



Professional Development
Service for Teachers

An tSeirbhís um Fhorbairt
Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí



Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

www.pdst.ie

Post-Primary Resource



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PLEASE NOTE

This publication, ***Edmodo: Virtual Learning Environment***, is part of a suite of publications, created to guide and support teachers in using online tools in order to support teaching and learning.

Introduction to Edmodo

What is Edmodo?

Edmodo is a free social learning platform for teachers, students and also parents. It offers a safe and easy way for students and teachers to exchange ideas, share content or information and access homework.

Why use Edmodo?

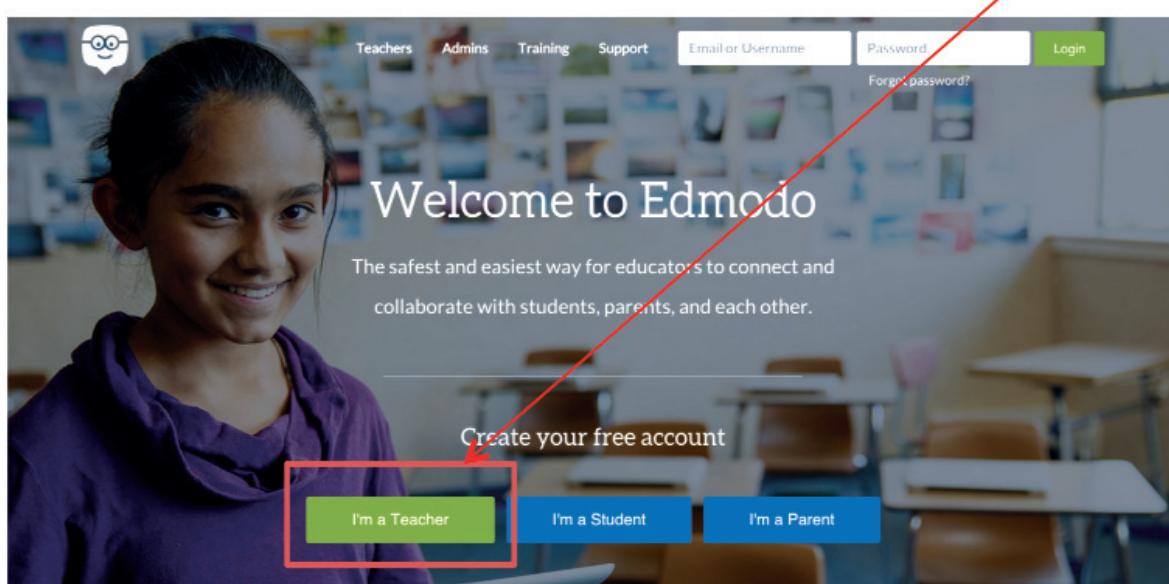
One of the benefits of Edmodo is that it is a closed environment which requires no personal information from students. Students can only join at the invitation of their teacher and require a group code or URL to join a class. All communication is archived by the teacher and no private chat is allowed between students.

Suggested Teaching Strategies

- Teachers can start discussions with individual students or groups. Students can critically engage with questions posed and can easily access the knowledge of other class member. Student knowledge of a topic can be gauged by the teacher
- Past class discussions can be later referred to and used as a revision tool for students
- Post links to what previous students have completed through Edmodo such as presentations, videos, photos and podcasts
- Post “how to” videos from YouTube to help students when they are doing their homework at home
- Set up monthly calendars in advance indicating holidays, assignments, tests, upcoming events
- The poll feature can be useful as an Assessment for Learning tool or as an exit ticket from the class
- Teachers can create badges to motivate and reward students
- Edmodo can facilitate a flipped classroom as notes, links, presentations and useful videos can be quickly and easily shared with students. This is particularly useful if a student is absent for a significant period of time due to illness

Joining Edmodo as a Teacher

Go to <https://www.edmodo.com/> If you don't already have an account, click on “I'm a Teacher”.



Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

Enter your details in the spaces provided, then click “Sign Up”. Remember to keep a note of your password.

Edmodo for Teachers

Set up your classroom in less than 2 minutes

|
 Password

Sign Up for Free

By signing up, you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

Enter your details, including the grades you teach. Most post-primary teachers teach a range of grades, e.g. 7 – 12. If you don't see your subject in the drop down list, select "All".

