Getting Started with the Primary School Curriculum Gateway

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Who is this guide for? 3
What does this guide cover? 3
What doesn’t this guide cover? 3

ABOUT THE CURRICULUM GATEWAY

What is the Curriculum Gateway? 3
What are the benefits of using the Curriculum Gateway? 4
- More effective use of time 4
- Improved teacher confidence 4
- Personalised learning 4

USING THE CURRICULUM GATEWAY

Search function 4
- Predictive search 4
- Quick links 5
- Add Apps to Favourites 5

Exploring individual app pages 6
- Teacher description and learning intentions 6
- Curriculum Relevance 6
- Lesson APPlan 6
- Comments and Rating 6

Community Forum 7
- Engage with existing group conversations 7
- Start a new group 7

Student and Teaching tools 7
- Search for student and teaching tools 7
Resources from our content providers  
- How to access material from our content providers (BrainPOP UK, Pearson Publishing and Collins)  
- Pearson Publishing  
- Collins  
- BrianPOP UK

SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS

Curriculum Relevance  
Lesson APPlans  
Community Forum  
CPD - FutureLearn  
Online Support

ACCESSING THE CURRICULUM GATEWAY

Technical Details

CONTACT EDUCATIONAL APP STORE
About this guide

Who is this guide for?

This guide is for all teaching and support staff at school that use the Primary School Curriculum Gateway (Curriculum Gateway). Please forward this guide to any colleagues that may use the Curriculum Gateway. This guide may also be of use to those responsible for the delivery and set up of ICT within your school.

Whilst this guide is not intended for parent or student use, you are welcome to share any part of this guide for your own communications.

What does this guide cover?

This guide has been created to introduce new users to the Curriculum Gateway. It provides an overview of the Curriculum Gateway and its resources.

What doesn’t this guide cover?

This guide has not been developed to serve as an in-depth pedagogical manual. As no two classes or teachers are the same, the guidance included in this document has been developed to provide teachers with ideas as to how the Curriculum Gateway and its resources can be used.

About the Curriculum Gateway

What is the Curriculum Gateway?

The principle objective of the Curriculum Gateway is to support teachers with a selection of curriculum aligned apps and content for use in the classroom. For most teachers and schools, the searching and testing of apps is something that they do not have the time or the skill set to undertake, hence the reason for creating the Curriculum Gateway.

All of the apps found within the Curriculum Gateway have been tested and dissected by practising teachers against two rubrics. The first is from a performance perspective, which is coupled with a certification process that has been directed and compiled by Mike Sharples, Professor of Educational Technology at the Open University. The second assesses apps fully from a curriculum perspective and includes Teachers description, Curriculum relevance and accompanying Lesson APPlans.
Once in the Curriculum Gateway, a teacher/school can not only search for apps, but also appropriate key stage and subject specific video content and other related publications, supplied by the UK's leading publishers.

**What are the benefits of using the Curriculum Gateway?**

**More effective use of time**

Using the Curriculum Gateway can help save valuable time, as all the hard work of reviewing an app and matching against curriculum objectives has been done, allowing teachers to focus on planning the most effective learning opportunities for their students. The Curriculum Gateway gives fast access to the latest educational apps available across different platforms.

**Improved teacher confidence**

Teachers can browse with confidence, knowing that all apps have been through a thorough certification process, supported when needed by online and onsite training.

**Personalised learning**

Apps appeal to children and can add variety to teaching and learning. By using the Curriculum Gateway, teachers can search for apps that can enhance learning, helping to make teaching and learning more engaging and active.

**Using the Curriculum Gateway**

The Curriculum Gateway has been designed to make it easy for teachers to find the best apps suited for their needs. It has been structured to provide valuable information so that teachers can make informed decisions about which apps to download and use. The Curriculum Gateway has a number of components:

**Search function**

This function takes the hard work out of searching for apps across many stores by providing teachers with a collection of apps that suit the learning objectives for the chosen topic or lesson. Apps can be filtered according to Key Stage, subject, topic, platform and free/paid apps as well as in-app purchases. Detailed guidance regarding how to use the search function can be found [here](#).

**Predictive search**

As well as searching for apps by using the filters, apps can also be searched for directly. If you know the name of the app you are looking for, the first few letters can be typed into the ‘Search for App’ box. The predictive search
feature displays the relevant apps, making searching for specific apps quick and simple.

**Quick links**

Another way to search for apps is by using the ‘Quick links to Key Stages’. Teachers can quickly select the Key Stage, subject and then topic, after which they are presented with a list of suitable apps. A brief summary is provided and further information can be gained by clicking on the app icon.

**Adding Apps to Favourites**

If a teacher comes across an app they that would like to come back to later, it can be saved by clicking on the ‘Add to Favourites’ button on the individual app page. The list of favourite apps can be accessed via selecting the ‘My Account’ tab on the homepage, and then clicking on the ‘Favourites’ tab.
Exploring individual app pages

Once an app has been selected from the Curriculum Gateway, teachers are provided with a page dedicated to the app, including screenshots that show what the app looks like in action, and other tabs that provide the following information:

**Teacher description and learning intentions**

This tab provides an overview of what you can expect from the app from a learning perspective. Learning intentions are also displayed to show the ways in which learners can develop by using the app. Further information about in-app purchases and adverts is also provided.

