



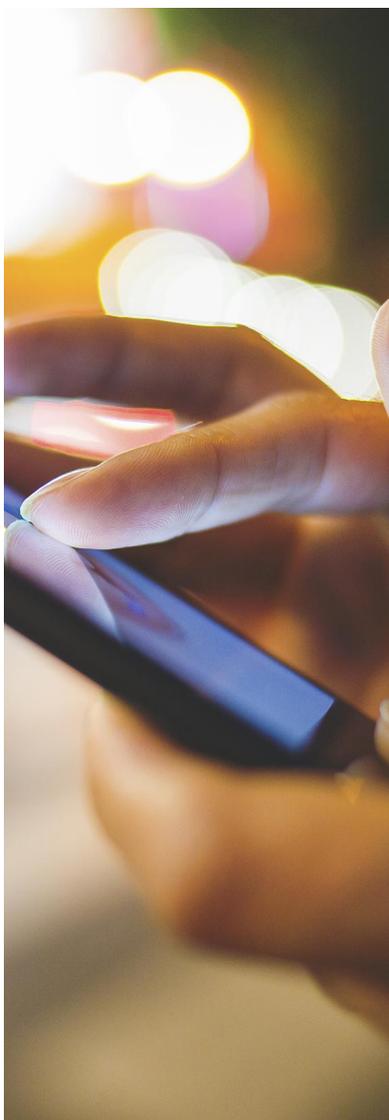
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LOGGED-ON

Empowering learning with technology



Using Twitter in the Classroom



Session 8: Using Twitter in the classroom

What is Twitter?

Twitter is often referred to as a micro blog - a place to find out about what's happening in the world right now. Whether you're interested in music, sports, politics, news, celebrities, or everyday moments - come to Twitter to see and join in on what's happening now.



Twitter terminology:

- **Tweet:** It all begins with a Tweet. Join or start any conversation in the world with a simple Tweet.
- **Retweet:** See something you like? Retweet it to spread the word instantly.
- **Follow:** Like what you see? Make it a full-time thing. Follow accounts to see all their Tweets.
- **Search:** Wondering what something is all about? Search and see the conversation unfold live.
- **Hashtag:** Wondering what everyone's talking about? Click on a hashtag and find out. Hashtags connect Tweets that talk about the same thing in one place.

OK, but why Twitter in the classroom?

- Social media is widely used by most of the current generation of students.
- Twitter now has over 100 million active user's worldwide.
- The use of social media in education is still in its infancy and there is lots of potential.
- Allows students to connect with (follow) each other, with tutors and other information sources.

How we use Twitter:

The next pages in this chapter will give you a step-by-step guide to getting started with [Twitter](#) and you can read how **Kendal College** in Cumbria, UK uses Twitter in the classroom to engage their students.





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Step-by-step guide Setting up a Twitter account

To create an account on the web:

Go to <https://twitter.com/signup>.

Enter your **full name**, **phone number**, and a **password**.

Click **Sign up for Twitter**.

In order to verify your phone number, Twitter will send you an SMS text message with a code. Enter the verification code in the box provided.

Learn more about having a phone number associated with your account [here](#).

Once you've clicked **Sign up for Twitter**, you can select a **username** (usernames are unique identifiers on Twitter) — type your own or choose one Twitter suggested. They tell you if the username you want is available.

Double-check your name, phone number, password, and username.

Click **Create my account**. You may be asked to complete a Captcha to let us know that you're human.

