

IT Services 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.

IT Services Contracts

EdICTs has considerable experience of advising key stakeholders (including architects, civil engineers, local authorities, sponsors and schools) on the design and specification of teaching and learning spaces – both physical and virtual. We have experience of all phases of education from Primary to FE, and have built expertise in a wide range of curriculum specialisms. We list examples of programmes where EdICTs held a significant role:

School Capital Build & 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.



Academies Programme

Since the first iteration of the Academies Programmes EdICTs has provided education and ICT consultancy to more than 20 individual Academies, several Federations and also Multi Academy Trusts making us a leading supplier in the field during the first Programme. Our work involved the creation of the overall Vision, the Output Specification, the Functional Specification and the procurement process. Our experience to date has shown the need for both the education and the ICT consultants to work closely with FF&E, Catering, Security and the M&E consultants to ensure the complete integration of each facility.

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/>

The development programmes have involved us in 2 major development programmes:

- *Development of Oasis Community Learning Infrastructure – design and implementation*
- *Strategy and Support for IT Services embedding learning technologies*

Oasis Community Learning Infrastructure – design and implementation

EdICTs has been working on separate contracts to support both Oasis Community Learning IT Services and Oasis IT Services Ltd with technical and consultancy services to support:

- *Development of new-build Oasis Academy IT system or incorporation /migration of an existing Academy into national infrastructure including:*
 - *Current server infrastructure*
 - *Current switching infrastructure*
 - *Current network cabling infrastructure*
 - *Audit of Wireless System*
 - *Audit of Client devices*
 - *Audit of Phone system*
 - *Review of any ad hoc systems (Cashless Catering, Digital signage, Library, Intranet etc)*
 - *Review of current user directory and server configuration*
 - *Recommendations for actions to achieve compatibility with the existing Oasis IT systems*

- *Detail of possible risks and issues around the IT system conversion.*
- *Development of the Oasis Central IT Infrastructure and implementation of the IT Infrastructure projects*
- *Delivery of technical services to the DfE / EFA ICT suppliers for Education RM1050 Framework.*
EdICTs is a preferred supplier to Oasis IT Services Ltd for their work relating to contracts through this Framework. We supply both technical and educational support, including assistance in drawing together the bids and the ISO 901 2015 Quality Assurance validation and QMS.

Initial Academies programme

Working with key stakeholders such as the local authority, feeder primary schools and local FE institutions is integral to our approach. We are also experienced in working with schools and authorities in demographically diverse and deprived areas. For example, we provided ICT Educational consultancy for the 6-times over-subscribed Mossbourne Academy in Hackney, whose predecessor school 'Hackney Downs' closed in 1995 having been rated as one of the worst schools in the country. Our Academy projects included:

- *Mossbourne Academy, Hackney (pictured)*
- *Harefield Academy, Hillingdon*
- *The Bridge Academy, Hackney*
- *Harris Federation Academies*
- *Oasis Community Learning Academies Primary & Secondary*
- *Aylwin Girls' Academy, Southwark*
- *Langley Academy, Slough*
- *Corby Academy, Northamptonshire*
- *St. Paul's Academy, Greenwich*
- *ARK Academies, London*
- *The West First Academy*
- *The Gateway Academy*
- *The Sheffield Academy, Walsall*
- *The Brighton Aldridge Community Academy, Brighton*
- *The Furness Academy, Barrow*



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-management 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;*
- *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 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.

Post 16 education – Merthyr Learning Quarter

EdICTs have been the ICT consultants to the new 6th Form and FE College in Merthyr. This is the largest single project currently funded by the Welsh assembly. The new college will improve the range of learning options currently available in Merthyr and is a key element of the regeneration of the area.

Building Schools for the Future

Before the BSF programme was scrapped in 2010, EdICTs built considerable experience of working on BSF programmes, advising on both the Client side and the Supplier side of the contractual relationship. Our experience included:

(Client Side)

- **Suffolk BSF Programme:** EdICTs provided educational and technical consultancy services for Suffolk local authority, as they developed their vision and functional specification for BSF.
- **Poole & Bournemouth BSF Programme:** EdICTs was awarded the contract to deliver educational, technical and procurement consultancy to this large BSF programme.
- **London Borough of Greenwich BSF:** Our Consultant, Jeff Howson, was a core member of the BSF programme management team managing and evaluating the BSF ICT procurement for the London Borough of Greenwich, with special responsibility for Training and Transformation, Interim Services, the Learning Platform and MIS.
- **Writhlington BSF One School Pathfinder:** We worked with Writhlington School, Bath & NE Somerset, where

we are providing ICT, educational and procurement consultancy services as they work to implement their plans for a new Pathfinder school

