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Helping to harness ICT excellence for education in a constantly evolving digital world

Novatia Note 004:   ICT Vision and Strategy

Key Points

- Chaotic approach to ICT?

- Gain Direction

- Six point checklist …

  1. Teaching
  2. Learning
  3. Resources
  4. Leadership
  5. Support
  6. Community

- Contact us to find out about how you can think more strategically about your ICT.

The number of new technologies available to schools and trusts continues to grow at an exponential rate. If you haven't got an effective ICT strategy in place then you are at risk of making purchasing decisions that might have a negative impact on student learning as well as on your school improvement process.

Devising an ICT Strategy might seem overwhelming at first but our six point checklist will help guide you in developing a clear ICT Vision so you can realistically set strategic goals …

1.   ICT: An effective tool for teaching

Ensure there is a clear understanding of what you want to achieve in the classroom and how you want it to impact on teaching and learning. This will allow correct choices of hardware, software, subscription software and apps to be made and allow the impact to be evaluated against established criteria/parameters. Establish correct training so ICT can be used effectively.

2.   ICT: An accessible opportunity for learning

Make sure the correct kit/software is available wherever, whenever it is needed. It might be about ensuring equitable access to tools, so some schools direct pupil premium funding to ensure parity and to give a level playing field for all pupils. It includes the use of online tools and cloud-based systems so pupils can access their learning seamlessly, in and outside of school. It's also about ensuring the tools that are being used are intuitive and engaging.

3.   ICT: Making effective use of resources

Use whatever technology is available to its fullest potential. It might be about implementing a VLE (or O365 or GSuite) and gradually introducing those in the school to additional functionality so their use continues to evolve and grow. Ensure the suite of available tools is coherent and cohesive so everything works together for a seamless experience. It's about reducing duplication of effort to ensure simple workflows, ensuring refreshing and updating is managed and supported. This way you will get value for money out of any outlay and not spend more than is necessary.

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4. **ICT: Planned and led strategically**

An ICT vision needs the right people in place to drive the ICT strategic plan forward. Ideally this means a driver with a big-picture overview that can link the plan with the teaching and learning aspirations of the school. However this driver needs an ICT strategy group comprising of people who are able to contribute to decision making and implementation from the perspectives of finance, network, teaching and learning, admin and support, and professional development. This will ensure that decisions are made for the right reasons, so they contribute to everything the school is trying to achieve.

5. **ICT: Managed and supported professionally**

Put the right support team in place, with the right structure and clearly defined responsibilities and appropriate technical skills so they are able to provide timely support to the entire school. This team should be able to prioritise and respond appropriately, identify and mitigate risks as well as manage systems effectively. It might include an internal 'service level agreement' that clearly defines expectations so success and impact can be easily identified along with areas for development.

6. **ICT: Connecting the whole school community**

Ensure that technology is enabling effective communications, from the sharing of information between staff in school, to sharing information with parents. The nature of this information might include such things as newsletters, forms and online payment systems; it might be about sharing information about achievement, progress, attendance, behaviour and attitudes directly from school data systems to pupils and their parents; it includes the professional collaboration between staff (within schools and trustwide), staff and pupils as well as pupils and their peers. It could also be about providing a relevant audience for pupil work.

And one final tip ...

For many schools and MATs the first step begins with an analysis of their current state. This should include a strategic review, Governance review, ICT in Teaching in Learning Health Check, a technical audit and an operational health check.

[Contact us](#) **to find out more about how to effectively develop an ICT Vision and Strategy for your MAT or School**.