

# Teachers as co-researchers:

using practice based research in the classroom as a  
effective method of continuous professional development  
(CPD) and change management

Dr Christina Preston, Professor of Education

# The themes of this talk

- Impact of ICT integration on trainers of trainers and teachers training and CPD institutions in the brief
- The value of communities of practice in CPD
- The value of practice based research in partnership with edtech companies

# First theme

Impact of ICT integration on trainers of  
trainers and teachers training and CPD  
institutions in the brief

# An evaluation of the UK national edtech training project: 1999-2004 29, 000 teachers

## Key lessons

- The school culture and leadership have the main impact on effectiveness
- Improvements were visible over the 3 years – not 1 year when the government measured results!
- Inadequate access to ICTs was a major obstacle to teachers' confidence and learning

# Impact of ICT integration on trainers of trainers and teachers training and CPD institutions

- The quality of the trainers was fundamental but there was no training for them
- Face to face was preferred to online learning
- Achievements were not recorded so difficult to know at what level the teachers had been working
- Teacher needed release time to reflect
- Do not let the companies design and deliver the programmes because this becomes product training

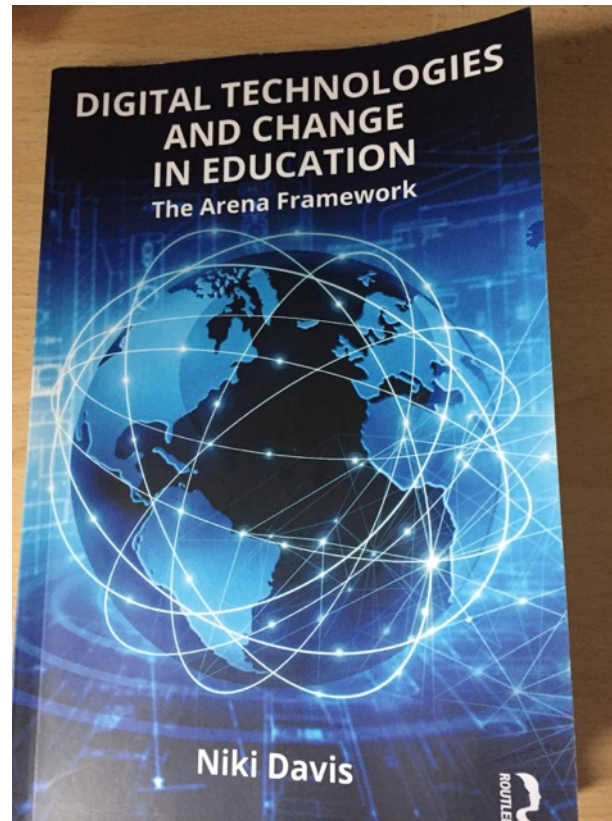
<http://www.mirandanet.org.uk/tta/>

# Theme two: The value of communities of practice

“One day courses in edtech  
are a waste of time! “

John Potter: MirandaNet member

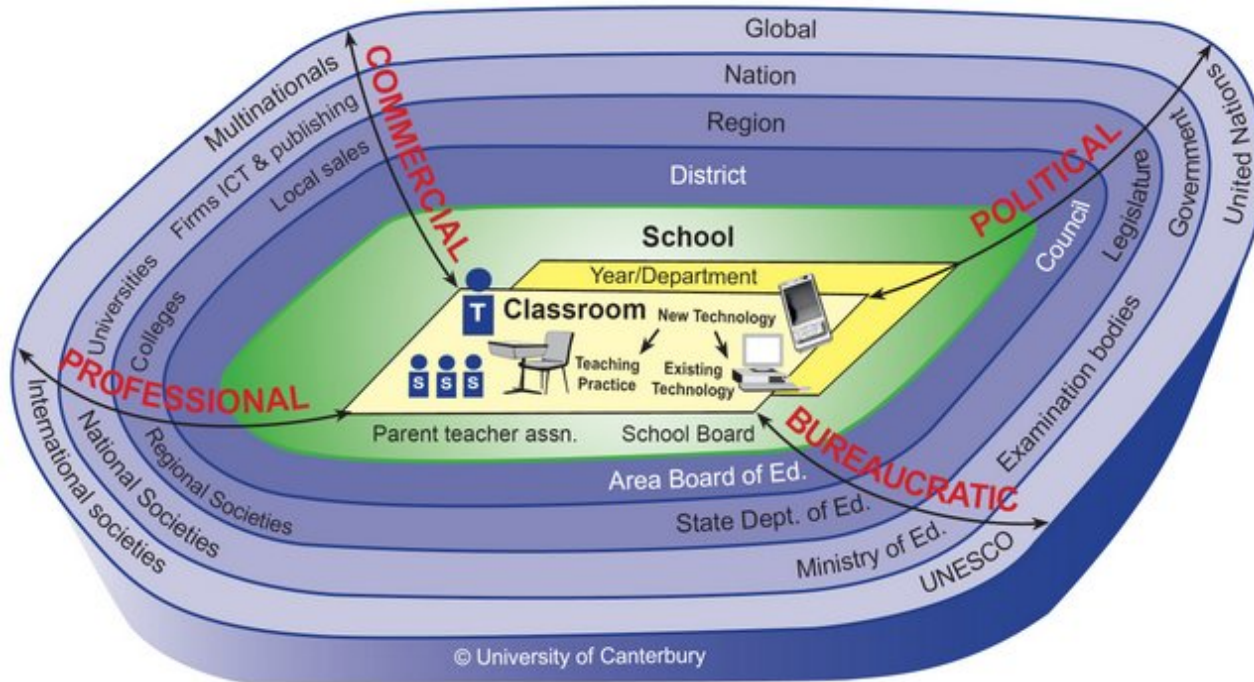
# Presented at the WCCE17, Dublin





# Preston and Davis' Arena @ 2011 EduSummIT

a teacher (keystone specie) in the global educational biosphere





# Future focused learning

- **is framed by 6 core principles**
  - personalising learning
  - educating for diversity
  - building learning capacity
  - teacher and learner roles
  - continuous professional development
  - community connectedness (Bolstad et al. 2012; OECD 2016)
- **Involves everyone in educational ecosystems**
  - local & global (Davis, 2018)

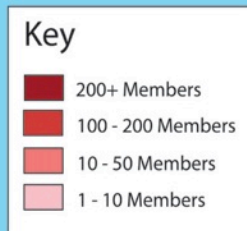
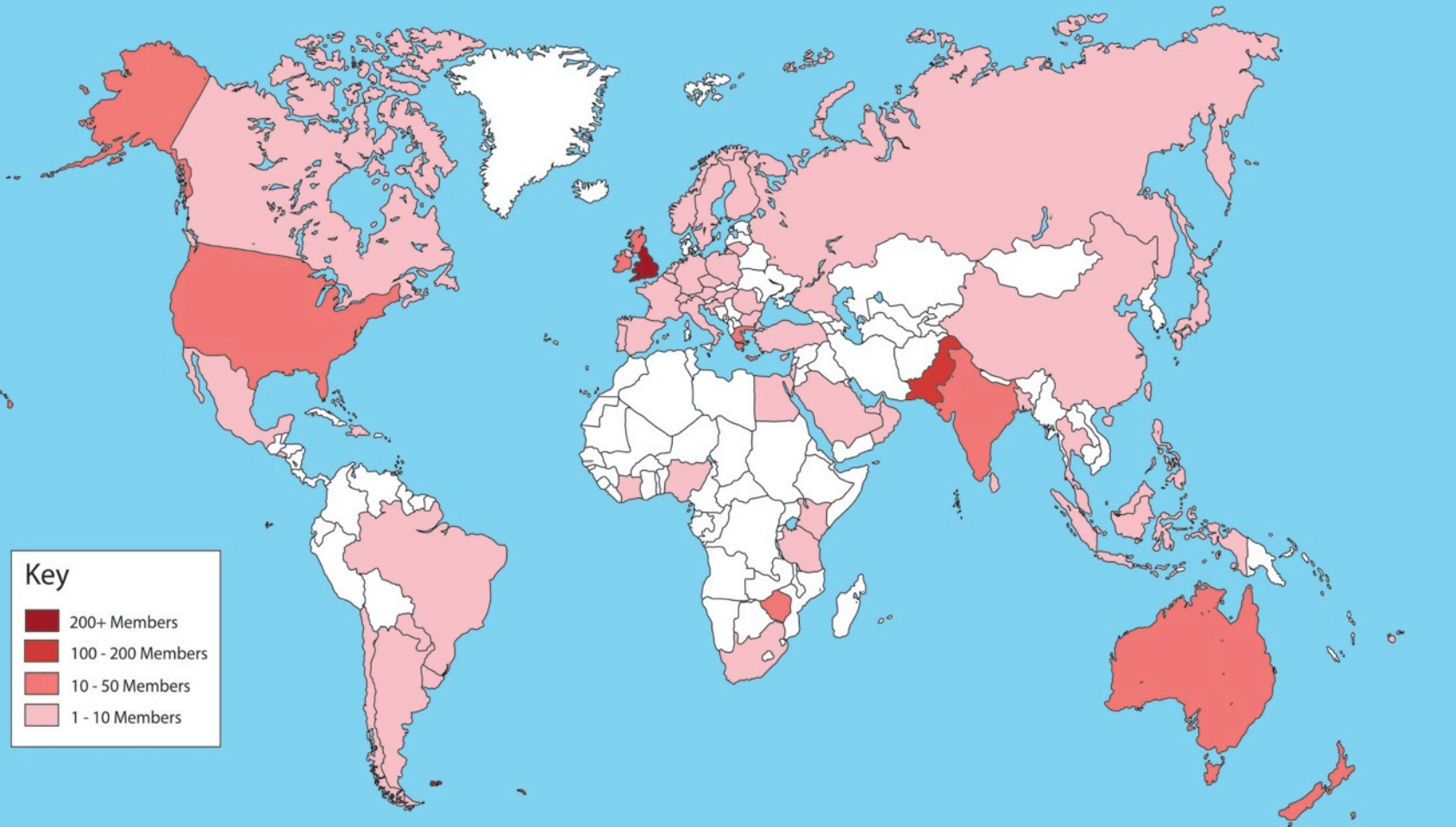
# Who is Miranda?

