

Edublogs Staff Guide for Setting up and Managing Classes

This guide will help you to manage your classes and administer your Edublogs and also provide basic worksheets for the creation of content.

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Logging in

1. Firstly always use the 'Google Chrome' browser when accessing Edublogs

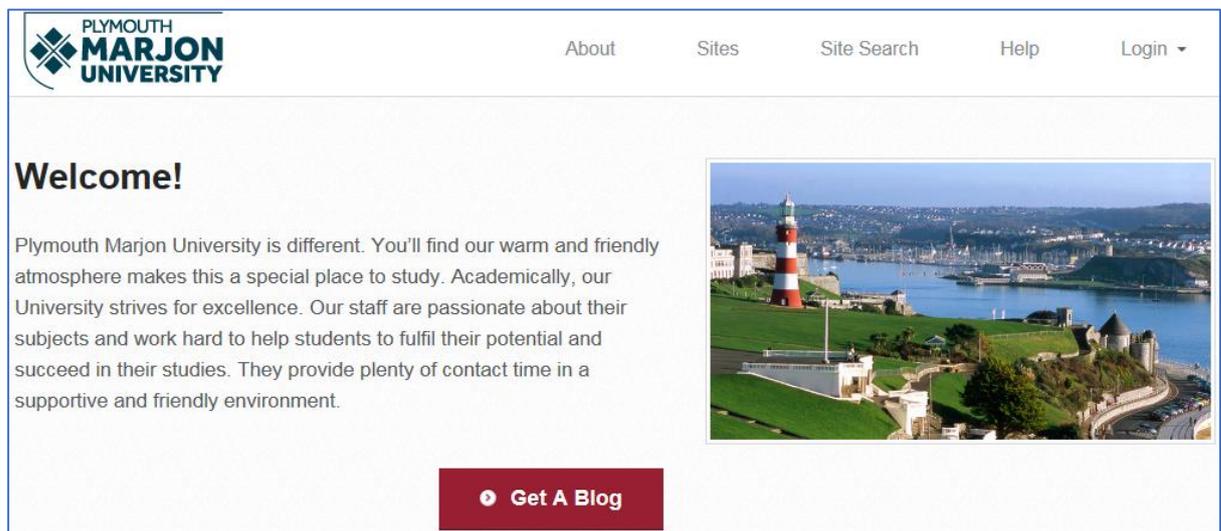


2. Go to www.moodle.marjon.ac.uk (LearningSpace)

On the home page, you should see a number of different areas, one is Edublogs, click on this:



3. You will now be taken to the main Edublogs login page for Plymouth Marjon University.
Click on 'Login'



4. Enter your username and password. If you have forgotten your account details please follow the instructions here: <https://sites.marjon.ac.uk/wp-login.php?action=lostpassword>

Edublogs and the dashboard

The below screenshot will show what each section means in your dashboard.

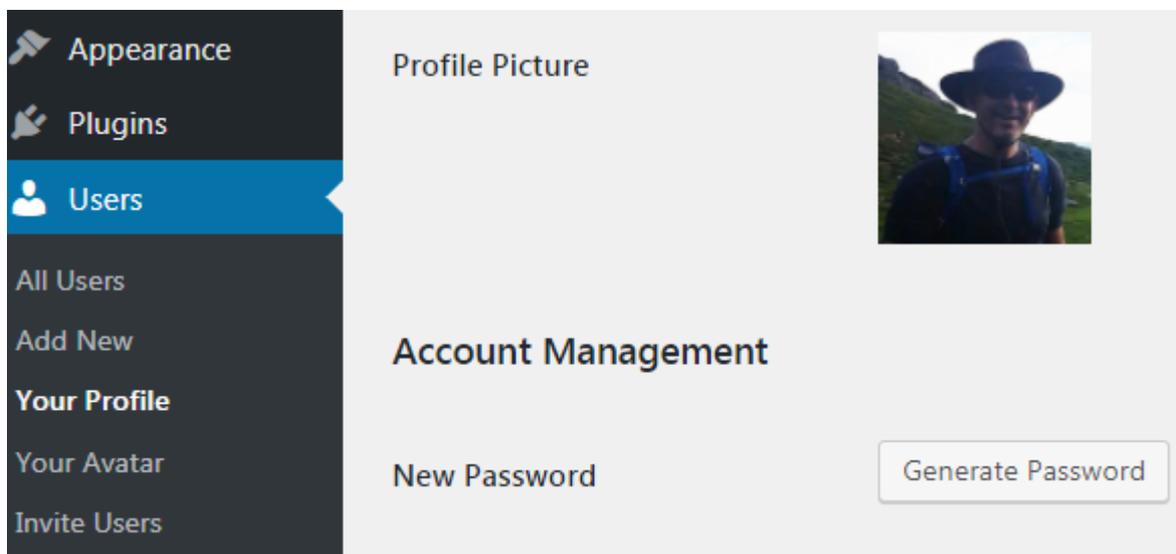
The screenshot shows the Edublogs dashboard interface. The left sidebar contains a list of menu items, and the main content area shows a 'Recent Posts' section. Pink arrows point from the menu items to their corresponding descriptions in the main content area.