Update Your Teacher Profile Set Up Your Classroom

Set Up Your Profile

Tell us your name
Title First Name Last Name

Tell us what you teach
Grade or Range
Subject Area
+Add Subject

10 MB Maximum Size

Upload a New Photo

Next Step

You will automatically be brought to the “Home” screen. When you initially sign up and log on, this will be empty, but as you join and create groups and join Edmodo communities, this will fill up with updates each day.

Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with a profile picture of Ms. O'Sullivan, a 'Groups' section listing various courses like 'Edmodo Certified Learner Course' and 'PME Special Methods Accounting', and a 'Communities' section. In the main content area, there's a 'Note' form with fields for note content and a search bar. Below that is a 'Latest Activity' feed. The 'Join a Group' button in the sidebar is highlighted with a red arrow pointing to the 'Join a Group' input field in the main content area.

Joining a Group

You will begin by joining a group that has been set up for you. Click on “Join a Group” in the “Groups” tab on the left-hand side of the screen. Enter the join code given to you by the instructor. As a member of a group, you can answer polls, take assignments and post to the group wall (if the teacher gives you permission). The group that has been set up for you will allow you to share and exchange ideas with other teachers throughout Ireland.

Another group you may wish to join is “Edmodo Teachers Ireland”. Click on <http://tinyurl.com/edmodoireland> to request permission to join.

Building your Profile

Improve your profile on Edmodo by adding a photo (or avatar) of yourself, connecting with other teachers you know, creating groups that your students join, uploading commonly used files to the library and joining professional learning communities on Edmodo.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo profile page for Ms. Slobhan O'Sullivan. Her profile picture is a cartoon character. Her name is listed as 'Ms. Slobhan O'Sullivan'. She is described as a '7th - Higher Education Teacher' at 'Professional Development Service for Teachers Dublin 12, Ireland'. Her profile shows '100% profile completeness' with a link to 'How to improve my profile?'. Statistics include '2 Students', '8 Teacher Connections', '15 Library Items', and a '45 Sharing Score'. Below this, there are sections for 'Teacher Badges - 4' (with four icons shown) and 'Collections - 1' (with two icons shown).

Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

Creating a Group

You will set up separate groups for each class you teach. Click “Create a Group” in the “Groups” tab on the left-hand side of the screen.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with various course links like 'Edmodo Certified Learner Course', 'LCVP & Assessment', etc., and a 'Groups' section which is currently active. Within the 'Groups' section, there are three buttons: 'Manage Groups', 'Create a Group', and 'Join a Group'. A red arrow points to the 'Create a Group' button. The main content area shows a post from 'Mr. Imran' in a group called 'Social Studies'. The post reads: 'Hi I am a 6 grade Geography teacher. I need resources e.g lesson plans etc based on mapping skills, physical and human geography.' Below the post, there are replies from other users. At the top of the page, there's a search bar and several navigation icons.

Name your group. Tip: don't say 1st Year Business Studies, as next year they will be 2nd years and you will have a new group of 1st years, which will be confusing. A good idea is to name the class after the year they enter the school or the year they will complete their exam, e.g. 1st years who joined the school in 2015 could be called “Business Studies 2015” or “Business Studies class of 2018”. Select a grade (this follows the American grade system, you may select a range, e.g. 7th – 9th would be equivalent to Junior Cycle, TY is 8th grade and Senior Cycle would be 11th – 12th). Subject area: select “All” and then click “Create”.

This screenshot shows the Edmodo Group page for a group named 'DW'. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Group Code' (which shows 'yyq8m4') and 'Join URL'. A red arrow points to the 'Group Code' section. Below the sidebar, there are sections for 'Posts', 'Folders', and 'Members'. The 'Small Groups' section shows three stylized human figures. On the right, there's a 'Group Posts' section with a message: 'Your classroom is ready for students!' followed by two numbered steps: 1. 'Invite students to join by giving them this Group Code: yyq8m4. Students can sign up for Edmodo using this code or join if they have an existing account.' 2. 'Lock the Group Code once your students have joined and make sure not to post it publicly. This code will automatically lock 14 days after group creation. Any student joining with the locked Group Code will be placed into a queue for you to approve.' There are also icons for a lock and a padlock.

Students will need to have the “Group Code” to join your group. This code is only valid for 14 days. After this, students will no longer be able to join the group using this code and will have to use the “Join URL” instead, which you will find if you select the second tab.

