



40
ideas for using
RIX Wikis
at home
and in school

RIX.

RIX Wikis are private, easy to use websites. RIX Research and Media have been developing RIX Wikis for over ten years.

You can upload photos, videos, documents and more to a Wiki to tell your story. Once you have made your Wiki, you can share it with other people that you know and trust.

You can access a Wiki on any device, anywhere, with your username and password.

RIX Wikis have been used in so many creative ways, extending their use far beyond a digital All About Me.

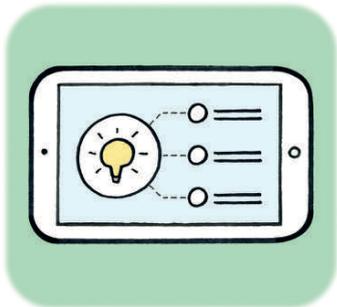
The following tips will help you think about the different ways you can use Wikis at home and at school.

1 Introduce your group or team



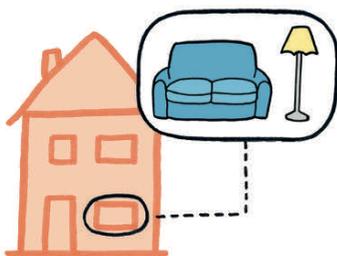
Add a photo of your town or local area to the middle circle of the Wiki. Then add some interesting facts about your area into this section. In the surrounding sections, choose places close to where you live and collect interesting facts about these too. You can extend the idea to towns and cities – with Nottingham in the middle, for example, you could add sections for Derby, Sheffield, Lincoln, Leicester and Loughborough.

2 Project plan



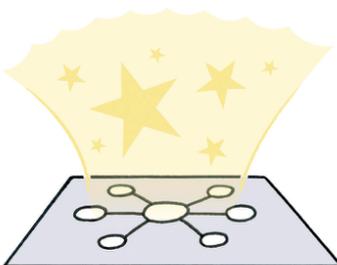
Use a Wiki as an accessible project plan. Make the sections the stages of the project. You can give updates in each section as the project runs. The Wiki becomes a live and accessible record of a project. Consider using this for projects such as a new school build, room re-decoration or planning for a school event.

3 Virtual tour



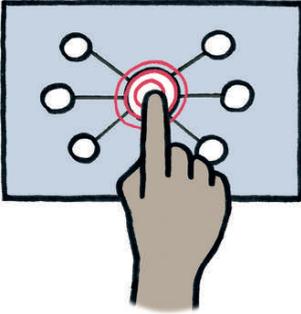
Use a Wiki to give a virtual tour of your home or school building. Each section could introduce a space, e.g. classroom, kitchen. Take photos of that space and add them to the section. This can help people understand what it might be like to be in that space and what the rules or expectations are.

4 Work showcase



You can create an amazing showcase of work throughout a project or academic year. Each section of a Wiki can relate to a project or topic during the year. Ask the students to select their favourite work to add to the showcase Wiki. The students can note or record the reasons they chose the work for the showcase. A class showcase can also be created that features one stand-out piece of work for each child in the class.

5 Interactive school guide



In reception, on a touchscreen or tablet, or on your website, a Wiki can be an alternative to the passive scrolling images and text on visual displays. The students could record a video to welcome visitors and introduce them to the school. The same approach could be used to offer new students an interactive prospectus made by current students.

6 Vox pops



Vox pop comes from the Latin phrase *vox populi*, voice of the people. Make a Wiki that reflects a theme or topic of debate at school and share it with the School Council or Governing Body. You could choose a different topic for each section, e.g. Are school uniforms a good idea? Video short responses from different students and add them to the Wiki to get a sense of the range of ideas and opinions across the school.

7 Celebrations



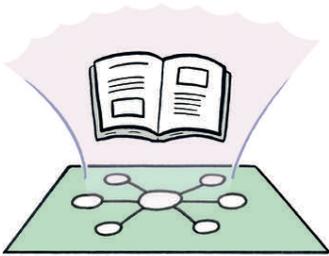
Use a Wiki to share what the class knows about different celebrations throughout the year. You could choose a different celebration for each section. Ask the students to bring in items from home that may be used in the celebrations. You could focus on religious festivals or cultural/ secular celebrations like birthdays or Halloween.

8 Characters



If you are studying a text in English, you could give each character in the text a Wiki section. For example, in *Romeo and Juliet*, give Romeo a section of the Wiki. Inside this section you can add information about his character, his appearance, his family, his strengths and flaws.

9 Story planner



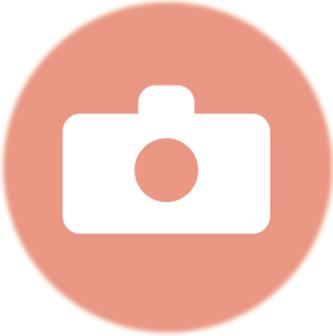
You can use a Wiki to plan creative writing projects. Each section can be used to represent a section of a story. Within the section the story can be developed into chapters or pages. Because you can change the order of sections and pages in the Wiki, it is easy to change the order of events in the story.