Dashboard Menu Item	Description
Dashboard	stats on web views
Reader 17	Where your class is managed
My Sites	Where your sites are located - hover mouse over to see
Statistics	stats on web views
My Class	Where your class is managed
Posts	the posts area
Media	To access all your pics & videos
Links	For use with the links widget
Pages	Where the main content is created for the site
Comments	If posts are used, this is where any comments can be approved/rejected
Projects	
Appearance	Mainly used to change the template, customise the site & change the menu
Plugins	Used to add additional features to the site
Users	Shows all users on the site
Tools	Shows all users on the site
Settings	Not really used - for sharing content
Divi	
Subscriptions	Where you can manage your general settings and site settings
Collapse menu	

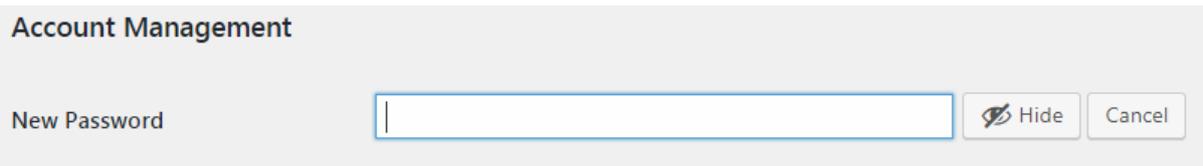
Change your password

Follow the below instructions to change your password.

1. From the right-hand menu within Edublogs, find the menu item called 'Users' – hover your mouse over the link and click on 'Your Profile'
2. Scroll down the page until you see 'Generate Password' & click on this
3. Enter your new password (you may need to tick a box to confirm a weak use of a password) then 'Update Profile'



The screenshot shows the Edublogs user interface. On the left is a dark sidebar menu with 'Users' highlighted in blue. Below 'Users' are options: 'All Users', 'Add New', 'Your Profile', 'Your Avatar', and 'Invite Users'. The main content area is titled 'Account Management' and features a 'Profile Picture' section with a photo of a man in a hat. Below this is a 'New Password' section with a 'Generate Password' button.



This is a close-up of the 'New Password' input field. It shows a text box with a vertical cursor, a 'Hide' button with an eye icon, and a 'Cancel' button.

Creating a Class & Student Process

Creating a class is something that a member of the Digital Innovation team will complete on behalf of the tutor currently. In future, staff should have the required skills to be able to do this themselves and this guide forms part of the how-to process.

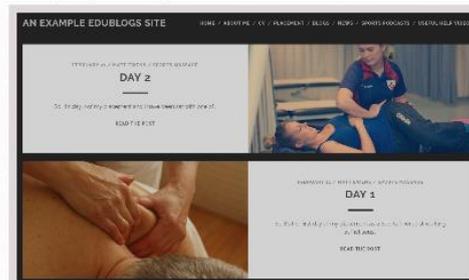
1. Login to Edublogs
2. Click on 'Get a Blog'
3. Follow the prompts for setting up your new site
4. For the Site name – enter the module code in lowercase followed by the year
5. For the Site title enter the module title and the year
6. Enter any privacy option (it does not matter which as you will select the class privacy later and this determines the students' privacy for their blogs that are attached to the class)
7. Select any template (it does not matter which as the site is simply a route to enable you to create a class)
8. Create Site

Employability Template



A template for setting up an Edublog for employability

Example Sports Blog



A tailored site, best used for blogging - designed with sports-related content

[Create Site](#)