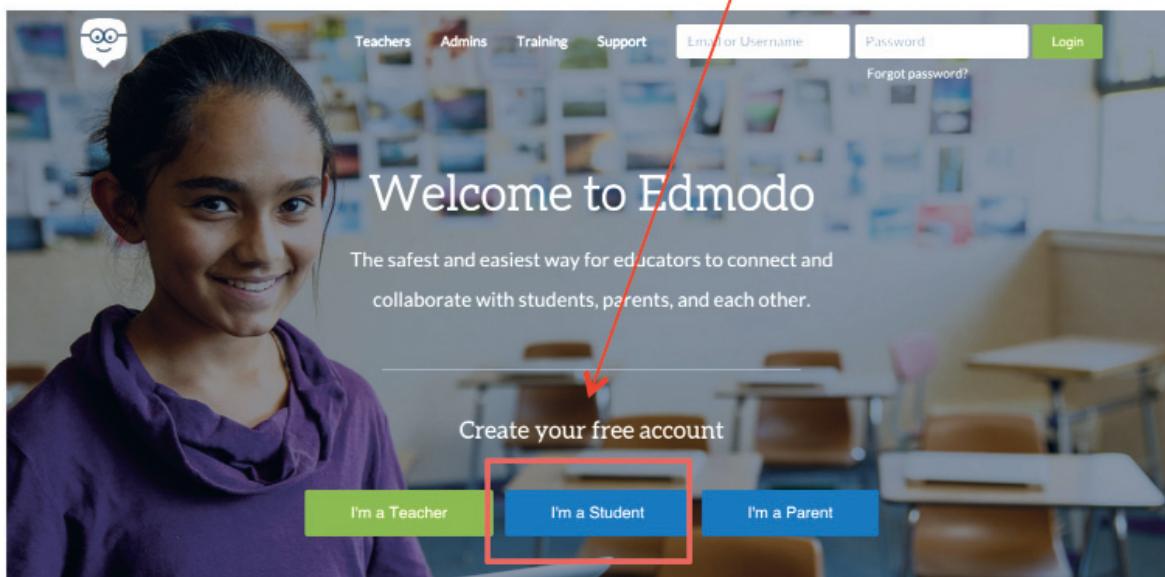
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When you have created groups for your classes, you can share the “Group Code” with your students and have them sign up for Edmodo.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo Group interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with a blue header 'DW Group' and a 'Group Code' section showing 'yyq8m4'. Below it are 'Posts', 'Folders', and 'Members' sections. A 'Small Groups' section is also visible. The main area has a search bar at the top. Below the search bar are tabs for 'Note', 'Alert', 'Assignment', 'Quiz', and 'Poll'. A note input field says 'Type your note here...'. Under 'Group Posts', a message says 'Your classroom is ready for students!' with an icon of three stylized human figures. Two numbered steps follow: Step 1 shows a lock icon and text about inviting students with the group code; Step 2 shows a padlock icon and text about locking the code after students join.

Joining as a Student

Students go to <https://www.edmodo.com/> and click on “I’m a Student”.



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They will need to enter their group join code and their own details in the spaces provided, then click "Sign Up". Remind them to keep a record of their username and password.

The image shows the 'Edmodo for Students' sign-up page. It features fields for First Name, Last Name, Group Code, Username, Email (Optional), and Password. A large green 'Sign Up For Free' button is at the bottom. A red arrow points from the top-left towards this button.

Edmodo for Students

Join your classroom in less than 2 minutes

First Name | Last Name

Group Code ?

Username

Email (Optional)

