

Skype



Using Skype in the classroom is a way for teachers to introduce the world beyond the classroom walls to their students. It creates a global community of learners.

It can develop critical thinking, geography skills, listening and speaking skills. It can be both teacher and student-led. It encourages collaboration, communication and it a useful tool for research.

- Register a free account with Skype, you will need an email to do this, use a school email and skype name rather than your own personal account and name.
- To communicate on Skype, share your skype name with your collaborator.
- Agree time for Skype call.
- Ensure speakers, webcam and internet connection are all working beforehand.(A student can assist with this)
- Before the Skype call pre-teaching of the topic may be required.
- Brainstorm questions the students can ask while on skype. Draw up the set of questions and distribute among the class group.
- Encourage active listening by getting the students to take notes during/after the Skype call. 3-2-1 strategy could be used to focus the note taking.
- After the Skype session the students reflect on what they learned using the 3-2-1 notes as a basis for their discussion.

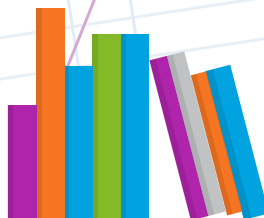
Tips

- Examples of Skype in the classroom include:
- Foreign language learning: Skype can be used to set up short communication sessions with native speakers as listening to and speaking a foreign language is essential if students want to improve listening skills and oral communication.
- Interviewing: connecting with and speaking to an author or celebrity can bring classroom theory alive and make it real for students.
- Guest appearances: guest teachers, parents or experts on a subject can give an explanation directly from their work environment.
- Teachers can search for other schools and classes interested in connecting through Skype, use the search term Mystery Skype.
- Skype could be used between two language classes/between two schools, with one asking questions and one class answering the questions, this can then be reversed on a later session.



Further Information

Further reading and support on implementing this strategy is available on www.jct.ie



Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Communicating
- ▶ Being literate
- ▶ Being creative
- ▶ Working with others

Resources

- ▶ IT Room/Any web enabled device
- ▶ Data projector
- ▶ Speakers/Webcam
- ▶ An external mic (optional)
- ▶ Skype account

Room Layout

No specific room layout required unless a demonstration is planned

Assessment

The student can self-reflect through 3-2-1. A discussion on what the students have learned can be directed by the teacher after the Skype session. Teacher observe student participation and engagement during the activity.

Supporting Homework

Students could research and develop questions in preparation for the Skype session