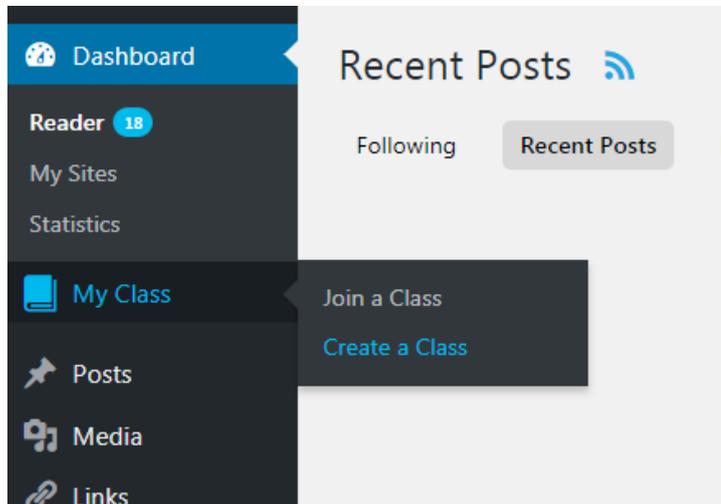
Note: If you get an error message at this point, it may be that someone has the same site name as you, go back to the top and edit the site name

You will be redirected to another page and you should see a screenshot like the one below. Click on the link after 'The site is yours.' The site will then be created and once created you will automatically be sent to the dashboard for the site.

The site **Reflective Sports Therapy** is yours.

sites.marjon.ac.uk/mewenstest is your new site. [Log in](#) as "mewens" using your existing password.

9. Within the dashboard of your new site you should hover your mouse over 'My Class' and select 'Create Class'



10. Check the box 'This is a class blog'
11. Leave the settings as default for the first two sections
12. Select the required privacy you want for the class (which will determine the privacy for the students blogs once they have joined the class)

Privacy key:

'Allow search engines to index this site' – not recommended whilst the students are at university. It may be that students will want the option after leaving university to allow Google to index the site, if they have a portfolio to show potential employers.

'Discourage search engines from indexing this site' – Although Google will not list the site on its search engine, it will be available for external visitor to visit the website if they have the website link.

'Only registered users of Plymouth Marjon University Sites network can view this site' – Only users that have signed up through the Marjon institutional login process will be able to view the blog. This means that any student or member of staff registered will be able to see the content if they have the blog link.

'Only registered users of this site can view it' – This means that only users that have been added to the particular blog will be able to see the blog (this option is used when students either work collaboratively on the same blog or as part of a group to reflect on each other's blog. So, students would add each group member via 'Users' > 'Add New') – note that teachers attached to the class will still be able to view the blogs

'Only someone who provides the following password can view this site' – [The Ronseal option](#).

13. Check the box for 'Allow all students in this class to read each other's posts in the dashboard 'Reader' tool.' If you're happy for students to see a snippet in their dashboard from other students' blogs
14. Set any specific permissions for access to things like 'Switching Themes' (usually this is set to 'Allow' – but you may have had a specific template created especially for the module, so in this case uncheck this option.
15. Save your class
16. Do you have other members of staff that you want to give access to the class? If you do, head over to 'Users' > 'Add New' – in the search box start typing the email address for the member of staff. If you are using Google Chrome browser their name should automatically appear for selection. If you're using Internet Explorer, this may not happen – enter their full email address and then select the role of 'Teacher' from the drop-down box
17. Click the 'Add Existing User' button
18. Go back to the Class via 'My Class' > Settings.
19. There will be the following message at the top:

Settings

A new Teacher has been added to this Class Blog. You need to click Save under My Class > [Settings](#) to activate this Teacher on this Class Blog.

20. Scroll down the page and check any additional teachers and then Save.

Student process

Students will be asked to follow the below process to join your class – this is just for information purposes to show you what they do.

The class enables your tutor to access all your blog work, so it is important that you join the class.

Before we begin with the task, it is worth explaining what happens when you subscribe to other people's blogs or what happens when you create more than one site. (you are not required to be in groups for this exercise or subscribe to other blogs, this is for information purposes)

If you look to the top of the screen you'll see 'My Sites' – hovering your mouse over this will reveal your new site, but if in the future you are subscribed to numerous sites or you create more – all these sites will also appear in the drop-down list. This can get confusing, so keep this in mind.