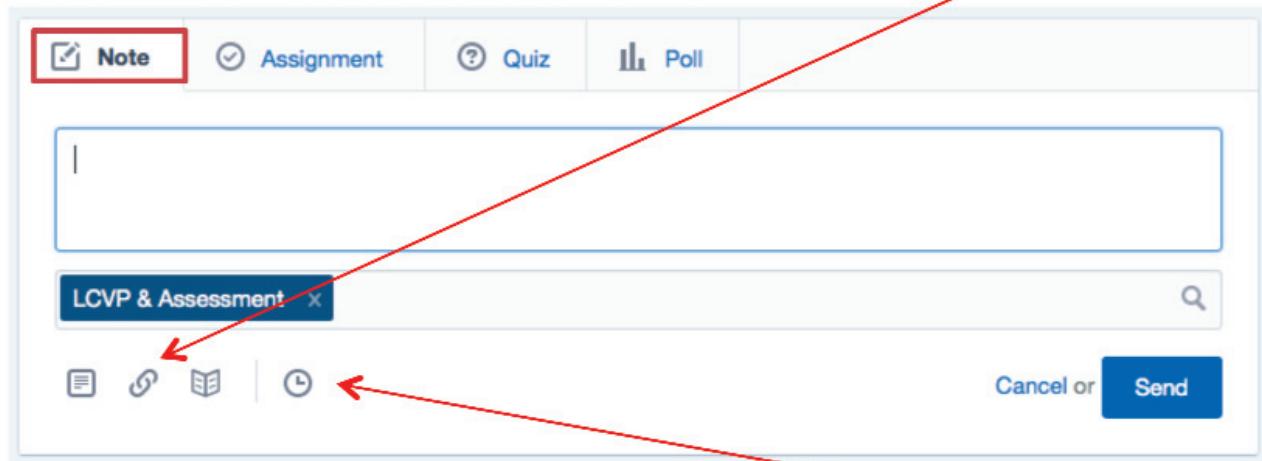
Password

Sign Up For Free

By signing up, you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)

Posting on Edmodo

There are a number of options when posting on Edmodo. The first option is to upload a "Note". This could be a discussion question which students will answer. This is a good way for students to show what they know about a topic. They can search previous posts to revise a topic. Class debates can be started using the "Note" feature. Students can't privately post to another student, all responses are viewable by everyone who is a member of the group. Files (notes/presentations) and links to websites can be shared with students in a note.



If you wish to send the note at a scheduled date and time, you can select the clock icon.

Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

An assignment can be given a title and description for students as well as a due date. This is ideal for setting homework. Once an assignment has been created, it can subsequently be re-used with other classes. This is useful if you frequently give similar projects to your first year students, e.g. designing a poster on “The Clever Consumer”.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface for creating a new assignment. At the top, there are four tabs: Note, Assignment (which is selected), Quiz, and Poll. Below the tabs, there are input fields for 'Assignment title' and 'Due Date'. A 'Load Assignment' button is also present. There is a large text area for 'Describe the assignment' and a checkbox for 'Lock this assignment after its due date'. At the bottom, there are icons for file attachments, a link, and a book, followed by a search bar and buttons for 'Cancel or Send'.

Quizzes/tests can easily be created using the “Quiz” option. These quizzes/tests are mainly self-correcting and allow a time limit and a range of question types, e.g. multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank and short answer. While “short answer” questions are not self-correcting, the teacher can easily grade these questions quickly and assign a mark for them. Records of student grades can be kept in Edmodo or exported to a spreadsheet (see overleaf: Tracking Student Progress). Previously created quizzes can be easily loaded and re-used with different classes.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface for creating a new quiz. At the top, there are four tabs: Note, Assignment, Quiz (selected), and Poll. Below the tabs, there are two buttons: 'Create a Quiz' and 'or Load From Collection'. The main area is currently empty.

The poll option facilitates instant feedback from students and is a useful Assessment for Learning (AfL) tool. It can also be used to gauge student understanding of a topic (traffic lighting) or to plan future lessons based on student feedback.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo interface for creating a new poll. At the top, there are four tabs: Note, Assignment, Quiz, and Poll (selected). Below the tabs, there is a text field for 'Question...' and two input fields for 'Answer #1' and 'Answer #2'. An 'Add Answer' button is located to the right of the second answer field. At the bottom, there is a search bar and buttons for 'Cancel or Send'.

Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

See an example of feedback from a poll.

A screenshot of an Edmodo poll results page titled "Me to UCD". The question is "Do you know how to create a group on Edmodo?". The results are as follows:

| Response | Percentage | Votes |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Yes | 75% | 3 vote(s) |
| No | 0% | 0 vote(s) |
| I'm not sure | 25% | 1 vote(s) |

Total votes: 4 (Refresh)

Tracking Student Progress

Student progress can be easily monitored by clicking on the “Progress” icon.

A screenshot of the Edmodo Progress page for the group "UCD". The page shows student grades and total points. A red arrow points to the "Export" button in the top right corner of the progress chart area.

| Student | Total |
|-------------------|------------|
| Joan Collins | 0% |
| C Lawler | 100% 36/36 |
| Philip Mahony | 0% |
| Mary Moloney | 0% |
| R Scully | 0% |
| Bernadette Wallac | 0% |
| Maura McMenamin | 72% 26/36 |

Clicking “Export” will allow you to save this information in an Excel spreadsheet.

Click on an individual student to enter their grade, percentages are automatically calculated.

Click on the Badges tab.

