

What is Learning in the Cloud?



Learning in the Cloud is a 21st Century teaching and learning system for New Zealand schools. It's been developed over the past five years by the team at KiwiSchools, well known for easy-to-use school websites.

Learning in the Cloud is a full service offering for your school - freeing teachers to do what they do best... creating great learning opportunities for students! We look after all the vital but tricky technical "stuff" to keep your school's blended learning platform sustainable and up-to-date.



Components

These are the products and services which the package offers:

- Google Apps for Education
- Teacher Dashboard (from Hapara)
- Dedicated Cloud Facilitator
- Cloud Academy
- Professional Learning and Development Programme
- Tech support: Google Apps
- Tech support: Teacher Dashboard
- In-school and remote support



Your Cloud Facilitator

A **Cloud Facilitator** is an invaluable partner for schools moving “to the cloud.”

Skilled in Google Apps for Education both from a technical and end-user perspective, he or she will guide your staff along a variety of pathways - some designed for your most go-ahead ICT'ers, while others assist teacher lacking confidence in the digital world.

Your Facilitator typically liaises regularly with the Principal and ICT lead teacher while working alongside any member of your team you choose to have supported.



Google Apps for Education

The Google equivalent of Word, Excel and Powerpoint... and so much more!

Google Apps is the core suite of applications you, your staff and students will use every day: Gmail, Calendar, Docs, including text docs, spreadsheets and presentations.

Google Apps for Education is free for all schools.

The screenshot displays the 'Learning in the Cloud' dashboard. At the top left, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Dashboard - Home', 'Administration', 'Need Help?', and 'Sitemap'. The main heading is 'Dashboard - Home', followed by the instruction 'Click the icon for the app you wish to use:'. Below this, there are two rows of icons, each with a corresponding label and link:

- Row 1: My Gmail (envelope icon), My Docs / Drive (triangular folder icon), My Calendar (calendar icon with '31'), My Blogs (orange square with 'B'), My Photos (circular photo icon), Teacher Dashboard (speedometer icon).
- Row 2: My Sites (web browser icon), My Groups (blue speech bubble with people icon), My Videos (YouTube logo icon), Cyber Safety (green square with people icon), School Website (blue bus icon), Academy (blue circles icon), Staff Only (blue circles icon).

Teacher Dashboard

This world-class app “plugs in” to Google Apps, giving a classroom teacher an amazing view of their **students’ work: docs, email, photos, blog posts** and more.

You really have to see Teacher Dashboard to believe it!

Developed right here in NZ at the Manaiakalani cluster by Hapara.



Cloud Academy

Anytime, anywhere Google Apps and Teacher Dashboard for your staff.

The Academy is a staff-only website which your teaching and admin team can access for ideas, tutorials, how-to videos and tips, *exactly when they need them.*

We've found that the Academy, combined with *personal support from a Cloud Facilitator* is a powerful way to build staff confidence and skills in the Google "ecosystem"



Professional Learning and Development (PLD)



We work with you to clarify the PLD requirements for your team in terms of familiarity with the Cloud, using key Apps such as GMail, Calendar, Docs and Teacher Dashboard, so it's different for each school we work with.

Sometimes budget or distance constrain what's possible, but there are workable options for schools anywhere in NZ, large, small and in-between.

Take your pick from any combination of:

- Your own Cloud Facilitator
- Cloud Academy (online support and resources)
- In-school visits
- Online meetings, Skype, Google Hangouts
- Remote support by phone or email.

Whatever works, really!

Tech & Admin Support



Google Apps is (or is destined to become!) mission-critical in schools. Just as you currently employ technicians to manage your network, WiFi and hardware, so you should use people who know what they're doing to manage the "back end" of your Google platform.

Teacher Dashboard is very easy for teachers to use, but more complex "under the bonnet," managing permissions for documents, email etc between students and their teacher. It's vital to process students and their classes with precision to create a sustainable Teacher Dashboard environment.

KiwiSchools Website

You may already have one of these easy-to-use school sites!

If not, we'd invite you to consider how a KiwiSchools site can form the perfect portal or entry point to your Learning in the Cloud elearning / blended learning environment.

www.kiwischools.co.nz



KiwiSchools
School websites made easy

“Let's Go Google” Strategy

It's extremely helpful to get your school's **digital strategy** in place before rolling out Learning in the Cloud to your school.

Our senior facilitator is available to work with your school management, Board and staff to address key issues such as:

- Pedagogy
- Finance
- Infrastructure
- Server replacement
- Professional learning and development
- Community consultation



Clusters & Conferences



Schools are increasingly joining **local or regional Clusters** to share the costs and benefits of Professional Learning and Development activities. We're happy to work with your organisation so contact Rosemary, cloud@kiwischools.co.nz to discuss how this might work for you.

Likewise, a local or regional mini-conference on Learning in the Cloud is worth considering - again, you're "on the spot" so email or call us to discuss.

Auckland

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Talk to us...

If you'd like to discuss Learning in the Cloud for your school, please touch base with Rosemary Mahoney who will be happy to answer any questions you have and help with planning a roll-out of Learning in the Cloud at your school.



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