

January 2010



# Raising standards

Discover how technology helps schools, colleges  
and skills providers improve their performance

Technology is having a significant impact on raising standards and attainment. All the evidence shows that schools, colleges and skills providers who invest in technology – and use it well – improve faster than others.



This is Next Generation Learning:

# raising standards

Using technology can directly affect standards. It supports good practice in teaching and learning. It can also help with managing data held about learners and so enable more informed decision making.

Technology can also affect standards indirectly by saving money through effective purchasing, sustainable investment and better environmental management of technology.

Technology is not an end in itself; all schools, colleges and other learning providers need to know how to exploit it most effectively to drive improvement and raise attainment.

Becta provides expert advice and practical support to help you make the most of technology. Find out how we can help you:

- use technology to help learners achieve more
- plan for sustainable development
- implement technology in the most cost-effective way.



## WHAT'S INSIDE

This booklet explains how you can put technology at the heart of your institution, raise standards, improve learning and teaching, achieve best value and gain lasting success.

# Improve

## **schools, colleges and providers**

All schools, colleges and learning providers can raise standards, improve results, and engage pupils by putting technology at the heart of their organisation's improvement strategy.

### **the facts & figures**

**44%**

of further education practitioners agreed that the use of ICT had led to their students learning more effectively, and one third felt it had improved learners' satisfaction.

**95%**

of teachers believe that the use of technology is raising standards in schools and colleges.

**1,500**  
schools

Over 1,500 schools have already signed up to the Next Generation Learning Charter.

**31%**

In 2008, 31 per cent of colleges reported that they commonly use online assessment on many courses or across the whole college.

**80%**

Over 16,000 schools (nearly 80 per cent of schools in England) take part in the self-review framework.





**1,000**  
schools

Over 1,000 schools have achieved the ICT accreditation mark.



**80%**

Over 80 per cent of FE colleges in England have already registered to use the Technology Improvement Leadership Tool – Generator.

Technology enables learners to:

- join in a wider range of learning experiences
- learn at a pace and time to suit them
- benefit from flexible and new teaching approaches
- access information and learning resources safely and securely
- involve their peers, parents and carers in their education
- extend learning beyond the classroom.

Becta's research shows that the key priorities for improving education providers are using technology:

- to focus on teaching and learning
- in CPD for staff, which includes improving their technological skills and being aware of environmental issues
- to improve systems for record keeping and data management, to closely monitor learners' progress, leading to sounder decision making.

# Case studies

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## TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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South Chadderton School is a small community school in North Manchester. It received an Ofsted improvement notice and responded quickly and well. The school tackled the quality of teaching by looking at how students prefer to learn. This led them to invest in better ICT provision, which enabled students to research and learn independently, improving their confidence and skills.

The school also used technology to successfully manage and monitor learners' progress, attendance and any difficult behaviour. A key innovation was to allow teachers to adapt teaching methods to reflect and include emerging technologies. This suited pupils, who were often already familiar with these technologies outside the classroom.





## TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

Ashover Primary School is a single-form-entry school in rural Derbyshire. The school was graded as outstanding by Ofsted in 2007 and attributes its success to the fact that all staff are committed to ICT development. The school uses technology throughout the curriculum, underpinned by a strong culture of collaborative learning by teachers, pupils, governors and parents.

Engagement with parents is well developed using a variety of communication channels, including the school's website, learning platform and SMS messaging. All staff share their practice and knowledge of individual technologies extensively as part of their professional development. The outcome successfully combines innovative and embedded use of ICT throughout the school, always with a clear educational purpose.



Read on to find out how to get the best solutions for the best possible price...

### » ACTION PLAN

Consider how technology can be used to support assessment, track learners' progress and set and share targets to improve teaching and learning.

Find out more



[www.becta.org.uk/  
raisingstandards](http://www.becta.org.uk/raisingstandards)

# Achieve **best value**

All schools and colleges can buy quality, fit-for-purpose technology, with the right support, at the right price.

## the facts & figures



**£223m  
saved**

UK schools and colleges have saved more than £223 million since 2002 by using Becta's purchasing arrangements.

**89%**

89 per cent of local authorities used Becta's procurement frameworks in 2008.

**£55m  
saved**

Becta saved £55 million for providers across the education system in 2009 alone.

**35%**

Schools saved an average of 35 per cent on software through the Becta procurement framework.



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Well over £50 billion is being spent in the next 15 years to rebuild and refurbish school and college buildings. We have been working with the DCSF, DIUS, key partners and major suppliers of technology to set out the vision for how technology should be embedded in major capital investment programmes, particularly in Building Schools for the Future, Primary Capital Programme, Academies and the FE Capital Build.

To help you when you are developing or reviewing how you will use technology in the future, you can use for discussion a set of key expectations we have identified as part of Vision for Technology in Learning. We will provide more detail on these very soon.

Schools and colleges are increasingly knowledgeable and discerning about identifying suitable technology. Properly planning how to buy and use this will ensure institutions save money, time and effort. To achieve best value it is important to continually review technological approaches, how they are implemented and monitor the impact they are having on staff and learners.