'O brave new world that has such people in IT'.

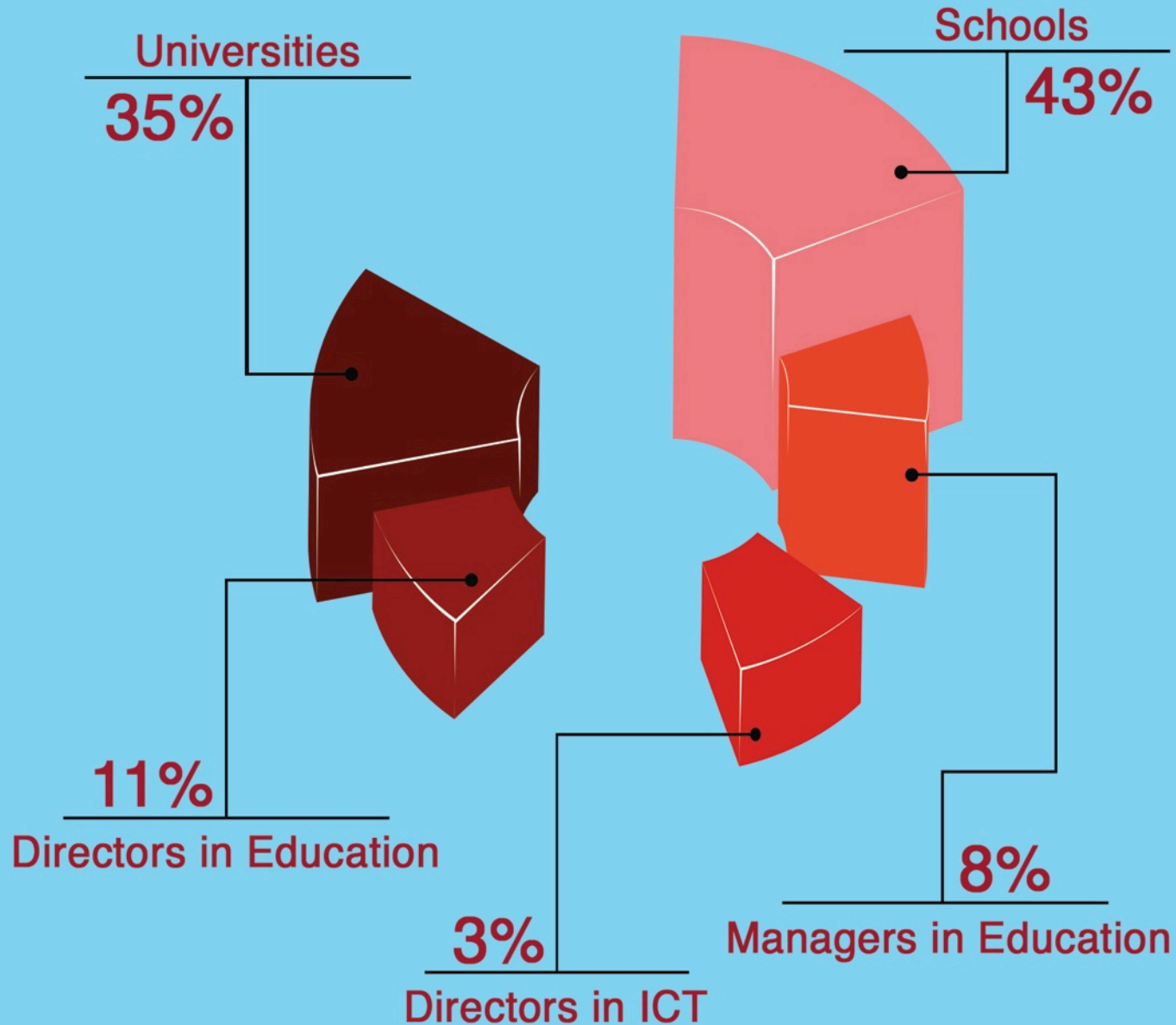
The Facebook of the global ICT profession. *Becta*