If you do get stuck in the future or confused by a long list of sites, you can hide them by following this guide on our TEL help site: <https://sites.marjon.ac.uk/elearning/2018/11/07/dit-hint-of-the-week-organising-your-edublog-sites-2/> (for now, just keep this link bookmarked as you only have one site)

To join the class

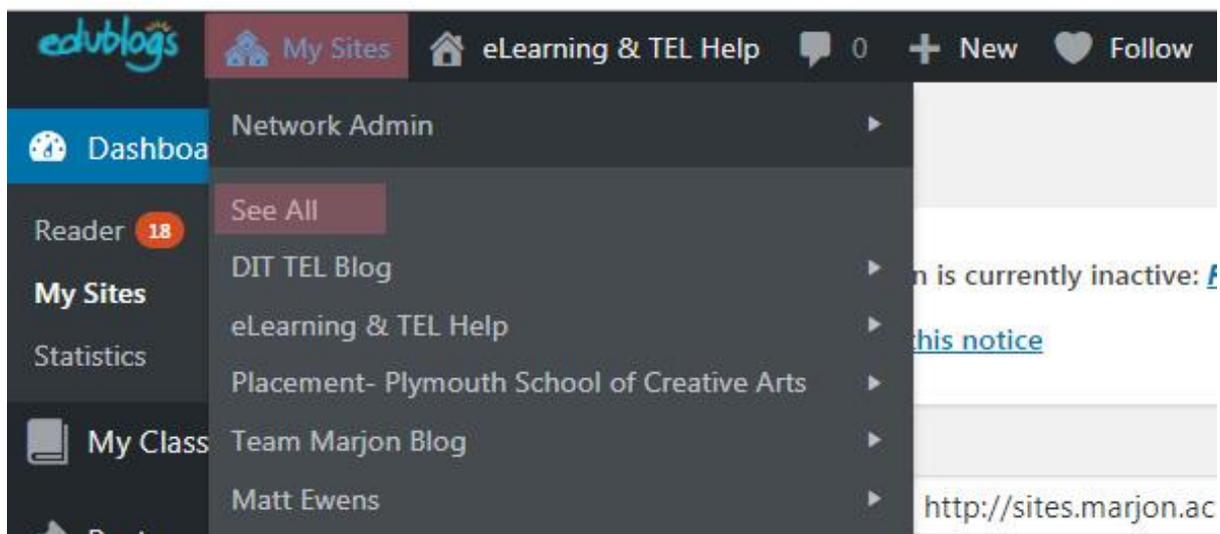
1. Hover your mouse over 'My Class'
2. Click on 'Join a class'
3. In the search box copy and paste the following text exactly: xxxxxx
4. Click 'Search'
5. Click on 'Request to join'

Housekeeping & Managing your class & sites

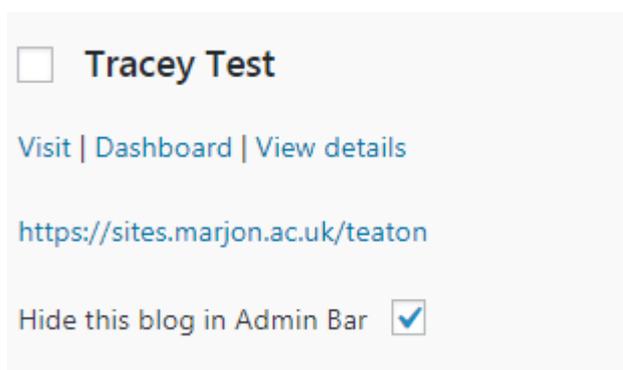
Housekeeping

If you are already a user on numerous sites, then it's likely that the drop-down list of sites is long and if you are a user on more than 20 sites, then you will not be able to see all the sites.

To access all your sites, just click on the link at the top of the drop-down list 'See All' or click on the three houses icon.



This will take you to pages of your sites. Here you can opt to hide any old sites that you no longer need access to from the drop-down menu.



If you hide any blogs remember to 'Save Changes' before moving on to another page.

If you find this method above problematic, you may want to review a [previous blog post](#) about managing your sites, with instructions on how to create lists to help you manage Edublogs.

Managing your class & sites

To manage your class, you need to login to Edublogs and navigate to the class site via the drop-down list under 'My Sites' (if you can't find the site, you'll need to view all sites and find the site and then visit the dashboard)

1. Go to 'My Class' and click on 'My Class'
2. You will be taken to your class. (note if you have not done so already, there may be student blogs to approve on this page. If there are, approve them)
3. You will see x10 student blogs on each page and here you can view any blog by clicking on 'Visit' through each of the blog areas, as below:

The screenshot shows a management interface for a class site. At the top, there is a checkmark icon and the title "Invasion Games in the National Curriculum in Physical Education". Below the title, the URL "sites.marjon.ac.uk" is displayed with a redacted portion. There are three main action buttons: "Visit" (with an eye icon), "Dashboard" (with a globe icon), and "Open in Reader" (with a person icon). Below these, there are three columns of statistics: "Posts" (0 pending, 0 total), "Pages" (0 pending, 6 total), and "Comments" (0 pending, 0 total). At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Remove Blog from Class" and "Delete Blog".

