



# **Acklam Grange School**

**A Specialist College of Maths and  
Computing**

## **The Impact of BSF on the school's ICT strategy**

2009/10

# The Impact of BSF on our ICT Strategy

## Introduction

This document outlines the opportunities that ICT in our new school will provide to help us transform from a self-improving school to an excellent school, which will provide for the individual needs of all our pupils and our local community, well into the future.

## Capacity to Improve

The school has a good capacity to improve based on an appropriate balance of resources which facilitate our success in the achievement of Personalised Learning and improved outcomes for pupils.

This is demonstrated below:

Financial Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Considered deployment of financial resources in line with 'best value' principles to ensure Value for Money.</li><li>• Government capital investment for school's BSF programme: Design and Build - £23m ICT - £6m</li></ul>
Intellectual Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuous development of workforce reform and CPD to build a talented workforce at the forefront of knowledge, skill and attitude.</li><li>• A focus on lifelong learning and learning for all.</li><li>• Host to Middlesbrough City Learning Centre (MCLC) and active partner in the development of 3D mind-mapping software and the 3D virtual schools project.</li></ul>
Social Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strengthened relationships between the school and community through our extensive extended schools programme.</li><li>• Multi-agency working particularly in the delivery of the Every Child Matters agenda.</li><li>• Links with local organisations and business partners through our ICT specialism and 14-19 curriculum developments including specialist diplomas.</li></ul>

## **The school's BSF Vision**

Our vision has been shaped by our commitment to:

- the LA, local strategic partnerships and national strategies and priorities;
- driving forward the improvement agenda;
- supporting and delivering Every Child Matters;
- developing our community and extended school provision in partnership with our family of schools and local partners;
- becoming a centre of excellence for all, through our current and future specialist college designations and role as host to Middlesbrough City Learning Centre.

## **Specialist College Designation**

Our present specialist college mission statement and ICT strategy articulates our ICT vision and has guided our self improvement. The school's BSF programme offers an opportunity to refine and expand this vision to maximise the positive impact of our specialism on teaching and learning and to improve pupil performance.

## **How the school's BSF ICT strategy will transform the learning experience and improve pupil performance through increased personalised learning opportunities**

- Building design will encourage creative teaching and learning through flexible learning spaces, innovative use of ICT and a culture of continuous (anytime/anywhere) learning.
- Further development of our 3D mind mapping and 3D virtual school projects will offer innovative and exciting individualised learning opportunities.
- Early adoption of RM's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Kaleidos, has placed the school at the forefront of the LA's vision to develop a common learning platform for Middlesbrough. It has enabled the school to develop content, deliver training for pupils and staff and build a positive learning culture in preparation for the new school environment.
- A specialist suite of ICT facilities will support curriculum developments in this area.
- Flexible, ICT enabled learning spaces throughout the new school building will support a wide range of courses catering for all individual needs and abilities.
- ICT equipped transformational breakout space will promote a culture of continuous learning which goes beyond the traditional classroom environment.
- Adaptable learning spaces will ensure future curriculum developments are supported and allow for increasingly personalised provision for all pupils.

## **Approach to BSF planning to ensure effective ICT strategy in new school**

### **Design and Build**

The new school building has been purposefully designed to promote the school's ICT specialism and is sufficiently agile to adapt to any additional specialisms that the school may develop in the future. A suite of specialist ICT facilities at the front of the building is complimented by the underlying design principle that every classroom is an ICT classroom. This is achieved by a high quality ICT infrastructure, efficient and effective deployment of resources for ICT hardware and software and a highly specialist ICT managed service provided by our business partners, RM. The 'every classroom is an ICT classroom' design principle is also apparent beyond the classroom. ICT rich breakout spaces in every faculty, and well design external learning environments, support and encourage a culture of continuous (anytime/anywhere) learning.

The buildings are designed to be 'SMART' to allow for more efficient use of resources. This includes:

- Energy management system with zoned lighting and heating controls
- Mechanical ventilation in areas which produce excess heat including hard-wired ICT classrooms.
- Lighting activated by movement sensors.
- Access controlled areas

### **ICT Infrastructure**

The school will benefit from a high quality ICT infrastructure designed to accommodate long term developments in the use of ICT in schools. 'CAT 6' cabling enables technology to run efficiently at speed over the network ensuring that teaching and learning is not hindered or disrupted by shortcomings in capacity and design.

A combination of hard-wired and wireless technology allows for an appropriate balance of flexible, portable and high performance equipment to compliment the wide range of teaching and learning techniques used across the curriculum. The volume and capacity of wireless access points has been significantly increased from the original designs to ensure all pupils in all faculties can access technology at any time.

## **Hardware and Software**

Significant capital investment in ICT hardware and software has allowed the school to re-assess its ICT strategy and introduce more innovation across the curriculum. The school will expand on its already ICT rich learning environments with a 90% refresh of hardware complimented by its highest specification and most recently procured legacy hardware. The pc:pupil ratio will decrease from 1:3.8 to 1:2.6 with the opening of the new school. An increase in peripherals such as pupil voting systems, visualisers and ebeams will further enhance teaching and learning.