The Robin Hood of ICT CPD. *UNESCO*

# *MirandaNet Fellows Around the World*



# *MirandaNet Experience Pool*



# Outreach and dissemination

- Established in 1992. Help to build communities of practice in China, Czech Republic. India, Mexico, Pakistan South Africa,
- 1,500 fellows in over 80 countries:
- Free to join
- Europe, 49% - UK, 28% - China,18% - USA,16%
  - Year on year growth currently at 12%
- MirandaNet extended reach of over 1, 250,000 professionals
  - MirandaNet sends news and publications and shares events with several other communities of senior educators as well as writing a range of articles

Theme three

# The value of practice-based research in partnership with edtech companies



A programme that can be taken at certificate, diploma or Masters level simultaneously.

Each school, regional or national group can include teachers working at different levels

We can franchise this programme!



# Associate research impact:

examples of evidence from Sprint programmes for OFSTED and Pupil Premium



Innovation for Education Futures





**What happened in a nutshell?**

**The Information and Communications Technology has been replaced by Computer Science.**

**As a result schools are struggling to recruit enough specialist teachers and pupils do not like the restriction of this subject.**

**How many teachers and pupils enjoy Computer Science?**

**This project presents teachers' evidence for introducing Digital Media Studies the place of the new Computing curriculum**



# The Digital Media Project



Blood Brothers musical  
in digital form  
Contextualised for  
Grimsby, an East coast  
port

Music, Edtech, Art, Drama  
departments



ESTABLISHED 1992  
**MIRANDA NET**  
FELLOWSHIP 5.0

- Sliding door endings
- Combination of green screen 'video production acting' interspersed with 'real acting in the front.'
- Voice over and sound effects.





# Project findings

- Project learning can be a logistical nightmare
- Collaborative project changes the balance between teachers and pupils for the better
- Perversely the pupils' behaviour has been better in this project learning although they were not behind desks
- Often the pupils are leading the learning in this project work
- The boy's behaviour seems to benefit in particular
- The pupils' keep asking when the Gaia professionals will be working with them again
- In this project we have covered: Digital and Media Literacy, E-safety and Citizenship as well and subjects like English and Maths.

# Next steps: strategy

- **Pupils:** Choose lead learners/digital leaders with a remit to keep up with innovation (e.g. set up a Facebook-style forum on VLE)
- **Parents:** click and collect; drop in sessions for partners, Lads and Dads, reduced price for courses, awards for pupils who have special skills acquired outside the school
- **Community:** learning hub which the local community can use, as a training centre/ internet style café
- **Policy:** **3 year programme**; factors in the Academy development plan

# Next steps: staff

- Staff:
  - Whole staff CPD - Lead teachers and lead learners support training
  - Cross curricular links for all departments in fusion approach e.g. maths and history
  - Induction packs for all new staff
  - Newsletter or blog
  - Celebration of learning
  - National College Senior Leaders' programme
  - Involving more MirandaNet Associates



# What the pupils told me...

- Fully engaged
- More confidence
- More resilient
- More able to describe how they do their 'best' learning
- Able to choose and use different resources and strategies to develop their learning
- More confident helping others learn
- More independent
- Wanted to be in school and learning
- Had higher aspirations

# Vive l'entente cordiale!

## Je serais a Paris

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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