There are many additional options, as above. For example if a student has added the wrong blog to your class, you can 'Remove Blog from Class' – then they will be able to add the correct blog.

Note: Students can only join one class at a time, they can't join numerous classes.

Sometimes on occasion, you may visit a student's blog and find that there is no content or have difficulty finding it. In this case, you can visit the student's dashboard or go directly into their pages/posts. So, if I wanted to view the 6 pages above, I would just click on them. This way you can view any content you need to.

All (6) | Published (6) | Bin (2)

Bulk Actions ▾ Apply All dates ▾ Filter

Title

About me

Click on the page to view the content, then click on the Permalink to view

About me

Permalink: <http://sites.marjon.ac.uk/afarmerphed10/about-me/>

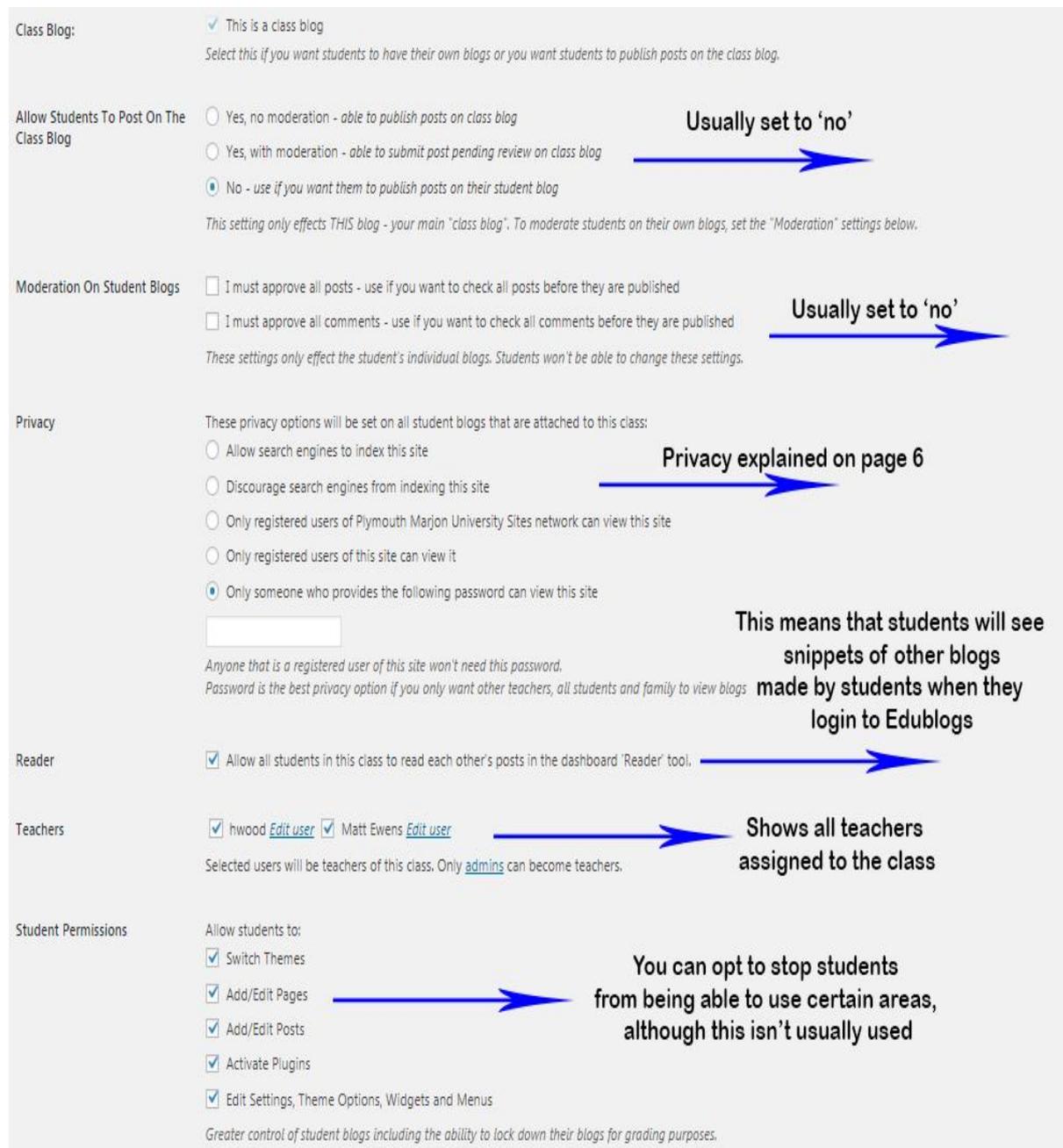
Class settings

If you need to check the permissions for privacy for the class, or for example you want to lower the level or privacy after the students have had their blogs marked for the purposes of reflection so the students see each other's blogs – you can do this via the settings.

