Becta

Personalising learning is at the heart of achievement for all learners. Traditionally, enabling learners to learn in ways appropriate to their needs has been difficult for education providers to achieve. By harnessing and exploiting new technologies, we can create teaching and learning opportunities that will make it possible for these aspirations to become a reality.

The implementation of a learning platform enables learners and teachers to share and store work and resources that can be securely accessed anywhere and anytime.

learning platforms and personalising learning
an essential guide

how learning platforms will contribute to personalising learning

The aspiration is that by 2010 all schools will have integrated learning and management systems. Schools and local authorities (LAs) should be planning towards this target that provides the full range of functionality across every aspect of school life. An intermediate target for 2008 is that all learners should have access to a personalised online learning space with the potential to support e-portfolios. There are four key areas of functionality, all of which will contribute to a personalised learning experience:

- Communication tools: email, messaging or discussion boards, to enable dialogue between peers and mentors

- Individual working space, to enable the creation and sharing of learning resources which can be accessed online, outside lesson time and from any location

- Management tools so teachers can manage e-learning resources and assess, monitor and track individual and group progress

- Access that is safe and secure, at any time and from any internet-enabled device.

Learning platforms will bring about a wide range of benefits, and will:

- help meet individual learning needs and encourage collaboration

- provide all learners and teachers with access to rich, subject-related, interactive content, appropriate to their needs

- enable more engaging models of learning for disaffected learners, and alternative models for those not in school

- create an open and accessible system available to learners and families beyond school and out of normal school hours

- enable assessment for learning

- promote communication and collaboration within and beyond the institution

- enable schools and LAs to gain best value, with a reduced technical burden.

what Becta is doing

Becta is responsible for delivering the e-strategy that will enable personalising learning. To achieve this requires a national network infrastructure, guidance in procurement and e-safety, and guidance on pedagogy using ICT, and Becta is involved in a range of programmes to make the e-strategy a reality.

- Developing tools and resources supporting the creation of a strategic vision for teaching and learning, and promoting the e-maturity of institutions, the workforce and the learner

- Developing information and guidance for school leaders and practitioners on using ICT to improve learning, teaching and management in schools

- Conducting research and information gathering on both established and innovative uses of ICT and disseminating it to policy makers and stakeholders throughout education

Conducting research and information gathering on both established and innovative uses of ICT...

- Engaging with developers and suppliers of networking infrastructure, hardware and software, developing functional requirements and specifications, and moving suppliers to a common standard to ensure that learning platforms meet schools' needs
- Engaging with Regional Broadband Consortia and Local Authorities to deliver value for money services through a range of frameworks, including the Learning Platform Services Framework
- Working closely with Partnerships for Schools, ensuring a common understanding and vision for the transformation of education through learning platforms.

what you should be doing

The e-strategy, together with other initiatives such as Every Child Matters and Extended Schools, aims to bring about closer partnerships between school, the home and the wider community. School leaders need to ensure that their schools are ready to achieve the benefits of ICT, by:

- developing a vision for teaching and learning with ICT through engagement with Senior Management Teams, teachers, governors, parents and learners

- auditing their current use of ICT and planning for development, assisted by tools such as Becta's self-review framework

- defining their plan for what will be achieved by a learning platform in their school and their community by completing the learning platform functionality tool

- discussing with their LA what plans they have for a learning platform for their schools

- consulting with their LA to explore the procurement options under the Becta learning platforms services framework

- exploring the support available from NCSL to manage the change process, including a Leadership programme for BSF.

further information

Planning for personalised online learning – what will it mean for my school?
http://www.becta.org.uk/publications

Learning platform functional requirements – the learning platform software and systems that schools in England will use
http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/ learningplatforms

The self-review framework and other tools for school management
http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/ selfreviewframework

Learning platform functionality tool
http://matrix.becta.org.uk

Details on leadership programmes from the NCSL
http://www.ncsl.org.uk/programmes