Software has been rationalised and developed in some areas to promote consistency and increase opportunities for ICT based learning across the curriculum.

## **ICT Managed Service**

The school has been used to operating a highly specialist in-house ICT service and prides itself on the level of expertise, skill and knowledge within its own 'Network Services' team. The BSF programme in Middlesbrough demands that BSF schools adopt an ICT Managed Service to commence when the new school opens. The school has embraced this opportunity to develop partnership links with our external business partner, RM, and benefit from the opportunities this will provide. The five year service contract will include:

- On site technicians
- 24 hour helpdesk
- Maintenance and repair of hardware
- CPD and training
- Refresh of equipment after 5 years
- Virtual Learning Environment, Kaleidos

The school has chosen to retain its ICT Resource Manager who currently leads the in-house 'Network Services' team. This role will develop into a more strategic role focussed on teaching and learning. The ICT Resource Manager will be responsible for monitoring the ICT Managed Service, measured by Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), to ensure that the school can maximise the positive impact of this partnership.

## **Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)**

The school adopted RM's VLE, Kaleidos, one year prior to the opening of the new school and is therefore at the forefront of the LA's vision to develop Kaleidos as the common learning platform for Middlesbrough. Early adoption has enabled the school to develop content, provide training and develop a positive learning culture amongst staff and pupils before the opening of the new school. This will be beneficial to the smooth transition of teaching and learning, effective data migration and will help to minimise disruption to pupils.

The internet based VLE enables staff and pupils to access work in their own individual areas at anytime and from anywhere as it is not restricted to the school network. It also allows for appropriate communication between staff and pupils. The VLE will help in the large scale delivery of personalised learning by providing:

- A place to store, find, access and use materials
- A platform on which to build and deliver learning activity
- A common and consistent interface and way of working
- Secure and controlled access to differentiated materials
- Communication tools that enable information and resources to be shared
- Tracking and monitoring of pupil activity, performance and progress

Our vision for the future is to further develop our use of the VLE to enable secure access for parents and carers. The VLE will act as a mechanism for parents to:

- Monitor their child's performance and progress
- Monitor their child's behaviour and attendance
- Liaise with the school on academic and pastoral issues
- Carry out administrative tasks such as payment for catering, school trips etc.

E-safety measures are in place to safeguard pupils, staff and other stakeholders in the use of the VLE.

## **'SMART' Technology**

The school's BSF ICT strategy includes the potential introduction of SMART technology. The building has been designed and equipped to deliver the following SMART technologies:

- Cashless catering
- E-registration
- Follow me printing

The school's vision is that every pupil and staff member will have a SMART card in order to access these technologies. The SMART card will also act as a identification badge and will include pupil and staff photographs to support our safeguarding policies and protocols.

A phased approach to the introduction of these technologies will seek to reduce implementation problems and negative issues associated with such technologies which represent such a significant change to school systems. Consultation and communication with pupils and staff throughout planning, design and implementation stages of the process will help to smooth the transition, promote ownership of the change and maximise the potential for success.

When fully implemented it is anticipated that SMART technologies will deliver the following outcomes:

- Improved pupil attendance and punctuality
- Improved catering capacity
- More efficient and economic print solutions
- Improved school/home liaison.

## **Printing Strategy**

A print audit in the current school depicted a large volume of waste and inefficient use of resources in our current print solution, which consists of a large volume of stand alone printers resourced by individual departments.

The proposed new print strategy for the new school is designed to make efficiency savings and reduce waste whilst still ensuring print solutions are accessible and user-friendly.

A combination of satellite MFD (multi-functional device) printers/photocopiers, central reprographics facilities and dedicated desktop printers in specified areas, will reduce cost and reduce waste with immediate effect. This impact will be felt directly by departments allowing them to concentrate resources elsewhere.

Careful deployment of dedicated desktop printers in key admin areas such as SEN, pastoral and data management offices, and in hard-wired ICT classrooms will ensure on-hand print solutions are available where needed. Considered location and sufficient number of MFD satellite printers will ensure ease of accessibility for all staff and pupils. Centrally located high volume reprographics machines will ensure maximum efficiency of resources. The proposed print strategy ensures that all devices are linked as one printing service enabling costs to be kept to a minimum and usage to be easily monitored.

## **Summary**

The role of ICT in the new school is to facilitate and enhance learning in order to improve pupil performance and pupil outcomes. The design of the new school building and external spaces is sympathetic to the needs of the individuals and the demands of a constantly changing curriculum. A high quality ICT infrastructure and specialist managed service solution will facilitate creative teaching and learning and innovative use of technology. SMART technologies and our VLE will improve systems and communications supporting the school in self-improvement on its journey to excellence.