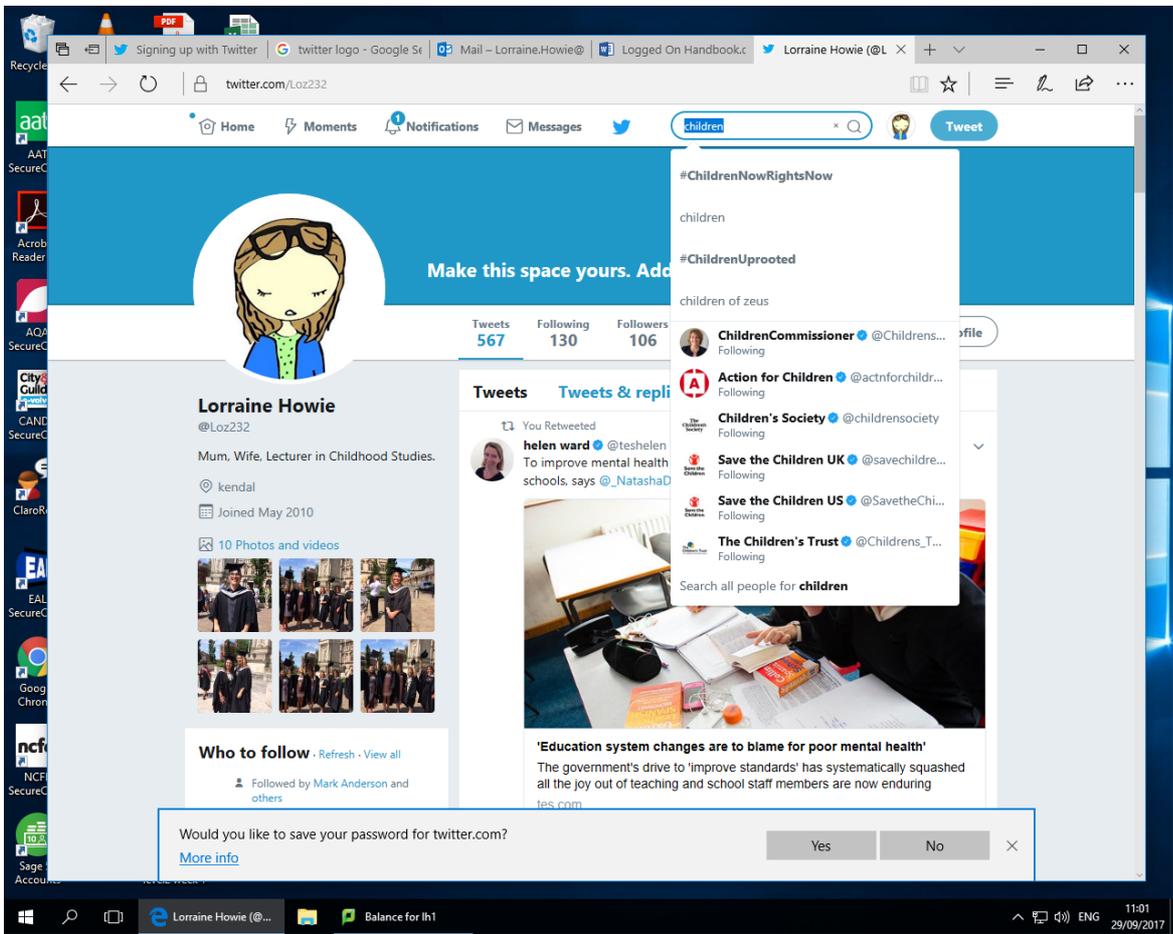
Tips on choosing a username

It helps to choose a username that makes it not obvious that you are a teacher. For some odd reason students don't like their friends to know that they follow a teacher on social media!

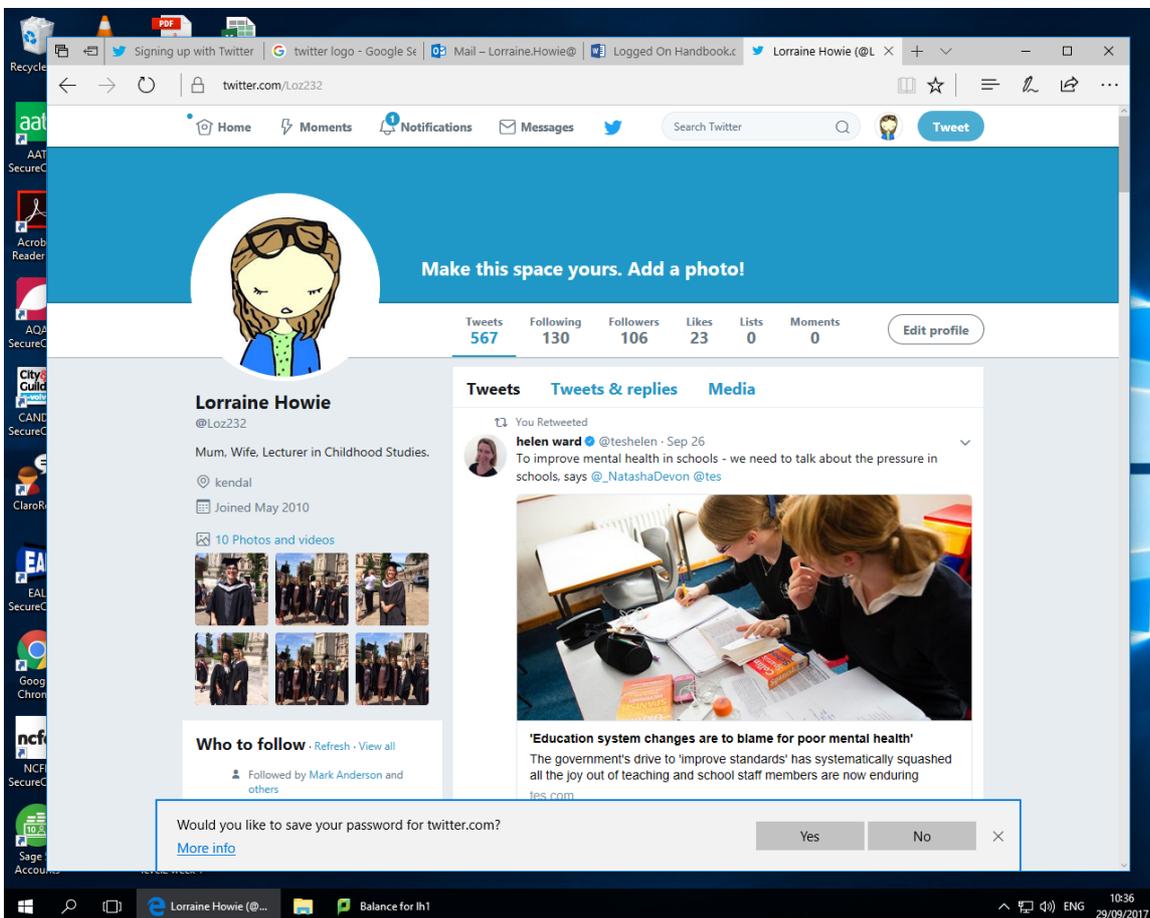
How to use Twitter in the classroom!