1. Hover the mouse over 'My Class' then click on 'Settings'

This will enable you to alter the settings as required.

Class settings key



The screenshot shows the 'Class Settings' page with several sections and annotations:

- Class Blog:** This is a class blog. *Select this if you want students to have their own blogs or you want students to publish posts on the class blog.*
- Allow Students To Post On The Class Blog:**
 - Yes, no moderation - able to publish posts on class blog
 - Yes, with moderation - able to submit post pending review on class blog
 - No - use if you want them to publish posts on their student blog*This setting only effects THIS blog - your main "class blog". To moderate students on their own blogs, set the "Moderation" settings below.*

Usually set to 'no' (with arrow pointing to the 'No' option)
- Moderation On Student Blogs:**
 - I must approve all posts - use if you want to check all posts before they are published
 - I must approve all comments - use if you want to check all comments before they are published*These settings only effect the student's individual blogs. Students won't be able to change these settings.*

Usually set to 'no' (with arrow pointing to the 'I must approve all posts' option)
- Privacy:**

These privacy options will be set on all student blogs that are attached to this class:

 - Allow search engines to index this site
 - Discourage search engines from indexing this site
 - Only registered users of Plymouth Marjon University Sites network can view this site
 - Only registered users of this site can view it
 - Only someone who provides the following password can view this site

*Anyone that is a registered user of this site won't need this password.
Password is the best privacy option if you only want other teachers, all students and family to view blogs*

Privacy explained on page 6 (with arrow pointing to the 'Discourage search engines' option)

This means that students will see snippets of other blogs made by students when they login to Edublogs (with arrow pointing to the password option)
- Reader:** Allow all students in this class to read each other's posts in the dashboard 'Reader' tool. (with arrow pointing to the option)
- Teachers:**
 - hwood [Edit user](#)
 - Matt Ewens [Edit user](#)*Selected users will be teachers of this class. Only [admins](#) can become teachers.*

Shows all teachers assigned to the class (with arrow pointing to the teacher list)
- Student Permissions:**

Allow students to:

 - Switch Themes
 - Add/Edit Pages
 - Add/Edit Posts
 - Activate Plugins
 - Edit Settings, Theme Options, Widgets and Menus

Greater control of student blogs including the ability to lock down their blogs for grading purposes.

You can opt to stop students from being able to use certain areas, although this isn't usually used (with arrow pointing to the 'Add/Edit Pages' option)

Adding Teachers to the Class

1. To add other teachers to the class, go to 'Users' > 'Add New'
2. Search for the member of staff (if you use Google Chrome, when you start typing a name it should automatically appear – if you use Internet Explorer most likely it will not do this) – or find the staff email address and type it into the search box.
3. Set the role to 'Teacher' and 'Add Existing User'
4. Navigate back to the class settings (My Class > Settings)
5. Save

The member of staff will be added to the class. Just make sure that the 'Teacher' box is checked within the class, as below:

Teachers

Helen Baker [Edit user](#) Matt Ewens [Edit user](#)

Class Reports

If you wish, you can create reports on the class activity, this can be done to show all activity relating to all the student blogs, including posts, comments and users. You can only set it to extract data monthly.

If you want to generate a report, go to 'My Class' > 'Reports'

You can download any data as a PDF or CSV file for use in a spreadsheet. This could be useful if you want to see when content was saved. For example, if a student was able to upload their blog before the deadline. You can filter the date column to display the most recent items.

Further support

For further support head to the TEL help site and look under 'help for students' section for Edublog support posts: <http://sites.marjon.ac.uk/elearninghelp/category/help-for-students/edublogs-help-for-students/>

If you are struggling with anything related to today's session, you can also contact me directly via: mewens@marjon.ac.uk

Or called 01752 636700 ext 5673

If I am unavailable or away, you can also email digitalinnovation@marjon.ac.uk