

Key Stage 2 website project: six-lesson unit plan

Years 3 to 6 | Six lessons of 45 to 60 minutes | Built to run in PagePal, adaptable to any website tool

Curriculum statements covered

National curriculum in England, computing programmes of study (DfE, 2013). Pupils should be taught to:

- *“Select, use and combine a variety of software (including internet services) on a range of digital devices to design and create a range of programs, systems and content that accomplish given goals, including collecting, analysing, evaluating and presenting data and information.”*
- *“Use search technologies effectively, appreciate how results are selected and ranked, and be discerning in evaluating digital content.”*
- *“Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly; recognise acceptable and unacceptable behaviour; identify a range of ways to report concerns about content and contact.”*

Unit outcome

Each pupil publishes a two-page website on a class topic, written for a stated audience, with a working menu, images used responsibly and no personal details.

Success criteria for pupils

- I can say who my website is for and what it is about.
- I have planned my pages on paper before I build them.
- My website has at least two pages joined by a working menu.
- I have chosen pictures that match my writing and said where they came from.
- My writing is in my own words, checked for spelling and easy to read.
- I have kept personal details off my website.
- I have improved one thing after a partner read my site.

Lesson sequence

Lesson 1: What makes a good website?

Objective	Recognise the features of a website and judge whether content is useful and trustworthy.
Starter (5-10 min)	Show two real sites on the same topic, one clear and one cluttered. Thumbs up or down, then explain why.
Main activity	In pairs, pupils look at three age-appropriate sites and record: who is it for, how do you move around it, how do the pictures help, how do you know you can trust it. Introduce the class brief and the success criteria.
Plenary (5-10 min)	Collect a class list of “what good websites do” and display it for the rest of the unit.
Assessment evidence	Completed website review sheet; contributions to the class criteria list.

Lesson 2: Planning my pages

Objective	Plan a two-page website with a clear purpose and audience.
Starter (5-10 min)	Recap the class criteria list. Model a plan for a site about the school library.
Main activity	Pupils complete the pupil planning sheet: purpose, audience, page names, the sections on each page, the words for each section and what picture is needed. Research is limited to two approved sources, noting where each fact and picture came from.
Plenary (5-10 min)	Swap plans with a partner: can they tell who the site is for from the plan alone?
Assessment evidence	Completed planning sheet with purpose, audience and sources recorded.

Lesson 3: Building the home page

Objective	Create and organise digital content to match a plan.
Starter (5-10 min)	Log in and tour the builder: add a section, click the words, click a picture space.
Main activity	Pupils build the home page from their plan: a banner section with a title, a short introduction, and one section of detail. Remind pupils that work saves as they type.
Plenary (5-10 min)	Two stars and a wish with a partner on the home page so far.
Assessment evidence	Home page in progress, matching the planned sections.

Lesson 4: A second page and a working menu

Objective	Combine content across linked pages so a reader can find their way around.
Starter (5-10 min)	Draw the menu on the board: which pages, in which order, and why.
Main activity	Pupils build the About us or second topic page, then check every menu link and button works. Higher attainers add a button section pointing to a chosen page.
Plenary (5-10 min)	Navigation test: a partner must find a given fact in under 15 seconds.
Assessment evidence	Two pages linked by a working menu; navigation test result.

Lesson 5: Design, readability and pictures

Objective	Make design choices that help the reader, and use pictures responsibly.
Starter (5-10 min)	Compare two colour choices for contrast. Which is easier to read and why?

Main activity	Pupils choose a colour theme, check text is readable, resize or replace pictures, and record where each picture came from. Discuss what may not be published: surnames, addresses, photos of other children without permission.
Plenary (5-10 min)	Preview on phone and tablet size. What breaks? Fix one thing.
Assessment evidence	Design choices justified verbally or on the planning sheet; source list for pictures.

Lesson 6: Proofread, submit and review

Objective	Evaluate and improve a digital product against success criteria, then publish responsibly.
Starter (5-10 min)	Read the success criteria aloud as a checklist.
Main activity	Pupils proofread, make final improvements, then send the site to the teacher for review. Pupils who finish early write a short review of a partner's site against the criteria. Teacher approves sites or returns them with a note.
Plenary (5-10 min)	Show two or three sites on the board and celebrate specific criteria met.
Assessment evidence	Submitted site, teacher review note, completed peer review sheet.

Adapting for your class

- Shorter unit: merge lessons 3 and 4 into one longer build session.
- Support: give a completed planning sheet for the home page so pupils start from ready-made section headings.
- Stretch: set a real audience (year 2 visitors, parents at the summer fair) and ask pupils to justify every design choice against that audience.
- Cross-curricular: run the unit inside a topic you are already teaching, for example rainforests, local history or a school eco club.

Online safety and publishing

Discuss what stays private before pupils write anything: no surnames, no addresses, no personal email addresses, no photographs of other children without school permission. Pupil sites are not visible to anyone outside the class until a member of staff approves them, and published pupil sites are set so search engines do not list them.

Teacher checklist before publishing

- No surnames, addresses, phone numbers or personal email addresses
- No photographs of identifiable children unless school permission is in place
- Pictures are the pupil's own, or cleared for use, with sources noted
- Spelling and grammar checked
- Every menu link and button goes where it should

PagePal is a classroom website builder from Greyphox Digital Ltd. Teachers create pupil logins with no pupil email addresses, pupils build by clicking straight onto the page, and nothing is published until a member of staff has reviewed and approved it. Free for up to 10 pupil accounts at pagepal.school.