguarding including Children's Centres, Common Assessment Framework, integrated practice etc.
- Links to strategy and initiatives – latest transformation news for schools, Academies, Local Partnerships, Building Schools for the Future, Hertfordshire Learning Partnership etc.

School Improvement

School Improvement – www.thegrid.org.uk/schoolimprovement

Information on the high quality school improvement services on offer to all Hertfordshire schools and beyond the county:

- Standards and School Effectiveness
- Hertfordshire Learning Partnership
- Advice and consultancy services
- Continuing professional development programme
- Hertfordshire Internet and Connectivity Services (HICS)

School Web Sites

School Web Sites – www.thegrid.org.uk/schoolweb/

Advice and support for school web site development including:

- Details of support available to Hertfordshire schools
- Advice on safety issues
- Helpsheets (available on the intranet only)
- List of Hertfordshire school web sites

School Workforce

School Workforce – www.thegrid.org.uk/schoolworkforce/

Advice and support for school workforce development including information on:

- Online booking for training courses and conferences
- Support Staff training courses
- Weekly school vacancies bulletin

- Continuing Professional Development Framework
- Performance management and continuing professional development
- Leaders and managers
- Teachers – including GTPs, NQTs and ASTs,
- Support staff – including TAs, HLTAs
- Recruitment and retention, including information on teachinherts.com
- **Human Resources** information including safe staffing/CRB, single central record and recruitment forms and guidance.

Research and Good Practice

Research and Good Practice – www.thegrid.org.uk/goodpractice/

Research and good practice in Hertfordshire schools including:

- Latest case studies and sharing of good practice
- News, events and seminars
- The HertsCam Network
- TIPD – The International Dimension in Education

Compass

Schools can access Compass (was Connect), the Hertfordshire County Council's Intranet through the Hertfordshire Grid for Learning. School staff can only access Compass from within a Hertfordshire school. A link to access Compass can be found on the intranet home page (www.intra.thegrid.org.uk) and the School Admin home page.

Help

Help on using the Grid can be found by following the Help link at the very top of every page on the Grid.

Alternatively if you have problems finding the information you need please contact the HGfL Web Team on 01438 844814.

You can also use the feedback form at the bottom of every page.