Planning and investing for sustainable success through the use of technology helps schools, colleges and providers:

- achieve better value through the use of technology that meets established standards for use in education
- implement ICT equipment that's safe, cost-effective, innovative, reliable and fit for purpose

- procure affordable and sustainable technology over the long term
- identify the most appropriate and cost-effective technical support
- achieve safe and secure access to information and learning resources
- establish more effective ways of handling and communicating information, so that it supports learners, staff, parents and the wider community
- develop robust and flexible opportunities to personalise learning
- ensure that new buildings and existing classrooms are fit for purpose now and in the long term.

## Case studies

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### **TAILORED SOLUTION**



Swindon Borough Council used Becta's Infrastructure Services Framework, which offers ICT services from suppliers that are tailored to suit local needs. This reduces the burden on educators because they can buy either a completely managed service or only specific parts of that service. They can also be sure they are getting best value for money by using the framework.

“The Becta framework provided us with an excellent procurement structure to place our requirements into the marketplace. Becta's procurement team helped us scope our requirements to ensure best value for money. The project exceeded both our service level and commercial expectations, and the initial phase of implementation has been completed successfully and on time.”



## SAVING TIME & MONEY



“Using the Becta Learning Platform Services Framework saved us time and effort. The framework – and the advice and guidance from Becta – gave us confidence that we would be able to find a supplier who could offer us best value, quality, reliability and deliver our requirements. We were able to take full advantage of the beneficial terms and levels of service negotiated by Becta. The solution implemented meets the requirements of the national digital infrastructure for learning platforms.”



Read on to find out how to plan for sustainable success...

### » ACTION PLAN

Use Becta’s functional requirements that set out what you should expect your technology to achieve to ensure you get best value for money.

Find out more



[www.becta.org.uk/  
visionfortechnologyinlearning](http://www.becta.org.uk/visionfortechnologyinlearning)

# Plan for **sustainable Success**

Commitments and challenges have now been set for schools and the FE and Skills sector to review and improve how they use and manage resources.

Information technology across the board accounts for over 2 per cent of global emissions of carbon dioxide, equivalent to the entire output of the aviation industry.



**2%**

of global carbon  
emissions

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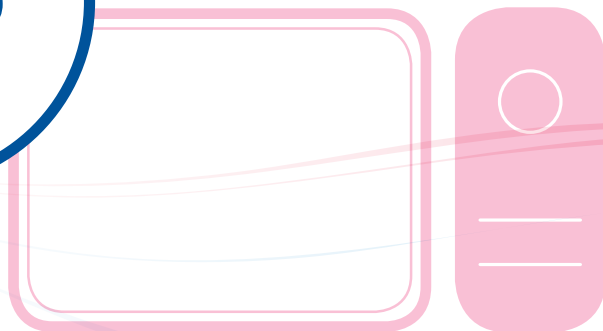
The number of PCs in schools rose by about 65 per cent over the last five years, to 1.8 million units. This has led to higher energy use and running costs. However, the Oxford University Environmental Change Institute found that power management can save 480kWh (about £36) per desktop per year.

Schools and colleges can tackle these challenges by considering the environmental cost of all they do. They need to move towards integrating sustainable development into all activities – from energy and water, to purchasing and waste, to global citizenship.

Technology can become part of the solution instead of adding to the problem. For example, using video-conferencing can minimise travel, and using learning platforms can reduce the need to print out teaching material.



save  
**£36**  
per desktop  
per year



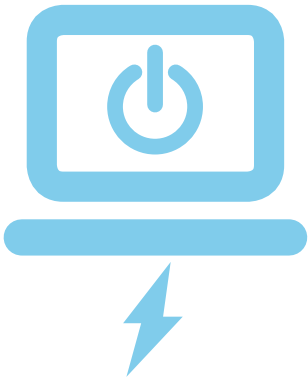
## Case studies

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### SAVING ENERGY

At Ashley Church of England School, the children and staff have energy-monitoring software in each classroom. If the school keeps within energy limits over five school days, the children decide how to spend some of the savings. They say their new laptops cost £24.60 a year in electricity rather than the £486 annual cost without the software.



### SAVING CONSUMABLES

Fakenham High School won an award for recycling mobile phones, ink cartridges and paper and for putting up signs in computer rooms to encourage students and teachers to 'Think before you print'.



### SAVING PAPER

Finham Park Comprehensive School is working towards paperless design-and-technology teaching in electronics, so it has produced a lot of material on the school website and dedicated electronics website. This has reduced the number of exercises done on paper, and the pupils benefit from continually practising their IT skills.



## SAVING WATER

Kingsmead Primary School has an electronic display panel that enables pupils to see how much rainwater is being collected. This provides entertainment when it rains heavily, and provides material for maths and geography lessons. For example, the data can be used to tackle complex mathematical problems, such as calculating yearly averages.



Read on for practical hints and tips on raising standards...

### »» ACTION PLAN

Plan the learning environment using technical and sustainable principles. Focusing your technology strategy on enhancing learning through an appropriate environment will enable you to use innovative design and technology to best effect.



