



DIGITAL LEADERS GUIDE

Welcome to the Purple Mash Digital Leaders Guide. Digital Leaders are children with a passion for technology who want to share their knowledge with others and promote the use of all things digital throughout the school. Being a Digital Leader is a fantastic opportunity to take on responsibility, learn new skills, develop and demonstrate leadership skills and be a real help for busy teachers.

Pupils apply to be a Digital Leader; these can be from any year group. The Digital Leaders will need training and support to develop areas of expertise in supporting technology within your school. For example, a good knowledge of Purple Mash and an enthusiasm for learning and sharing their knowledge with others would be beneficial. The Digital Leader team can be any size that is manageable for you to run and for the scheme to run successfully within your school, a team of 8-10 is a good idea to start.



There are a range of jobs that Digital Leaders can do within the school. We have put a list together to support you in determining the day to day jobs that they may carry out. We will also be setting Purple Mash termly challenges that the Digital Leaders can complete. Please share these with us on Twitter @2SimpleSoftware using the #PMDLChallenge. If you share these, you will be entered into a random draw to win a set of our Digital Leader T-Shirts and a 2Simple goody bag.

We will support you by providing the resources you need to get started including name cards for your Digital Leaders. You will also receive a termly newsletter that will update you with developments in Purple Mash including ideas, tips and competitions and an opportunity for the Digital Leaders to visit 2Simple HQ.

GETTING STARTED



DECIDE ON THE SIZE OF YOUR DIGITAL LEADER TEAM

Which year groups will form part of the team? It is important to choose your Digital Leaders wisely! You can generate interest and excitement by putting up Digital Leader posters advertising the new roles. Ask staff to think about children that could be encouraged to apply for the role, bearing in mind that it is an application process and not all those that apply will be successful.

DECIDE ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS

We have included an application form with this pack. This can be set as a 2Do for those children that are interested or can be emailed to you via 2Email. Some schools choose to have an interview process as well. Sample interview questions are also included in the pack. It may be useful to involve other members of staff or a parent that is interested in technology to help you run the team.



THINK ABOUT WHEN AND WHERE YOU WILL MEET

Once you have appointed your Digital Leaders, it is a good idea to have an initial meeting to discuss the objectives for the term and what you would like to achieve. The termly Purple Mash Challenges will help with this. Once appointed, set up a Digital Leader display board in school, have pictures of the Digital Leaders on display and details of meetings and how they can support within the school. Holding an assembly is a great way to introduce the Digital Leaders and their role.

Creating a 'group' in Purple Mash for your Digital Leaders will ensure that you will quickly be able to set the challenges as 2Dos for the pupils. You may want to set up your own school Digital Leader Blog or display board so that they can share work and ideas within the school community.

Once you have your Digital Leaders, ensure that they have all signed the school AUP and have photo permission, so that you can share the work that they do.

HINTS AND TIPS

- Build up excitement around the application process and ensure that this is transparent for all.
- Encourage children and give them short-term goals.
- Have a regular meeting schedule.
- Make sure the challenges are on-going to sustain interest between meetings, using the Purple Mash termly challenges will help.
- Will the Digital Leaders be appointed on an annual basis? Think about how long they will serve for and use the Digital Leaders to interview, appoint and train the next batch.
- Make sure they can use hardware within the school e.g. visualisers, boards, physical computing resources.
- Ensure that they are all competent in using Purple Mash and can support others.
- Provide them with training when there are updates or new software and hardware in school.
- Once established, set up a 'Help Service' whereby teachers and staff can request the support of the Digital Leaders.