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Creating an effective ICT Vision – a guide

KEY POINTS

- An ICT Vision is essential as it contributes to delivering Educational goals

- There are six elements needed in an effective ICT Vision

- Once your ICT Vision is complete, create the ICT Strategy.

Without a clear vision, a school's ICT can become chaotic and confused, with a knock-on effect on teacher workflows as well as the student experience. For ICT to be effective in Education there needs to be a clear link between a MAT or School's Educational Vision and its ICT Strategy. Without that clear link and an effective ICT Vision, there is a risk of making short-term ICT purchasing decisions which can lead to a mix of systems and wide range of costly, long-term problems.

Not having an ICT Vision to support your Educational vision often leads to having a negative impact on student learning, as well as on your school improvement process.

Once you have developed a clear ICT Vision, you can realistically set ICT strategic goals, and deliver them to ensure that ICT actively contributes to your MAT or School's success.

The six elements
There are six elements to consider when developing an education ICT Vision:

1. 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 facilitate correct choices of hardware, software, subscription software, and apps to be made and allow the impact of each to be evaluated against established criteria/parameters.

2. An accessible opportunity for learning
Guarantee that your ICT Vision commits to providing the correct kit/software wherever, whenever it is needed, so everyone can engage in learning.
Equitable access to tools, for all pupils, needs to include 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 committing to provide tools which are intuitive and engaging.

3. Making effective use of resources
Use whatever technology is available and commit to using it to its fullest potential.
Ensure you commit to using the suite of available tools coherently and cohesively, so everything works together for a seamless experience. It's about reducing duplication of effort to ensure simple workflows, and that 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.

4. Planned and led strategically
An ICT vision needs the right people in place to drive the ICT Strategic Plan forward and make the vision a reality. This starts with a named 'driver' who has that big-picture overview and can link the

ICT Vision and Strategic plan with the teaching and learning aspirations of the school.

5. 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 can provide appropriate 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. Connect 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. This information might include 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; and it should include the professional collaboration between staff (within schools and trust-wide); staff and pupils; as well as pupils and their peers. It could also be about providing a relevant audience for pupil work.

Next steps

Once you have created your ICT Vision, we then recommend you create your ICT Strategy, which is a series of goals with attached actions so your school or trust can bring your ICT Vision to life.

FIND OUT MORE

For further information about how Novatia can help your MAT or school with its ICT Vision

Visit www.novatia.com call 01962 832 632 or email info@novatia.com