



INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION



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Kennedy Humphreys
Policy Adviser, Broadcasting Policy Division
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London SW1Y 5DH
Email: Digital.Curriculum@culture.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Mr Humphreys,

Re: Consultation on the BBC's Digital Curriculum Proposal

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the BBC's Digital Curriculum Proposal. I respond as chair of the e-Learning Planning Group (e-LPG), on behalf of the following Independent School Associations – GSA, HMC, IAPS, ISA and SHMIS.

Firstly we should like to congratulate the BBC for their Digital Curriculum concept, we support the application and hope sincerely that it will be approved. We look forward to a speedy and successful implementation with the development of enhanced learning resources for all.

In particular we should like to endorse the fact that the proposed Digital Curriculum will:

- Be a source of high quality learning resources – breadth and depth with attention to individual need
- be an additional tool available to all teachers to enhance lessons
- be a flexible resource that encourages teacher/student individuality and expertise
- be interactive and will support differences in pace, style and pathways
- encourage and excite learners and promote 'ownership' of learning
- support independent learning inside and outside the classroom
- be open to all learners and will be free at the point of access
- encourage lifelong learning and will not suffer from age-relatedness

In relation to overall provision and mode of delivery, we strongly support the:

- range of delivery mechanisms to meet the needs of schools/homes with different broadband capabilities. (Real time, down-load, range of support materials etc)
- range of media to be employed
- absence of a requirement for proprietary gateway technology
- appropriateness of the spread of provision across levels and subjects
- decision to cover only 50% of learning objectives for courses

We feel that the proposal is entirely compatible with the BBC's primary public service role. On the basis of education resource 'track record', we anticipate that the proposal would allow a necessary and natural development of the BBC in an e-Learning Age.

We believe that implementation of the Digital Curriculum is likely to improve ICT skills in the UK, build confidence in the use of e-Learning resources and thereby encourage market growth. We thus feel that there would be an overall positive impact on the market with consequent enhancement of opportunity for both new and existing commercial service providers.

We note the positive outcome of the Proof of Concept exercise and are encouraged in particular by the very supportive teacher/student feedback with regard to the quality and flexibility of resources and their likely impact on lesson quality.

The independent school associations strongly support the BBC's Digital Curriculum Proposal and would be keen to participate in any development or pilot activities in support of the project.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Thackrah

Chair of e-Learning Planning Group
GSA HMC IAPS ISA SHMIS