**Curriculum Relevance**

This tab shows which national curriculum objectives the app meets.

**Lesson APPlan**

The Lesson APPlan can help provide teachers with support as to how the app can be used within a classroom, and more specifically, how it can be integrated within a lesson.

Each Lesson APPlan helps teachers plan activities for their students and includes:

- Ideas related to how the app can be used to help meet a set objective
- Outcomes that children can and could hope to attain
- A ‘Hook’ - how the concept can be introduced
- Activities
- Ways of assessing students
- Resources required

**Comments and Rating**

This tab allows teachers to share their experiences of using the app with other teachers.

Detailed tutorials regarding how to make best use of the individual app page can be found online. A tutorial regarding the Description and Curriculum Relevance tabs can be accessed [here](#) and a tutorial regarding the Lesson APPlans and Comments and Rating tabs can be found [here](#).
**Community Forum**

The forum can be accessed via the homepage of the Curriculum Gateway. It allows teachers and staff to engage with each other and share tips and ideas.

Teachers can:

**Engage with existing group conversations**

It is possible to see the total number of members and posts. A short summary is also provided to give a sense of what the group is about and the type of things that can be discussed or shared. Groups can be joined by clicking on the ‘Join’ button.

**Start a new group**

It is also possible to start a new group in the forum. This can be done by clicking on the ‘Start a Group’ button.

Detailed guidance for how to engage with existing group conversations and start new groups can be found [here](#).

**Student and Teaching tools**

As well as being able to search for apps that suit the learning objectives for a chosen topic or lesson, teachers can also look for tools that support teaching and learning in the classroom.

**Search for student and teaching tools**

Student and teaching tools can be accessed from the Curriculum Gateway homepage. The drop down menu can be found on the left hand side. Once either student tools or teaching tools have been selected, suitable apps are displayed.

Further information is also provided to show what the app might be used for. Detailed guidance about how to search for tools can be found [here](#).

**Resources from our content providers**

*(BrainPOP UK, Pearson Publishing and Collins)*

Within the Curriculum Gateway it is also possible to access material from BrainPOP UK, Pearson Publishing and Collins.
How to access material from our content providers

**Pearson Publishing – Complete School Support**

Complete School Support from Pearson Publishing can be accessed through the Curriculum Gateway homepage. Locate and click the Pearson Publishing – Complete School Support link in the Publications drop-down, where you will be taken to another log in page. Enter your Curriculum Gateway username and password to access the resources.

**Collins – Big Cat Series**

The Big Cat Series by Collins can be accessed through the Curriculum Gateway homepage. Locate and click the Collins – Big Cat Series link in the Publications drop-down, where you will be taken to the Collins website where you can access the resources. (Available from 5th October)

**BrainPOP UK**

Content from BrainPOP UK can be accessed through the Curriculum Gateway homepage. Locate and click the BrainPOP UK link in the Videos drop-down, where you will be automatically logged in and taken to the BrainPOP UK website.
Note: If you try to access the BrainPOP UK website on a mobile device or non-Flash enabled browser you will be re-directed to a page where you can download their free app.

Support for Teachers

The Curriculum Gateway offers guidance and support for teachers to help them select and make the best use of apps in the classroom.

Curriculum Relevance

All of the apps included in the Curriculum Gateway have been matched against the new UK National Curriculum. The Curriculum Relevance tab provides teachers with an overview of all of the objectives met by the app, taking the hard work out of selecting validated, appropriate apps suited to your needs.

Lesson APPlans

The Lesson APPlans within the Curriculum Gateway can support teachers with their planning. All of the APPlans have been created by practising teachers to provide users with ideas as to how the app can be integrated into a lesson.

Community Forum

The community forum has been designed to allow practitioners to interact with other members, promoting the sharing of tips and advice to support teachers with using the Curriculum Gateway and apps in the classroom environment.

CPD – FutureLearn

Teaching practitioners can access free online courses to develop their knowledge and understanding of various topics. These courses can be accessed via the homepage, by locating and clicking on the FutureLearn link in the CPD drop-down.
Online support

The Educational App Store is not a faceless store, and prides itself on being easy to contact for support. Whilst logged in to the Curriculum Gateway, a member of the EAS team can be contacted either through clicking on the ‘chat with us’ or through the 'leave a message' buttons.

Accessing the Curriculum Gateway

Technical details

- The Curriculum Gateway is wholly cloud based and requires an internet connection.
- We support the most recent three versions of Internet Explorer (IE 11, IE 10, and IE 9) and the latest versions of FireFox, Chrome and Safari.
- The Curriculum Gateway can be accessed via web browser in tablet or phone as the website is mobile responsive.

Contact Educational App Store

- Telephone – (+44) 207 223 9081 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)
- Email - schoolsteam@educationalappstore.com
- Website – www.educationalappstore.com
- Twitter – @eduappstore
- Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/EducationalAppStore
- Pinterest - https://uk.pinterest.com/educationalapps/

Educational App Store
1 Square Rigger Row
Plantation Wharf
London
SW11 3TZ
United Kingdom