

St Michael's Lutheran Primary School

Staff ICT Workshop

Collaborative Tools

What is Collaboration?

- Working together to achieve a goal.¹
- The act of working with another or others on a joint project.²
- To work together, especially in a joint intellectual effort.³



Examples:

- During the Year 7 exhibition, students work together in groups to research and prepare a presentation on a given topic.
- During Units of Inquiry, students share their knowledge of a topic with the rest of the class.
- Students discuss ideas and opinions about topics in order to develop a well rounded understanding of the topic.

Collaborative Tools

For effective group collaboration to take place, tools are needed to help in the process of:

- Brainstorming and sharing ideas
- Recording and sharing research
- Co-ordinating meetings, activities and action plans
- Planning the finished product
- Presenting the finished product

Types of collaborative tools include

- Pen and paper – especially large sheets of paper
- Whiteboard and markers
- Interactive White Boards
- Collaborative Computer Software
- Collaborative Websites

The first three types of tools require all of the participants in the group to be in the same location. The last two are more flexible, because the participants can be anywhere in the world with internet access.

¹ Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaboration>

² Collins Dictionary: <http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/collaboration>

³ The Free Dictionary: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/collaboration>

Collaborative Websites

Collaborative software and websites help people to work together over geographic distances by providing tools that aid communication, collaboration and the process of problem solving.

Some examples include:

Wallwisher

<http://wallwisher.com>

This is an on-line notice board where you can create a 'wall' and invite other people to leave comments and add links to images, videos, music and other audio files. This site is great for gathering opinions and prior knowledge about a topic. Each post looks a bit like a post-it-note.

Examples:

7D Pollution Page

<http://wallwisher.com/wall/smlps7d>

7D Pollution Page

http://wallwisher.com/wall/smlps7d_pollution

Practice Wall

<http://wallwisher.com/wall/bS7tvYGstd>

Linoit

<http://linoit.com>

This is another free sticky note and canvas service. It is similar to Wallwisher, with a few extra options and possibly a better interface.

Examples:

Essay Analysis

<http://linoit.com/users/mrhendrickmf/canvases/Year%2012%20sample%20essay%20analysis>

Job Interviews

<http://linoit.com/users/seburnt/canvases/Job%20Interviews>

Practice Wall

<http://linoit.com/users/smlps/canvases/Someday>

Dabbleboard

<http://dabbleboard.com>

This is a collaborative website that's centred around the whiteboard. It has a drawing interface that's easy and fun to use, which allows users to quickly and spontaneously share their ideas. You can conduct presentations, chat, and whiteboard with Dabbleboard.

Examples:

Practice board

<http://www.dabbleboard.com/draw/mwhitsmlps/testboard>

Wikispaces

<http://wikispaces.org>

“A wiki is a space on the Web where you can share work and ideas, pictures and links, videos and media — and anything else you can think of. Wikispaces is special because we give you a visual editor and a bunch of other tools to make sharing all kinds of content as easy for students as it is for their teachers.”

Examples:

Money Skills

<http://amberjw.wikispaces.com/>

Egypt

<http://classroom109morningegypt.wikispaces.com/>

More Samples

<http://wikiresources.wikispaces.com/Sample+Wikispaces>

Practice Wiki

<http://smlps.wikispaces.com>

Google Docs

<https://docs.google.com>

This is a free, Web-based office suite and data storage service offered by [Google](#). It allows users to create and edit documents online while collaborating in real-time with other users.

Examples:

Username

smlps11@gmail.com

Password

smlpsr27

Edmodo

<http://edmodo.com>

Edmodo is a secure, social learning platform for teachers, students, schools and districts, that is used by the year 7s at St Michael's. It provides a safe and easy way for classes to connect and collaborate, share content, access homework, calendars and school notices.

Edublogs

<http://edublogs.org>

Blogging websites, such as Edublogs, are sites where individuals or group of users record and discuss opinions, news and information on a regular basis. In 2011, the year 7s used a blog to publicise, record and discuss information for their PYP Exhibition.

Examples:

2011 Yr7 Exhibition

<http://smlps7ex.edublogs.org>