

Hwb Networks Update

Following feedback from user research, improvements are being made to the Hwb platform to better support collaboration. As part of this work, Hwb Networks will be decommissioned during October half term 2026, and local authorities and schools should move to an alternative tool.

It is no longer possible to create new networks in the current Hwb Network tool. Existing networks will still be available until October half term 2026.

Memberships, discussions and files will not automatically transfer to an alternative platform. Network owners are responsible for managing the migration of content and members to their chosen replacement tool.

Key dates

Date	What happens
Now	Users should decide which alternative tool best meets their needs and begin planning their migration.
October half term 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current Hwb Networks tool becomes read-only.• A new Hwb network tool launches.• Both services will be available until 30th November 2026, allowing users time to migrate content and members.
30 November 2026	The current Hwb Networks service and all associated data will be permanently deleted and cannot be recovered.

Alternative tools available through Hwb

There will be three alternative solutions available through Hwb:

- 1) Microsoft Teams
- 2) Google Classroom
- 3) A new network tool – currently in development. It is expected to be the closest alternative to the current Hwb Networks tool. It will support discussions and the sharing of files directly from OneDrive and Google Drive.

Action required

- Decide which alternative tool you will use - Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, or the new Hwb Networks tool.

- Review your network and save any files, resources or discussion content you may need in the future. Content remaining in the current Hwb Networks service will be permanently deleted after 30th November 2026.
- If you choose Microsoft Teams or Google Classroom, you can begin migrating your content and members immediately.

Support for using Microsoft Teams as an alternative

[How to create a staff team in Microsoft Teams](#)

[How to create a Professional Learning Community team in Microsoft Teams](#)

[Get started with Microsoft Teams for Education](#)

[Get started with Microsoft Teams for Education](#)

Things to consider

- When creating a team, choose the 'Professional Learning Community' or 'staff' option.
- Microsoft Teams can feel busy if notifications aren't managed. Learn how to [manage notifications](#)

Support for using Google Classroom as an alternative

[Courses to learn more about Google Classroom](#)

Things to consider

- Announcements can be made in Google Classroom, but conversations are typically linked to posts or assignments, rather than ongoing threaded discussions.
- Google Classroom is typically used to manage classes and workflow between practitioners and learners but can be used for staff collaboration. Please note, all staff need to have a Hwb account.

Support

If you need support, contact Hwb.Datblygiadau@llyw.cymru or Hwb.Development@gov.wales