



XMA supports the transformation of Falkirk Council's education delivery with iPad

Equipping schools with technology to increase engagement and creativity



Falkirk Council created the Connected Falkirk programme to better equip young people with the confidence, skills, and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital world of today and tomorrow. XMA, an Apple Authorised Education Specialist (AAES), worked with Falkirk Council and their Connected Falkirk team to develop a plan to help realise their digital ambitions – supporting the deployment of iPad devices across schools and co-delivering a bespoke learning programme of training. After its launch, the programme demonstrated the transformative power of iPad devices within a modern educational setting.

In a “project by numbers” overview, what Connected Falkirk physically equates to is:

- Approximately **16,000** iPads deployed to pupils and teachers.
- **1,000** Apple TVs distributed and installed to allow seamless integration of devices in the classroom.



Programme goals:

- Devices for all Primary 6 to Secondary 6 pupils
- Shared devices for Primary 1 to Primary 5 classes
- Teacher devices and accredited professional development support
- Fast, reliable internet across schools
- Digital upscaling opportunities for families



What is Apple Professional Learning?

With the support of Apple Professional Learning Specialists, teachers are taken through modules that highlight real-world integration opportunities for the tools at their disposal. As teachers develop, bespoke training is provided to reinforce and build on their professional expertise.

A clear, well-defined training path is essential for a seamless 1:1 device rollout. This ensures proper adoption by teachers and educational leaders, aligning all staff with an educational institution's long-term vision for learning.



“From the initial envisioning of the Connected Falkirk programme, we worked with XMA through their Apple Planning Essentials workshop, which allowed us to identify the key tasks and accountabilities for our partnership working. XMA have supported the Connected Falkirk team vision all the way through this journey, from logistics to learning.”

**Stuart Lennie Connected Falkirk Manager,
Falkirk Council**

Today's education challenge

Falkirk Council recognised the need to ensure that their children and young people were equipped with the digital skills needed to navigate the modern world. Although the Connected Falkirk programme was planned before COVID-19, the pandemic highlighted the essential role technology plays for proper participation, engagement, and creativity in today's educational environments.

As an Apple Authorised Education Specialist (AAES), XMA has always stressed the importance of properly investing in teacher technology to drive educational success. Without the right technology at their disposal, teachers can't confidently rise above the challenges of the modern educational environment and maintain exceptional standards.

XMA: the obvious choice

XMA has been a key supplier for the Scottish Government's web based and proprietary devices framework, having previously worked with Falkirk Council to deploy technology solutions into their local authority. XMA also oversaw the deployment of 50,000 iPad devices for Glasgow City Council – the largest IT rollout ever in Europe at that time. In combination with XMA's extensive experience overseeing large-scale 1:1 device deployment projects, Falkirk Council viewed XMA as the obvious partner to fulfil its digital ambitions.

The project's success was underpinned by the collaboration of Apple Professional Learning Specialists (APLS) from XMA's training team and Connected Falkirk's own team. The standard to qualify as an APLS is exceptionally high, and XMA has educated thousands of teachers and leaders over previous years.

So, with the extensive experience of both teams bringing learning to life through iPad technology, the partnership was able to fully embrace Falkirk Council's digital goals.



A bespoke training solution

Despite the pandemic, XMA's agile and bespoke training allowed for a targeted approach to defining and meeting individual training needs. It was important for the Connected Falkirk Team and XMA to identify the unique challenges and demands of every school and teacher quickly, so that we could tailor its support programme.

Over two years, XMA provided 196 days of virtual learning that was co-designed with each school. This would have been face-to-face had it not been for the pandemic. Every school had three sessions allocated in their diary, but they could be flexibly rearranged as and when required.

XMA's team also designed and delivered training sessions that demonstrated real-life applications of iPad teaching and learning within the classroom. These focused, relevant, and meaningful demonstrations allowed staff and school leaders to fully embrace the vision and power of the Connected Falkirk programme.

All of this was alongside Connected Falkirk's central training programme, where XMA also collaborated with the team on the "Curricular Carry Out" series and the "Two for Your Toolkit" video series.



Futureproofing the delivery of education

The Connected Falkirk programme is transforming the way education is delivered across schools in the local authority. All 60 schools made use of its three professional learning sessions, allowing XMA's APLS team to provide tailored training to approximately 1,600 teaching staff.

Falkirk Council schools praise the programme's success on Twitter, highlighting the transformative results across the curriculum – with a notable increase in student engagement and creativity. To ensure this upwards trajectory lasts, XMA continues to assist the Connected Falkirk team in embedding good practices into teaching processes through 2023 and beyond.

"For us, Apple Professional Learning really has been a collaborative effort between APLS staff from both XMA and the Connected Falkirk team. Amongst other things, it has allowed us to deliver live sessions, anytime/anywhere YouTube sessions, a CLPL podcast, and bespoke training and visions and culture sessions. It has been great to see pupils and their teachers openly sharing the impact of this programme, underpinned by our collaborative APLS approach."

Kerry Abercrombie, Connected Falkirk

Need help with your 1:1 deployment and digital adoption strategy? We're here to help.

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The XMA difference

- A trusted supplier to almost 10,000 UK schools
- Apple Authorised Education Specialists (AAES)
- Apple Professional Learning Specialists (APLS)
- Over 30 years' experience in the public sector
- Bespoke training programmes for digital deployments