



ICT, a Skill for Life

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Decision

In 2003 White Paper "21st Century Skills Realising Our Potential, the United Kingdom Government acknowledged that ICT was a new skill for life alongside literacy and numeracy



Background

- 90% of new jobs and 72% of existing jobs require some ICT skills
- Employers increasing need for higher level ICT user skills
- Government and Commercial Services increasingly online
- E-learning increasingly part of mainstream education and training



Background

- The National Office of Statistics in April 2006 reported that 57% of households in the United Kingdom have Internet access in the home.
- Dramatic increase over the last four years
- Access tends to be skewed in favour of more prosperous areas and households



Non-Users

- Mori survey in 2004 showed that about a third of the adult population, some 17 million people, did not use the Internet.
- 3 million people had previously had used the Internet.
- Non-users tended to be older (over 55 years) with no formal qualifications and unemployed.
- Over half of non-users potentially would be willing to learn about ICT if they could afford it, they could see the relevance of learning ICT skills and if the teaching was high quality

Implementation Process

- Define “ICT Skill for Life” standard (www.qca.gov.uk)
- National ICT Skill for Life Curriculum (www.qca.gov.uk, www.niace.org.uk, and DfES publication)
- Action Research (www.niace.org.uk)
- New Entry Level (Beginners) Qualifications (e.g. OCR)
- Pathfinder - pilot new qualifications due to end August 2007
- Increasing interest in linking ICT and other skills for life

Research – How ICT is taught?

- NIACE projects funded by Department of Education and Skills
- Influences – qualification structure and assessment
- Focus on individual learning – worksheets dominant approach
- Relatively narrow range of methods and approaches employed

ICT Skill for Life Approach

- Purposeful Delivery
- Spiky profiles assumed
- Need to adjust teaching methods – more individualised approach – peer and group work – wider range of methods

ICT relationships with Literacy, numeracy and language skills

- ICT important motivator of skills for life learners
- Potential of improving literacy, language or numeracy and ICT skills
- Mapping projects
- Learning materials – ICT/literacy and ICT/numeracy

MyGuide

- <http://www.myguide.gov.uk/>
- A free and easy to use email and internet search tool, aimed at the beginner available from UK Online Centres
- UK Online centres located in deprived areas

Functional Skills

- Skills for life and key skills will eventually be replaced by functional skills in ICT, English and Mathematics
- ICT Functional skills standard very similar to ICT Skill for Life
- ICT functional skills and GCSE A to C grades
- New Diplomas include functional skills
- Large scale pilot starting in September 2007

Summary

- Trend towards using ICT with other skills for life
- Functional skills links to GCSE and New Diplomas
- Mapping and materials development
- ICT Skill for Life Entry level qualifications

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