10 Recipes



Make a sequence of steps using a Wiki. Each section could relate to a different recipe. For example, fairy cakes, humus, ginger biscuits, fruit salad. Within the section you can add a series of instructions and photos helping people to follow the recipe.

11 Photo competition



If your school organises a photography competition, the Wiki is a great place to show off the students' contributions. You can use the sections to represent different groups or year groups. For example, Year 6 photos could be in their own section. The photos can be added along with the name of the student and a short caption or explanation of the photo.

12 School trip



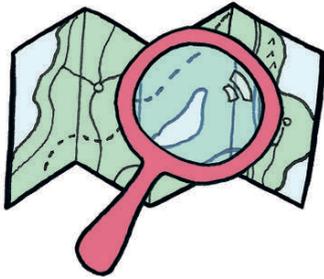
You can walk the children through the day plan for a school trip so they know what to expect. Use the Wiki to structure the day. You could use one section for travel, with maps and pictures, another for morning activities, another for afternoon activities...

13 Self help kiosks



Many schools want their students to become more independent. Create a Wiki with sections that show students how to complete different activities. This could be things like taking a book from the library, taking lunchboxes back to class, hanging up your own coat. In special schools the videos and photos in a Wiki will help to remind the students with key tips and pointers.

14 Local area study



Add a photo of your town or local area to the middle circle of the Wiki. Then add some interesting facts about your area into this section. In the surrounding sections, choose places close to where you live and collect interesting facts about these too. You can extend the idea to towns and cities – with Nottingham in the middle, for example, you could add sections for Derby, Sheffield, Lincoln, Leicester and Loughborough.

15 Countries



To extend the previous local area study idea, create a Wiki about countries that neighbour the UK. Put the UK in the middle circle and then add Ireland, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium and France, for example.

16 Language diversity



There may be lots of different languages that your students speak. Ask the students to practise saying 'hello' in languages they know or use at home. Make a language learning Wiki! You could label each section with the name of a language, e.g. Italian, Tamil, Hindi etc... Within the section, have a video of a speaker saying hello in this language. Use the audio feature or the text field below the video to translate this into English.

17 Artists and their work



Use a class Wiki to share your knowledge of an artist or theme. Each section could be labelled with the name of an artist, or a medium (watercolour, pastel, collage etc.), or a colour or theme. You can add group ideas, artwork and facts into each section.

18 Juke box



Students are used to creating music, digitally and with traditional instruments. Record their compositions or performances using video or audio and save these to a Wiki. You could display the Wiki in the foyer or reception area to allow visitors to pick their tracks as they wait. Each section could represent a different genre of music or a different instrument or mood.

19 Making drinks



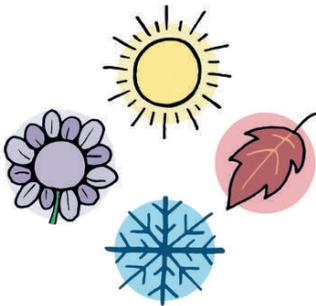
One of the first tasks you need to learn in a new office or workplace is how to make a brew for everyone. Create a Wiki to remind students how to make tea or coffee. This can be a useful aid memoire to take into their work placement or new job! Because a Wiki works well on a smartphone, it can be used discreetly to give confidence and act as a reminder.

20 Social stories



A social story can be used to explain how to manage behaviour and emotions in different social situations. Create a different social story for each section of the Wiki.

21 Seasons



Create a Seasons Wiki, with a section for each season. Collect images throughout the year to represent the seasons. Focus on changes to the weather, the wildlife, the plants and trees and the seasonal celebrations. In the middle circle, explain the science behind the seasons.

22 Interactive quiz



Create an interactive quiz. Write seven questions about a topic or theme you are studying. Add the answers to the titles of the Wiki sections. Inside each section, explain the reason behind the answer. Now ask the player a question and get them to click on the answer (section) that corresponds to it.

23 CV



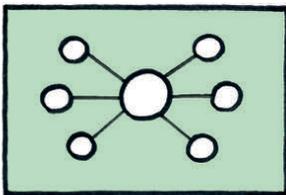
Use a Wiki to showcase your student's skills, knowledge and experience. Instead of writing about a skill, make a video of your student using that skill.

24 Parent career advice



Parents may have experienced a whole host of careers. Get the students to ask their parents about their careers and record their responses on a video. Add the videos to the Wiki. The students can get an insight into different careers and life pathways.

