
Subject: Rayner, David

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
Tessa Jowell

Secretary of State

Having just read through the 16 pages of the **BBC Digital Curriculum Service** proposals, I would like to pose a question. What is the role of teachers likely to be in these developments? I am a keen proponent of e-learning and one of a growing band of teachers that (as well as teaching full-time) run independent, free educational websites. The demand for good quality, free online curriculum materials seems to grow daily but the large number of teachers that I am in regular contact with bemoan the fact that the current commercial offerings all look terrific but provide little of educational value. In the end, they resort to the simple (some would argue amateur) offerings of sites such as mine that seem to provide greater educational (and practical) benefits.

No-where, in all the newspaper and internet articles that I have read about the digital curriculum, does there seem to be a role for classroom teachers to help produce materials or even to guide the content. Yes, there are educational consultants out there, some of whom no doubt will earn large commissions for their educational advice, but will they ensure that the content that is ultimately produced, actually attract large numbers of teachers and their pupils to use it (especially long term, once the novelty has worn off)? There is a huge wealth of untapped professional knowledge and experience that is constantly sidestepped by the government and the large media organisations - it is time that this was recognised and greater note taken of the very people who will be encouraged to use the digital curriculum.

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