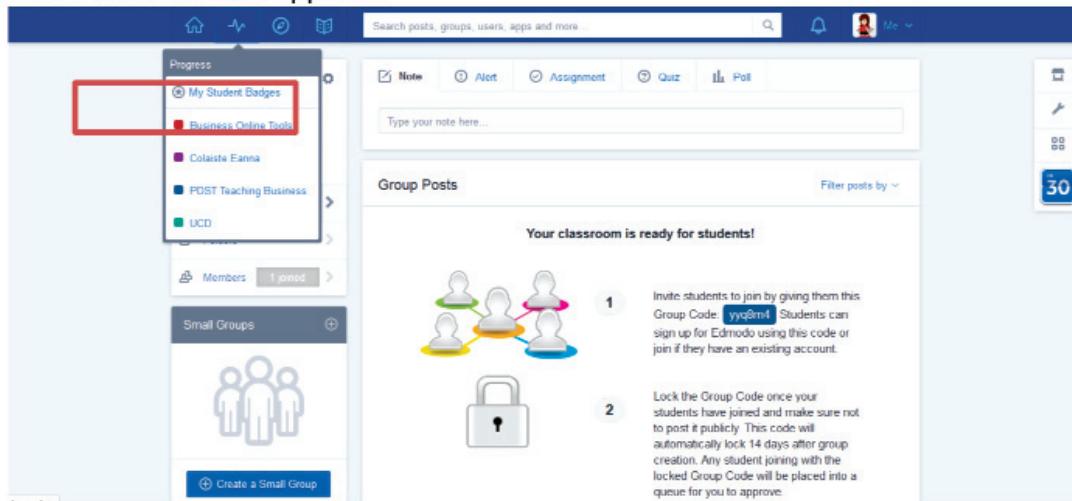
Badges can be awarded to students to reward them for work, effort, etc. Edmodo has eight pre-loaded badges, e.g. good question, hard worker, participant, perfect attendance. Teachers can easily create their own badges to reflect their own student/subject requirements.

A screenshot of the Edmodo Badges page showing student badges. One badge, "Perfect Punctuality!", is highlighted with a yellow border. Other badges include "Good Question", "Hard Worker", "Participant", "Perfect Attendance", and several others. A blue button at the bottom right says "Add badge to this group".

Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

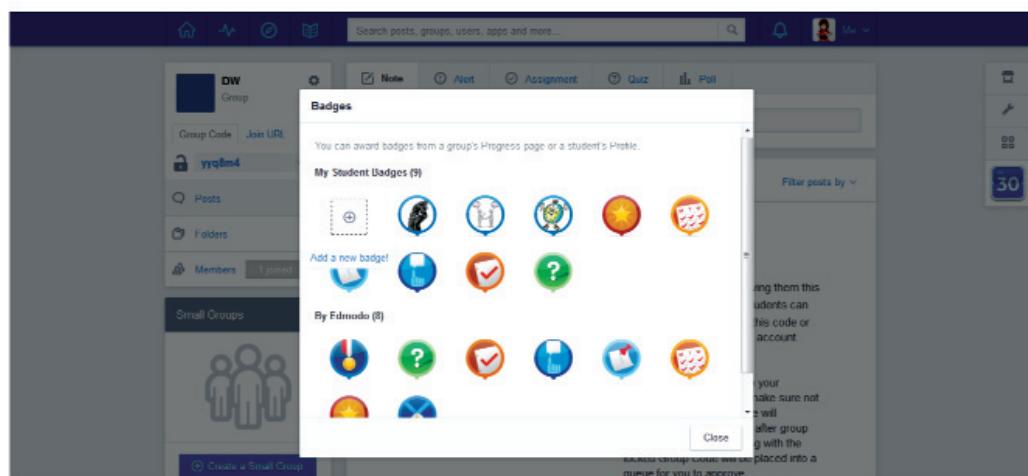
Creating a Badge

If you would like to create your own individual badges, select “Progress” and click “My Student Badges” from the menu that appears.