# Tools & support

## » COMMIT TO THE NEXT GENERATION LEARNING CHARTER

By signing the Next Generation Learning Charter you will demonstrate to other schools, parents and pupils your public commitment to providing better learning opportunities through the effective use of technology.

A school that signs up to the charter is at the start of a journey through four levels:

- **Commitment:** A school has made an initial commitment to using technology effectively.
- **Recognition:** When a school has reached the nationally agreed standard in three elements of the self-review 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:** The ultimate accolade – these awards offer further recognition for schools that demonstrate excellent practice that exceeds the levels of the ICT Mark.

 [www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards](http://www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards)

Make your commitment to improving your school through technology by signing the Next Generation Learning Charter:

 [www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearningcharter](http://www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearningcharter)

## » REVIEW WITH BECTA'S SELF-REVIEW FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOLS

Manage the ICT in your school in line with established best practice and you can expect better learning outcomes and more effective use of valuable resources.



Becta's self-review framework helps you assess how you're doing and plan for improvement. You will be able to:

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

Sign up for the self-review framework now:

 [www.becta.org.uk/selfreview](http://www.becta.org.uk/selfreview)

## » IMPROVE WITH 'GENERATOR' FOR FE AND SKILLS PROVIDERS

Improve the way your organisation uses technology to benefit your learners. The Technology Improvement Leadership Tool (Generator) led by Becta offers a review of your use of technology, showing you where you are using technology effectively and highlighting areas where you can improve.

You will be able to:

- work collaboratively across teams, departments and sites
- inform planning
- support management information systems
- benchmark your organisation across the sector.

Sign up for Generator and join over 600 providers who are already maximising their technology investment:

 [www.generatorfeandskills.com](http://www.generatorfeandskills.com)

## » PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

To support schools to learn from each other, Becta works closely with school leaders through collaborative networks that include the core Leading Leaders Network and topic-based Advocate Schools networks. To find out more email [leaders@becta.org.uk](mailto:leaders@becta.org.uk)

The Technology Exemplar Network led by Becta and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) aims to improve quality through a formal peer support programme. The core network comprises over 100 providers who work closely together. Other providers can learn from those who are participating in the Network through a series of open days, case studies and forums.

Find out more:

 [www.becta.org.uk/feandskills/exemplarnetwork](http://www.becta.org.uk/feandskills/exemplarnetwork)

## » LEARN FROM OTHERS

Through the ICT Excellence Awards and the Next Generation Learning Awards, you can learn from schools, colleges and FE and Skills providers who have been commended for their application of technology.

To benefit from their effective practice and identify ways you can incorporate this in your own practice:

 [www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards](http://www.becta.org.uk/excellenceawards)

 [www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearningawards](http://www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearningawards)

## » MANAGING AND SUPPORTING YOUR ICT SERVICES

The Framework for ICT Technical Support (FITS) is designed to help schools and colleges' ICT technical support staff to effectively and efficiently manage and support their ICT services.

To de-mystify the management of ICT:

 [www.thefitsfoundation.org](http://www.thefitsfoundation.org)

## » INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FRAMEWORK TOOL

Using data effectively is a key issue for school and college managers. Integrating systems helps the school run more smoothly and efficiently, with potential cost savings. Our framework tool helps schools and colleges make more effective and secure use of their data.

To improve the quality and security of your data:

 [www.becta.org.uk/schools/informationmanagement](http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/informationmanagement)

## » KEEP DATA SAFE AND SECURE

Understand how the Government's data-handling advice applies to schools and colleges.

To safeguard your data:

 [www.becta.org.uk/schools/security](http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/security)

## » PURCHASE THROUGH A SUPPORTED ROUTE

Becta's procurement frameworks offer a listing of suppliers who understand the needs of schools, colleges and other learning providers. Their products and services are delivered to a high standard set by Becta. Procurement frameworks provide a simplified and shorter purchasing route that can be tailored to local requirements whilst complying with EU procurement law. Becta will monitor suppliers on the frameworks and will arbitrate if conflicts arise.

 [www.becta.org.uk/schools/procurement](http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/procurement)

## » IDENTIFY PRODUCTS THAT WILL MEET YOUR NEEDS

Through the Bett Awards, practitioners from the schools and FE and Skills sectors identify and commend products they think are of particular value to schools, colleges and providers. Review the 2010 Bett Awards shortlist and winners to help you identify products that will meet your needs:

 [www.bettawards.com](http://www.bettawards.com)

## » ICT INVESTMENT PLANNER

Becta has produced a tool to help you understand annual operation and replacement costs of ICT in your school or college. It highlights how the value and cost of ICT changes over time and provides a sound basis for planning future ICT investments.

To consider your ICT investment plan:

 [www.becta.org.uk/schools/ictinvestmentplanner](http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/ictinvestmentplanner)

## » REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

To help get an overview of your school's or college's carbon footprint try our comparison tool:

 [www.becta.org.uk](http://www.becta.org.uk)

and search for the carbon footprint tool.

Find lots of useful resources at  
[www.becta.org.uk/raisingstandards](http://www.becta.org.uk/raisingstandards)

All references are on the Becta website.

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12/09-10/WR0233/TT22517/15802/5k

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