

Guide 1:
**The benefits of using
Learn My Way for you
and your learners**



Good Things



Guide 1: The benefits of using Learn My Way for you and your learners

Good Things Foundation has a free learning platform called Learn My Way that's specially designed for people new to using computers, tablets, smartphones and the internet.

This series of guides have been written to help you get the most out of **Learn My Way**, so you can help others to use this free learning resource to develop their skills. In these guides you will find tips on how to get someone started on Learn My Way, and some creative ways to support them as they become more confident online.

You don't need to be a computer expert to help others. If you are new to helping others, Good Things Foundation have some free guides to help you support someone else with their digital skills.

If you aren't already familiar with Learn My Way, we suggest that you **register** and complete some topics.

These guides are produced by Good Things Foundation, a national charity that helps people to get online, in partnership with Digital Unite, a social enterprise working towards a more digital inclusive world.

The guides in this series are:

Guide 1:
The benefits of using Learn My Way for you and your learners

Guide 2:
Getting someone started on Learn My Way

Guide 3:
Great ways to use Learn My Way to boost someone's digital skills

You can use the guides in different ways, you can read through them all, or dip into different parts when you need them.



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Introduction to this guide

A Digital Champion is someone who inspires others to use computers and the internet. In your role as a Digital Champion, you may be helping people informally in drop-in sessions, or more formally in planned sessions. You may be helping people on a one-to-one basis, or in groups. Whichever way you do it, Learn My Way is a great free learning resource that can be included within any session.

In this guide we will look at the benefits of using Learn My Way with your learners and how it can help you in your role as a Digital Champion.

What is Learn My Way?

Learn My Way is a free learning platform designed to help people gain basic digital skills so they can make the most of our online world. The bite-sized topics are suitable for beginners that have no or low digital skills, but it can also be used with those by anyone looking to develop their skills.



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How to use Learn My Way?

Learn My Way can be accessed on an internet connected computer, tablet or smartphone.

It's possible to try a few topics on Learn My Way without registering an account. This may be a good way to get someone interested, before they go through the process of registering.

Some great features of Learn My Way:

- Available in English and Welsh.
- Written in plain language with an average reading age of 8.
- Designed to be easy to work through.
- Bite-sized learning topics (5-10 mins).
- Text to speech option.
- Learners can choose the topics that interest them.
- Topics fit in with the basic digital skills that the government thinks someone needs to be confident online.



This **video** gives a good overview of the main features.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGp0M0NL6TU

Encouraging learners to sign up to Learn My Way

The benefits of someone registering on Learn My Way are that they get full access to all 100+ topics and a record of their personal learning journey.

The subjects are:

Using your device	Starting to use the internet
Using email	Safety and online security
Staying in touch	Spending money online
Online entertainment	Working with office programmes
Employment and work	Managing your health online
Managing your money online	

A learner may need help to register and get going on Learn My Way, but as they gain confidence they can be encouraged to continue the learning in their own time and at their own pace. This can be a great boost to their self-esteem.

Learn My Way isn't just for beginners, almost anyone can learn something. If you haven't already got an account, then it is good to register and complete some topics. In guide three (Great ways to use Learn My Way to boost someone's digital skills) we will look at ways you can plan learning sessions around specific topics.

Sign up to the Digital Inclusion Network to get the most out of Learn My Way

Learn My Way is adaptable and easy to use. Using it as part of your digital skills sessions can help your learners quickly become independent learners, allowing you to help more people. Members of the National Digital Inclusion Network can get additional benefits when using Learn My Way, including:

- Learner progress data for learners who register using your organisation ID.
- Posters and other marketing assets to help you promote Learn My Way to your learners.
- Session ideas and guidance on working with specific types of learners, for example, older people, or those whose first language isn't English.

As an organisation you can become a member of the National Digital Inclusion Network. Membership of the Network is free, and you will join thousands of digital inclusion hubs across the UK, all working to tackle digital exclusion by delivering digital support for their communities. You will get access to resources and support including free devices through the National Device Bank or free mobile data through the National Databank.



Case study:

Benchill Community Centre have been delivering digital inclusion support and building digital skills through the delivery of Learn My Way. Learners are able to work through topics by themselves after initial support to register an account.

A brilliant example of this independence is a learner at Benchill Community Centre, who has completed all the topics on Learn My Way twice! Being in his 50s, he had never used a computer before attending sessions at the hub. Now, having built his skills, he is able to confidently use the computer, browse the internet, and log into Learn My Way on his own.

Another user of Learn My Way is a volunteer at the hub, who didn't have a lot of knowledge about technology. Though initially quite nervous, she was able to develop her skills using Learn My Way. Through further learning she went on to obtain a Level 2 IT qualification. Being a fast learner, she is now onto a Level 3 IT qualification, and volunteers at Benchill Community Centre to help others to advance their skills. She feels confident with her digital skills and is able to look after the classes if the staff are occupied.



What next?

In the next guide we will look at when it is appropriate to use Learn My Way with a learner and how to get them signed up and get started with their learning.

Links

- Learn My Way
www.learnmyway.com
- Explore the subjects, Learn My Way
www.learnmyway.com/explore-the-subjects
- Video, Learn My Way
youtu.be/NGp0M0NL6TU
- Resources, Good Things Foundation
www.goodthingsfoundation.org/discover/digital-inclusion-resources
- National Digital Inclusion Network
www.network.goodthingsfoundation.org
- Benchill Community Centre case study
www.goodthingsfoundation.org/discover/stories-and-case-studies/stories-and-case-studies-2024/stories-from-the-network-mrs-independent-living-benchill-community-centre.html