Select people to follow yourself, choose subject or specific people. For instance, if you teach on Child development so follow the Children's commissioner and OFSTED (England) amongst many others. By doing this it allows you to have a ready supply of other people's tweets that you can then retweet to your students.

To find people to follow simply use the search button on you twitter page - it's on the tool bar at the top.



We tweet/retweet about our subject areas to our students most days.



Its best to keep your tweets very subject specific and professional- your students don't need to know what you had for tea!

NOTE: Your tweets can only be **140 characters** long but you can include a link to whatever you want the reader to look at.

You can have separate Twitter accounts, so have one for your professional use and another for your social tweets. Obviously make sure that each account has a different user name.

How to keep it going

Tweet daily to your students, this may sound like a lot of effort and time but in fact once you have your account set up and you are following lots of people on it, retweeting posts to your students will only take a few minutes.

You can search other sites as well to tweet articles. A favourite is BBC news.

Tweeting on a regular basis will keep your followers interested in what you have to say, and you will soon be viewed as a bit of a subject expert by other Twitter users who may also follow you.

Monitoring

Your students will be able to comment on your posts and you should make it clear to them that their comments must to be constructive and professional. You will need to monitor comments and you can delete any that you do not think are suitable.

NOTE: Some schools/colleges have guidelines on the use of social media and so you must check your individual school guidelines on monitoring social media accounts before you start tweeting to students.

Having a Twitter account and following lots of other users will help you to keep up to date with contemporary issues in your area of study as well as your students!

What students think about Twitter - Some comments from a recent survey.

"The tweets are really up to date and provide me with lots of information for my assignments"

"It gets me interested in the subject"

"I can look at Tweets on my phone and read the links to information on the bus"

What else could you do with your Twitter posts?

Some students may not have access to Twitter or may not want to follow you if they do, so in order for them to access your tweets you can also post the ones that you think will be particularly useful for their assignments onto your college VLE/LMS, along with having your Twitter feed there as well.

You can also categorize these posts as you can see in the word cloud below; so that they build up into a useful research resource.

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My Sites Reader Write

by [lorrainehowie2014](#)
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Welcome to all of our new and returning students, its going to be a good year!!

June 26, 2017
by [lorrainehowie2014](#)
in [Uncategorized](#)
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External Examiners Report 2016-17

Our course External examiners report has just been received- have a read of it by clicking on the link !

[Crow, Amanda_2016_17](#)

January 5, 2017
by [lorrainehowie2014](#)
in [Early years](#), [Information Technology, Media and Young People](#), [Risk taking](#), [Schools](#)
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Growing up digital report

Growing up in a digital age

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Growing%20up%20digital%20taskforce%20Report%20January%202016.pdf>

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TWITTER

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[Lorraine Howie](#) Retweeted [helen ward](#) [@teshelen](#)

To improve mental health in schools - we need to talk about the pressure in schools, says [@_NatashaDevon](#) [@tesow.ly/eELD0fqKKE](#)



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