

Education Experience

Our Principal Areas of Business

EdICTs is an educational consultancy organisation, whose business activities can be loosely grouped into three overlapping areas:

- Education Programmes
- IT Services
- Innovation & Research Programmes

Our team are, themselves, accomplished teachers and school leaders, and as consultants have developed considerable experience of working within a wide range of educational, geographic and socio-economic contexts.

Ethos and Approach

A Culture of Research: Collective Innovation and Imagination

Our consultancy approach promotes a 'culture of research', rather than a 'culture of science' amongst project stakeholders. That is to say, through our expansive, inclusive approach, we seek always to open possibilities, challenge preconceptions and develop collective aspirations. This does not suggest a lack of pragmatism or realism in our eventual solutions, but rather, reflects a commitment to engaging all stakeholders in a robust developmental process, through which we aim for the very best we can imagine. Indeed, EdICTs firmly believe that good ideas and effective, sustainable solutions result from an engagement with tensions, conflicts, problems, challenges and barriers, rather than an avoidance of them. It is for this reason, we feel, that a skilled and experienced consultancy team can contribute meaningfully to a change, or research programme. However, our consultants' experience working as - and latterly with - educational practitioners, has taught us that interventions will only be successful where the programme does not impede the main business of teaching and learning. Thus we aim always to develop programmes of work that are as supportive and unobtrusive as possible.

Microsoft Office 365 is our chosen platform for facilitating and organising the relationships between project stakeholders. EdICTs offers Office 365 as a service for use within any project, and when taken up by the client, an allocated EdICTs employee is expected to maintain a good communication regime incorporating Office 365. This provides a shared calendar, contacts database, single point of document storage and forum facility

Our quality management system is designed to ensure that EdICTs enshrines the principle of continuous improvement within all of its operations. EdICTs promotes the provision of appropriate personnel and resource development so that we meet and hopefully exceed the expectations of our clients.

Education Transformation Programmes - Background

The Academies programme was introduced in March 2000 by the then Secretary of State, David Blunkett, with the first projects announced in September of that year. The programme aims to establish 400 new Academies, 200 of which will be open or in development by 2010. As of September 2007, 83 Academies had opened in 49 Local Authorities.

The DCSF (now the DfE) asked Partnerships for Schools (Pfs) to take on delivery of Academies in March 2006, following the proposal made in June 2005 by the Secretary of State to more closely align investment in Academies with Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

BSF was the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. The aim was to rebuild or renew every secondary school in England over a 10 - 15 year period. The BSF and Academies programme was not just about new buildings; it was about changing and improving teaching and learning. EdICTs played a key part in the transformation programme supporting:

- *Change Management*
- *Change Leadership*
- *Change Pedagogy*

Education and ICT are key in supporting any transformation process. To this end we worked with senior managers to audit current skills and identify what practices need to change or be improved to meet the schools overall educational vision. This involved the development of a CDP (Continual Professional Development) programme to cover the period in the existing school and the move into a new or refurbished building. BSF and the Academies programme represent a significant portion of our recent consultancy work, yet we are also engaged in a number of other capital build programmes around the world.



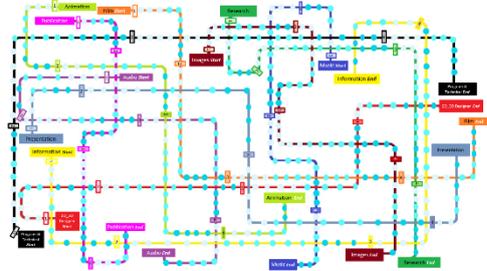
Academy Trusts and MATs

Since 2012 EdICTs has continued to support lead Multi Academy Trusts, individual Academies and Free Schools. This includes programmes for both technical and educational support. A significant development has been the relationship with Oasis Community Learning: <http://www.oasiscommunitylearning.org/>

Strategy and Support for IT Services embedding learning technologies

In supporting a holistic strategy for embedding learning technologies EdICTs has worked with all of the Oasis Academies, including reams of teachers and students to produce Frameworks and Policy documents covering:

- Toolkit readiness for personal devices
- Identifying the learning
- Outstanding Digital Learners Framework – teacher and student versions
- E-Safety Policy
- Developing safe use of learning technology tools
- Acceptable use of Technologies Policy
- National IT Challenges:
 - Lego Robotics Challenge
 - Dragons Den App Development Challenge
 - Short Film Challenge – OASISCARS



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

Before the SSAT was closed due to Government policy changes, EdICTs was approached by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) in 2007 to take a lead role in providing ICT consultancy to newly formed Academies where ICT was an area requiring particular support. This includes auditing ICT in the curriculum as well as ICT resources, providing one to one support for individual teachers, providing strategic guidance to senior management, the development of ICT visions and the production of Continuing Professional Development programmes to enable these visions to become a reality. Liaison with key stakeholders, such as the Local Authority, is key to the success of our work. EdICTs worked with the following Academies on behalf of the SSAT:

- Folkestone Academy
- Swindon Academy
- Samworth Academy
- St Matthew's Academy
- Parkwood, Sheffield
- Midhurst Rother, W Sussex
- Accrington Academy, Lancashire



Consultancy for the States of Guernsey

EdICTs worked with the States of Guernsey for over ten years and finished as their consultants in August 2012, with the States deciding to run their services from local companies rather than those based on the mainland.



