

Response to the digital curriculum proposals

I am a school teacher working partly for a local authority teaching physics, partly writing for an educational internet site piloting physics at AS level and also doing an MA in Online Education at the University of Southern Queensland. Thus, these constitute my qualifications, such as they are, for making a comment about the BBC's proposals !

My assessment is simple - the report mentions in many places that the views and intentions of the private sector have not been sought (and would be, in any case, difficult to obtain). I am not exactly in a position to comment with authority on this, but I can see that the private sector would not readily enter into the delivery of educational material in the A-level sector (or 'Key Stage 5'). The amount of money required to deliver even a basically adequate online course is phenomenal. For the private sector, there is no clear chance that the development costs, let alone a profit, would be recovered.

I think that, instead of developing Key Stages 1 - 4, the BBC is best poised to develop the otherwise neglected KS5 sector.

This, it seems to me, is a better response to the aims of providing a public service that would otherwise be avoided at present by private enterprise.

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