

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



22 June 2010

Dear Mr Gove,

Joint statement: A vision for ICT in education

At a meeting on 4 June 2010 Naace, the ICT Association, brought together leaders from key organisations from across the education system to discuss the future of Information Communication Technology in Education.

Agreement was reached on a joint vision statement. We now circulate this to you and other interested parties. We seek assurances from you that the new government recognises the importance of ICT to learning, to learners, to management, and to the overall success of the whole education system.

The freedoms promised to schools, colleges and beyond by the coalition government provide new opportunities for teachers, lecturers and learners to make the best possible use of ICT to support, enrich and extend learning across and beyond the curriculum, thereby improving achievement, enabling personalisation and ensuring employability.

Responsibility for leadership in this field must be shared between schools, colleges, providers of adult learning, local authorities, industry, and government. If we work together, through membership organisations, subject associations and looser networks and communities of educationalists, technologists and policy makers, we can provide the mutual support and challenge that will be needed if the learners in our charge are to continue to benefit.

When used well and managed wisely, ICT is a powerful tool to ensure that:

- curriculum and pedagogy stay relevant to an increasingly digital world and economy;
- all learners are included, protected, and empowered;
- teachers and lecturers have efficient, effective and economic access to digital resources, together with the tools to create and deploy these resources themselves.

The education system is ripe for the development of new models that:

- maximise the return in learner achievement from investment in ICT;
- support effective pedagogy;
- provide an evidence-base to inform decision-making;
- enable efficient procurement of software, hardware, infrastructure, and services through improved market competition and collaborative purchasing;
- assure the quality and independence from commercial or ideological bias of support available for those in leadership roles.

The success of the country depends on the long term strength of the economy and for this, fluency in ICT matters as much as does competence in English and Mathematics. In short, a digitally literate and digitally creative workforce is of vital importance to every citizen, and achieving this demands an entitlement to the best possible use of ICT in education - by learners, by schools, colleges and institutions, and by educational leaders.

We look forward to confirmation that the newly elected government shares our vision for ICT in education, and we look forward to working with government on putting the vision into practice.

The organisations listed below endorse the above statement, as a constructive means of engendering discussion with the government at this important time.

| Full name of organisation | Short Name | Representative Name |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Association for Learning Technology | ALT | Seb Schmolter |
| Association of Colleges | AoC | Martin Doel OBE |
| Aspect | Aspect | John Chowcat |
| British Educational Suppliers Association | BESA | Ray Barker |
| British Educational Suppliers Association New Educational Technologies Group | BNETG | Martin Parry |
| Computing at School | CAS | Simon Humphreys |
| City Learning Centres' Liaison Committee | C.L.C.L.C. | Martin MacGillivray |
| The Design & Technology Association | The D&T Association | Andy Mitchell |
| e-learning Foundation | e-learning Foundation | Valerie Thompson |
| Economics, Business and Enterprise Association | EBEA | Duncan Cullimore |
| EduGeek Ltd | EduGeek.net | Russell Dyas |
| The FITS Foundation Ltd | FITS | Trevor Greenfield / Steve Butler |
| Futurelab | Futurelab | Dan Sutch |
| The Association for Information Technology in Teacher Education | ITTE | Dr Ken Powell |
| MirandaNet Fellowship | MirandaNET | Dr John Cuthell / Christina Preston |
| Naace | Naace | Mark Chambers |
| National Association of Head Teachers | NAHT | Sion Humphreys |

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|---|----------------------|-----------------------|
| National Association for Special Educational Needs | Nasen | Lorraine Petersen OBE |
| National Association for the Teaching of English | NATE | Tom Rank |
| National Education Network | NEN | Chris Kastel |
| National Institute of Adult Continuing Education | NIACE | Alastair Clark |
| National Society for Education in Art and Design | NSEAD | John Steers |
| Open Source Schools | OSS | Miles Berry |
| Suppliers Association for Learning Technology and Interoperability in Schools | SALTIS | Crispin Weston |
| United Church Schools Trust/ United Learning Trust | UCST/ULT | Dr Albin Wallace |
| The Visualiser Forum | The Visualiser Forum | Dave Smith |
| 157 Group | 157 Group | Lynne Sedgmore |