We were closely involved with the development of ICT education strategy, network infrastructure, new school buildings, equipment procurement consultancy, teacher training and project management. We support educational ICT policy development and project-manage initiatives across all schools on the island. This included:

- *The design and implementation of new networks and infrastructure for all schools, this includes a complete new build and refurbishment in other schools;*
- *Strategic Leadership of ICT (SLICT) training for head teachers;*
- *The introduction of a learning platform across all schools;*
- *Ongoing support for school development planning;*
- *CPD for all school staff;*
- *Curriculum auditing.*
- *The development of a bespoke, innovative Integrated Learning Environment (GILE) which utilizes CITRIX technology*

Primary Phase: EdICTs co-constructed bespoke schemes of work in each primary school and developed a robust framework for them to further develop their own ICT primary strategy. The framework guided schools in how they can embed ICT within different curriculum areas, and facilitate enquiry-based learning.

Secondary Phase: We have worked with all the secondary schools to develop their understanding of personalisation of learning, including the strategic use of the virtual learning environment (VLE) and look for the maximum use of web 2 tools available to them with their connectivity.

In September 2007 we began working with all schools to develop areas of 'Next Practice' where they choose a leading edge development idea to implement. This required EdICTs to develop education strategies for the Education Department to have ratified by the States of Guernsey Government.

We supported the design and introduction of one of the first Citrix integration with a VLE into a complete authority taking in users from Reception stage through to FE.

DCSF Programme Management Experience - Moving Young Minds 2007



During 2006 EdICTs project managed the world education seminar for all countries Education Ministers. The programme ran from 7th – 9th January 2007 and attracted 69 Education Ministers and representatives from 72 countries. The seminar was by invitation only and was closed to the public.

The seminar had UK Ministerial involvement with the Minister of State for Education, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of state for Overseas Development all giving Key Note addresses. In addition, there were some world-famous key note speakers including Jimmy Wales from Wikipedia and Mike Moore the Ex-Premier of New Zealand. To manage the event, EdICTs contracted an event organiser to manage the day to day running of the event whilst we concentrated on providing the education expertise in developing the programme. We organised 10 workshop seminars for Ministers providing insight into current UK policy and education development strategy.

We organised the evening dinner and contracted Sir Bob Geldof as the after dinner speaker with further entertainment being provided by young students from the Yehudi Menuhin School of Music. The final day of the conference was led by Rt. Hon Beverly Knight (the then Minister for Children and families) and Jim Knight, Minister for schools. Participants also had a day visiting the BETT exhibition at Olympia.

Case Studies Pupil and Home Access

EdICTs was contracted to produce a series of video case studies illustrating a range of scenarios where the Government provision of home computers and technology support had brought about an improvement in the life of pupils and their families. The DVD of the case studies is available through the DCSF. The work involved two members of the EdICTs staff working with a movie production company and interviewing teachers, pupil's parents as well as Local Authority representatives.

Becta Learning Platform Matrix and Cross Referencing

EdICTs wrote the Personalised Learning Matrix for Becta. This forms part of Becta's Matrix Platform, which is an online tool that facilitates self-evaluation and action planning. The Learning Platform functionality matrix enables schools to evaluate their:

- *institutional readiness;*
- *use of content management systems;*
- *use of electronic communication and collaboration tools;*
- *administration systems;*
- *use and management of learner information and management of ICT resources.*

EdICTs also cross-referenced the Learning Platform matrix against the Self-Review Framework and Quality Principles for Digital resources. This highlights where ICT is fundamentally linked to whole-school issues and helps schools to evaluate digital resources which could facilitate progress and development.



Keys to success (K2S) - "Readiness for Strategic Technologies" Project

EdICTs was contracted to:

- *deliver focused support within a Strategic Technologies framework for sixty London "Keys to Success" schools in order to contribute to the progress they are expected to make;*
- *conduct a data gathering project to determine how ready the schools involved would be to take advantage of opportunities offered by the programme;*
- *identify further technology-based solutions that could be developed to help build upon existing success and compensate for areas of difficulty.*

The contract required us to:

- *host an event to develop common thinking and questionnaire/survey instrument, to inform Strategic Technologies Programme about common issues in schools. This tool could be further used in other schools/areas as required;*
- *produce a written report to each school and its advisers on analysis of above survey results;*
- *produce a summative report considering results from all schools' individual reports;*
- *create a plan of action for events/activity for 2006/7 Financial Year to build on current practice and alleviate barriers to progress.*

National Strategy Case Studies

EdICTs worked with the Secondary National Strategy to carry out research into the implementation and impact of strategy CPD materials. EdICTs has written case studies of models of implementation for the 'Strengthening Pedagogy with ICT' pack which adopts an action enquiry approach to CPD. We were also involved in the moderation and evaluation of a Strategy online forum focusing on the production of these case studies.

'Extending 14-19 Curriculum Choice' Research Project

EdICTs undertook a research project on behalf of Becta to provide Case Study examples of secondary schools where technology has been innovatively applied to the challenges of extending curriculum choice for the 14-19 age-group.

References

We are happy for approaches to be made to the following referees for our most current contractual projects:

<i>Educational Consultancy</i>	<i>IT Services</i>	<i>Innovation</i>
Mr John Barneby Chief Operating Officer Oasis Community Trust Interchurch House 35 - 41 Lower Marsh Road London SE1 7RL Tel: +44 (0)7827 291 722	Mr Rob Lamont Director, IT Directorate Oasis Community Learning Interchurch House 35 - 41 Lower Marsh Road London SE1 7RL Tel: +44(0)7826 529408	Mr Chris Clements Oasis Academy Blakenhale Blakenhale Road Birmingham B33 0XD Tel: +44(0)121 7833960