



The Association for School Leaders

1 Heath Square, Boltro Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1BL
Tel: 01444 472472 Fax: 01444 472473
email: info@naht.org.uk Web Site: www.naht.org.uk

BBC Digital Curriculum Service

NAHT Response

NAHT is pleased to respond to the BBC's application to seek approval to launch a new licence fee funded Digital Curriculum.

The Association welcomes the proposal and makes the following comments:

2.1

ICT is an integral part of the education system and the investment and commitment to date is welcomed.

2.2

Sustained investment is needed with more provision in all sectors in terms of hardware, training and technical support and increased and reliable bandwidth. The provision in all classrooms, of the internet, interactive teaching displays and appropriate hardware in the right proportions for teaching to be delivered to all youngsters, is paramount.

Although the ratio of computers to pupils is improving there is inequitable provision. The provision of additional resources can still be far too reliant on support from, for example, parent organisations, private initiatives or commercial promotions, which leaves many schools at a disadvantage. Teachers need to be able to locate resources quickly and efficiently if they are to make proper use of them.

Other commercial players will have an import role within Curriculum Online. A broad range of approved providers will allow for diversity and local content.

3.1

The quality and trust associated with the BBC brand is well recognised. It would be important that this transfers to digital services. The allocation of provision for foundation subjects and dedicated other areas as listed is important to enable coverage of a diversity of subjects and areas.

3.3

Other players with Curriculum Online approval should be fully incorporated.

3.4

The recognition of the need for technical support is welcomed.

3.4.2

It is essential that all teachers have access to broadband internet both at school and at home. All teachers must be provided with the appropriate facilities in order to have access to the full range of online resources both in the classroom and for lesson planning at home. The financial implications for teachers gaining access to online services at home also needs to be considered. These issues need to be addressed as a matter of urgency to enable ICT to become rapidly embedded within the curriculum.

3.4.3

Training needs to be of the highest quality and fully funded.

3.4.5/6

Support must be seen within the wider picture.

4.1

A service free at point of use is essential.

4.2

Full functionality is crucial. LEA networks and links need further development and many LEAs are suffering from a lack of overall strategic thinking at Council level regarding the networking of schools. There are also concerns regarding consistency of access, connection to broadband and multimedia access. These issues need further consideration, co-ordination and investment in order to maximise potential and cost effectiveness.

5

The Digital Curriculum must be developed within a wider market place and the commitments outlined in 5.3.2 are welcomed. The theory must be translated into practice.

With the expansion of on line learning opportunities, pupils and teachers will be disenfranchised without full access and this should be given urgent priority in any developments.