Schools

January 2009

Improve your school How are you enabling

Next Generation Learning?



Becta leading next generation learning

Improving your school through technology enables learners to:

- engage in a wider range of learning experiences
- •learn at a pace and time to suit their needs
- benefit from improved teaching approaches
- access information and learning resources safely and securely
- •involve their parents and carers in their education
- extend learning beyond the classroom.

Technology for learning – leading from the front

At the heart of effective whole-school improvement is a leadership vision for using technology, and the drive to translate this strategy into effective action.

When you put technology at the heart of the school improvement strategy, you need to identify key steps to move forward, build strong teams at all levels and create an enabling culture to deliver the strategy.

As school leaders, you need to ensure that motivation drives the required change and that:

- leaders model the desired behaviours
- staff have the capacity and capability needed
- technology resources are in place, including support services.



Improve your school:

www.becta.org.uk/improveyourschool

Becta's role in helping schools improve through technology

Leadership

Becta urges all school leaders to use our support to make progress in using technology and improving its impact on the learner.

Planning

We give schools and local authorities the tools to plan and benchmark their use of technology. Becta sees strategic leadership on the role of technology in whole-school improvement as critical in the development of sustainable schools. To help schools save time, effort and money in the drive towards better outcomes for learners, the Government urges every school to be a sustainable school by 2020.

Advice

We provide excellent advice to help you decide what to achieve and how to benefit from collaboration, and to help you buy high quality products and services.

Guidance

We recommend that you create an infrastructure by following our guidelines. We help you to review your school's use of technology and work out a way forward using the self-review framework

Convert a visionary strategy into action

Start with Becta's self-review framework

Becta's self-review framework is designed to help schools review their use of technology in a structured way and inform the overall school improvement strategy. The framework reflects a set of nationally agreed standards and summarises stages of maturity in the way schools use different aspects of technology.

The self-review framework can help you:

- benchmark your school against others
- develop a shared school vision for technology
- prioritise and set realistic goals
- establish a fit-for-purpose investment
- ensure safe and secure use of technology
- command confidence from staff, learners, parents and governors

- develop evidence to inform your Ofsted self-evaluation framework submission
- provide evidence to support accreditation to the prestigious ICT Mark.

Self-review framework:

www.becta.org.uk/selfreview

Commit to the Next Generation Learning Charter

Becta offers all schools the opportunity to make a public commitment to providing better learning opportunities through the effective use of technology.

The Next Generation Learning Charter consists of four levels:

Commitment: Becta encourages schools that engage with the self-review framework to make a public commitment to the Next Generation Learning Charter.

Recognition: When a school has reached the nationally agreed standard in three elements of the framework, it can apply for recognition.

Accreditation: The ICT Mark is awarded to schools that have reached the nationally agreed standard in all eight elements of the framework.

ICT Excellence Awards: These awards offer further recognition for schools that demonstrate evidence of excellent practice above and beyond the levels of the ICT Mark.

Next Generation Learning Charter:

www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearningcharter

Manage the change effectively

Use Becta's procurement framework to purchase products and services from suppliers who understand the needs of education.

The way to improve your school is not necessarily with more equipment, but with better use of existing technology and by embedding it across the whole school.

Making technology central to the school improvement plan will help you:

- develop a vision for successful change
- ensure that teachers get the professional development they need
- help teachers see what's in it for their pupils and for themselves
- provide quality, fit-for-purpose technology, with the right support, at the right price
- create action plans to keep people on track.

Improve your school – top tips

Decide who will lead the technology review – the headteacher or a senior teacher – and who else will be involved – the whole staff, a strategic team or a different team for each element.

Work out how much time to dedicate to the review and whether it can link to other activities

Begin your review by doing one or a few elements of the self-review framework

Review your current and planned use of technology in collaboration with all stakeholders, including your local authority and school improvement partners, and use Becta's free self-review framework online tool to guide you through the process.

Use the framework to create a common understanding of what is working well and where there are areas for development.

Think about how your school will use technology to share appropriate information about learners and their learning, and consider how you will use technology to involve parents and the wider community.

Consider purchasing ICT and services in partnership, as part of a consortium or in conjunction with your local authority.

Provide teachers with the professional development they need to support the use of technology in learning and teaching.

Use action plans to keep people motivated towards the ongoing aim of improving the school through technology.

Commit to the Next Generation Learning Charter and use the self-review framework to guide the school's progress in using technology and improve its impact on the learner.

Improve your school:



What is Next Generation Learning?

We know that technology offers enormous opportunities for education. In fact, research shows that learners with access to technology for learning have a far greater chance of achieving their potential.

The Next Generation Learning campaign is aimed at parents or carers, employers and learners. It is intended to raise their awareness of the benefits of the use of technology in education and to drive greater demand for it.

The campaign currently focuses on:

- greater engagement by parents or carers with schools and at home
- effective use of technology in schools and colleges
- ensuring children are safe online.





Be prepared for more demand for Next Generation Learning



Improve your school

Develop and follow a strategy that uses technology to achieve better outcomes for learners www.becta.org.uk/ improveyourschool

Plan sustainable success

Balance the economic, social and environmental aspects of technology for learning www.becta.org.uk/plansustainablesuccess

Achieve best value

Secure quality, fit-for-purpose technology, with the right support, at the right price www.becta.org.uk/

Safeguard learners online

Protect, educate and empower everyone to keep safe and secure online www.becta.org.uk/ safeguardlearnersonline

Inspire parental engagement

Enable parents to access and use technology for a positive impact on their children's learning www.becta.org.uk/inspireparentalengagement

Make learning personal

Support learners to make effective, discriminating use of technology that meets their needs www.becta.org.uk/makelearningpersonal

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