(Supplier Side)

- **Fujitsu BSF Programmes:** prior to their withdrawal from the BSF programme, EdICTs was education consultant to Fujitsu, supporting the Company in its mission to be a major supplier of IT services to schools across the UK. We offered Fujitsu practical, relevant and forward thinking educational advice to ensure the most effective technical solution for schools of the future.
- **Land Security Trillium/Northgate BSF Programme (Kent & Birmingham):** EdICTs were contracted to work as the education partner for Land Security Trillium and Northgate Computers in their BSF programme work. EdICTs took responsibility for supporting the Change Management programme within the Client Authority.
 - Our terms of reference were to:
 - *Lead/influence thinking on the future of in-classroom learning within the sample school sites*
 - *Interpret current visions of learning and current intentions as to changes to learning and pedagogy via BSF in sample school designs.*
 - *Articulate how Northgate's framework solution can realise the above. Help Heads, Teachers and Authority understand what the change and transformation will look like by individual department and year. Detailing the day in the life of the learner, educator and administrator.*
 - *At Authority level - help meet the educated client expectations.*
 - *Identify the positive impacts of Northgate solution right through to educational outcomes.*

Delivering BSF

Finding the right staff to deliver important projects can be difficult, and if they leave at short notice it is difficult to find suitable replacement staff quickly. EdICTs can support companies and Local Authorities in this position. For example, Capita were unable to recruit a suitable person to manage the implementation of BSF in Tower Hamlets. EdICTs provided a member of staff that was able to take the project over within a week of the initial request.

IT Services in International arena

EdICTs has a growing portfolio of International projects. EdICTs currently have projects running in Kazakhstan, Maputo Mozambique, Hyderabad India, Jeju, South Korea and EdICTs is currently part of a number of bids in the Middle East.

Haileybury-Almaty School, Kazakhstan 2000 EdICTs worked with the architect practice, HOK. In Almaty, Kazakhstan, the project involved the design, build and equipping a new British International school. The project funded by Capital Partners is a significant and prestigious building project – the first British School to be opened in Kazakhstan. Our consultancy work on this project included:

- *Producing a design brief for the architects*
- *Specifying the requirements of server rooms and distribution rooms*
- *Giving guidance on likely heat gains from ICT- related equipment in each area throughout the school*
- *Producing ICT Functional Specification, outlining ICT requirements*
- *Producing Technical Infrastructure Document, detailing the ICT infrastructure requirements*
- *Attending and contributing to design team meetings*
- *Responding to / Contributing to M&E designs for the new buildings*
- *Producing document outlining ICT equipment requirements for servers, active equipment and end user equipment*
- *Entering into dialogue with Capital Partners for procurement of equipment in Kazakhstan*
- *Installing and commissioning all equipment*



Haileybury-Astana School, Kazakhstan 2011

Following the success of Haileybury Almaty, EdICTs was appointed to the design team for a new school in Astana. The President of Kazakhstan was very influential in instigating this new school which is the first British International school in the new capital city of Kazakhstan. EdICTs completed the same role at Almaty and the school opens as planned on September 1st 2011 with a fully operation ICT system.

The Aga Khan Academies

EdICTs have been appointed to provide ICT consultancy to the Aga Khan Academies. This is a very exciting project with seventeen Academies planned across Asia and Africa.

The vision is based on the delivery of a transformational agenda that entirely reconfigures learning and the way we think about it. Central to this agenda is the belief that ICT has a unique capacity and potential for developing and enlivening all domains of learning.

EU Schoolnet Interactive Classroom Technology, Research and Procurement Guidance

EdICTs were contracted by European Schoolnet to carry out research into the practices of EU member states in managing procurement exercises for Interactive Classroom Technologies. Our work involved liaising with major suppliers and each

member state Ministry of Education in order to collate and share best practice. We created guidelines to support MoE's in creating successful, fair and competitive invitations to tender, together with the infrastructure to facilitate schools' preparation for implementation of the technology, and the support networks for ensuring sustainable, robust pedagogy post-implementation.

Academy links & commercial organisations

EdICTs work with partner companies who are providing broadcast facilities into Academies and BSF programmes. Our work involves identifying how the technology can be used to link commercial organisations with schools and students.

References

We are happy for approaches to be made to the following referees:

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