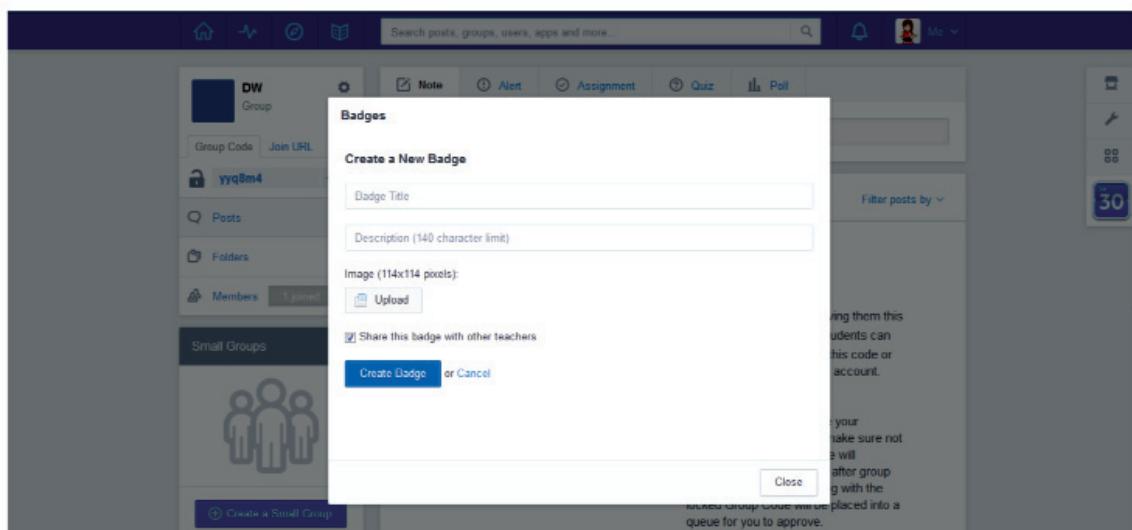
The screenshot shows the Edmodo Progress page. A red box highlights the "My Student Badges" option in the sidebar menu. The main content area displays a "Group Posts" section with instructions for inviting students and locking group codes, along with a small icon of three people connected by lines.

Select “Add a new badge!”.



The screenshot shows the Edmodo Badges page. It displays a grid of badge icons under sections titled "My Student Badges" and "By Edmodo". A tooltip provides information about inviting students using a group code.

Name the badge you wish to create, give it a brief description and then upload a suitable image. When you have completed this, click “Create Badge”.



The screenshot shows the "Create a New Badge" dialog box. It includes fields for "Badge Title", "Description", "Image", and "Share this badge with other teachers". At the bottom are "Create Badge" and "Cancel" buttons.

Creating an Online Community of Practice using Edmodo

Edmodo Support

Edmodo support is available 24 hours a day. Click on your icon on the right hand side of the screen and click "Help" from the menu that appears.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo dashboard. On the left is a sidebar with 'Groups' listed: Edmodo Certified Learner Course, LCVP & Assessment, PDST Teaching Business, 21st Century Learning with Web 2.0 Tools, PME Special Methods Accounting, and PME UCD 2016. Below these are 'Manage Groups', 'Create a Group', and 'Join a Group'. The main area shows 'Latest Activity' with several posts from users like Mrs. noceto and Mrs. Casella. The top right corner features a user profile icon with a red arrow pointing to the 'Help' link in the dropdown menu.

Type your question in the search box, or alternatively read the FAQs.

The screenshot shows the Edmodo Help Centre. At the top is a search bar with the placeholder 'Have a question? Ask or enter your search term here.' Below it is a link 'Can't find the answer? Support@edmodo.com'. The sidebar on the left includes links for 'I'm a Teacher', 'I'm a Student', 'I'm a Parent', 'I'm an Admin', 'Mobile', and 'FAQ' (with a red arrow pointing to it). The main content area is titled 'Top Topics' and lists 'Updates', 'What's New', 'Latest Version FAQ', 'Join a New User Group', and 'Back to School FAQs'. To the right is a 'Top Links' section with links to 'Quick Guides to Edmodo', 'Create a Group', 'Classroom Rollout Resources', and 'How To Get Apps'. At the bottom is a link to the 'Edmodo Teacher Manual'.

Useful Links

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Video Tutorials for using Edmodo | https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/sections/200910884-Video-Tutorials |
| Digital citizenship | http://blog.edmodo.com/2012/09/19/download-the-digital-citizenship-starter-kit-from-edmodo-common-sense-media/ |
| Edmodo Blog | http://blog.edmodo.com/ |
| Edmodo Help Centre | https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us |
| Teacher Training | https://www.edmodo.com/training#self-guided |
| Teacher Resources | https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/articles/205008324 |
| Ideas for using Edmodo | https://support.edmodo.com/hc/en-us/sections/200910104-Lesson-Ideas |
| How to get started | http://www.scribd.com/full/52581150?access_key=key-mae4go653bbr23s94co |
| Parent Resource | http://www.slideshare.net/scheeler/edmodo-parent-presentation |



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