

# Digital student exemplars

## Enhancing the digital experience of students

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This case study is relevant to the digital student challenge:

**Deliver an inclusive digital student experience and Deliver a robust, flexible, digital environment**

### Using social media to engage students with learning difficulties

At **Calderdale College** the social learning network **Edmodo** is used to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities (SLDD) to engage with social media. Edmodo offers a closed and therefore more secure network than other social media applications. Staff and students can use a wide variety of tools within Edmodo to participate in activities such as quizzes, assignment management, sharing notes and resources with each other.

Lecturer Laura Lavender uses Edmodo at Calderdale College because the interactivity that it offers increases student engagement. Other advantages include that it is easy and free to set up, students don't need an email to sign up, the tutor can retain overall control of the posts and there is also a mobile app. Students seem to like the Edmodo interface which is similar to other social media sites.

### How does this meet the challenge?

The personal development, behaviour and welfare of learners is now inspected under the **Office for Standards in Education** (Ofsted) common inspection framework for further education and skills. This specifically includes:

*"How well learners know how to protect themselves from the risks associated with radicalisation, extremism, forms of abuse, grooming and bullying, including through the use of the internet, and how well they understand the risks posed by adults or young people who use the internet to bully, groom or abuse other people, especially children, young people and vulnerable adults"*

(Page 49 of **Further Education and Skills Inspection Handbook, June 2015**).

Use of Edmodo in this situation helps students to learn how to use social media in a protected environment or 'walled-garden'. It allows learners to learn in a familiar setting and plays on their interest in social media.

## Find out more:

An example of an interactive learning resource created by Laura Lavender at Calderdale College designed to **introduce other practitioners to social media.**

## Contact:

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