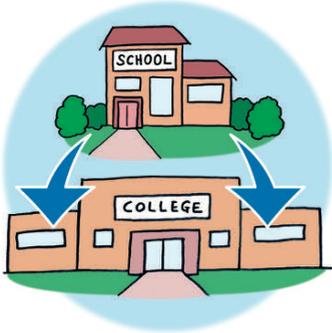
25 Submitting evidence for an exam or qualification



Make a request to submit evidence to the exam board via a Wiki. RIX knows of parents and schools who use the Wiki to capture evidence for accreditation purposes and submit this digitally for assessment.



26 Transition helper



If a student is anxious about a transition to a new class, school or home, use a Wiki to take photos of the new place and the staff they will meet. This can help reduce the stress and worry about a planned transition.

27 Habitats



Select seven different habitats and use a Wiki section for each one.

28 Modes of transport



Feature a different mode of transport in each Wiki section. Gather facts about each mode of transport and rate their eco credentials.

29 Crystal Maze Wiki



In The Crystal Maze TV show, The contestants have to solve problems and puzzles to win. Get the students to think of a challenge or task and to describe this in a section. Use the section pages to explain the task and the rules of the challenge. You can use the final slide to record the answer or solution.

30 Charity



Schools support many charities over the course of the year. A group of students can manage a Charity Wiki. Each section can feature a charity that has been supported, what the charity does and how much money the school raised.

31 Interactive canteen menu



Schools publish a school dinner menu in a paper format. Bring the menu to life with videos and commentary by the students. This can include information about the food miles or welfare standards of the food being served.

32 Constellations



The constellations in the night sky. Label each section of the Wiki with a constellation name. Within the sections, add slides that explain more about the constellations and the mythology behind them.

33 School awards



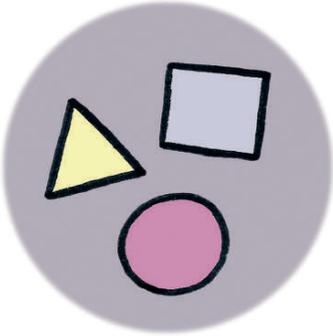
Schools are awarded with the Arts mark, ICT mark, Eco award etc. Each section of the Wiki could feature a different award. Within the section, use slides to describe the award and what the school did to win it. The Wiki then becomes an online trophy cabinet for the school.

34 Dream home



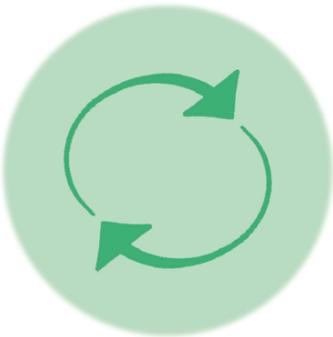
Create your own dream home and describe it using a Wiki. Each section can represent a different part of your dream home, the kitchen, lounge, games room, garden etc. You can then add images from the internet and students' drawings to the appropriate sections of the Wiki.

35 I spy shapes



Name each section a different shape, e.g. triangle, square, circle. Find these shapes in the built and natural environment and take photos of them. Add the photos to the Wiki sections.

36 Eco



Describe 6 different eco projects or initiatives the school is taking part in. Use each section to describe an initiative, e.g. collecting used batteries. Describe how these are recycled and how this can help to reduce our impact on the planet. In the middle circle, record the names or add a photo of the Eco representatives or councillors in the school.

37 Sports



Celebrate a competition or tournament e.g. the Olympics. Ask the students to label each section with a sport or event. Inside each section they could focus on some key facts or details about the event such as its history, the rules, the most successful athletes.

38 School champs



Following on from the Sports Wiki idea, create a Wiki that features students who are skilled in their sport and perhaps compete at a local or national level. Each Wiki section could represent a different sport or you could feature a different student in each section and describe their achievements.

39 Pet's Wiki



Create a Wiki for your pet or the school pet. It can include sections such as What I eat, What I love, What annoys me, My job. It can be fun to make a humorous Wiki about the pet and giving it a voice and opinion is something the students really enjoy doing. This can be a great activity for motivational writing.

40 Garden tour



Use a Wiki to curate a virtual tour of the garden. Include information about the plants, habitats, animals and insects in the garden.

Tips and tricks

Organisation in the classroom

For some of these ideas, the teacher may wish to take the lead, creating a class Wiki. In other circumstances, a group or individual may wish to create their own Wiki as a response to the ideas.

Private or public

All Wikis are private – editable and viewable only through a username and password. You can choose to make a Wiki public and this can help you showcase your ideas via the school website. Remember to review your safeguarding, data protection, e-safety and photo consent policies and check that you have permission to share the information in the Wikis. In most circumstances you will need to get permission from the Headteacher.



RIX Research and Media: Finalist 2020 Bett Awards
Category: Special Educational Needs Solutions

Find out more about RIX Wikis here: rixresearchandmedia.org

