



March 2006

ICT briefing note

Regarding: Learning Platforms

Following: SEGfL Learning Platforms Roadshow, Maidenhead

The SEGfL event helped to outline some of the key ideas and issues surrounding learning platforms, which the Government wants to see in all schools by 2008. This is a rapidly evolving and currently poorly understood aspect of ICT in schools, but some important findings are beginning to emerge from schools/LAs where the use of these systems have been pioneered. I have attempted to outline these below.

Key points

- Learning platforms have the potential to transform learning and teaching, especially with regard to the personalisation of learning
- There are significant benefits to be derived from all the schools in an area using the same learning platform
- Learning platforms are fundamentally about people
- Success is about managing change, not managing the technology
- We need to move towards “industrial strength” ICT infrastructure, with a very high degree of resilience and reliability

Some of the main benefits of learning platforms are:

- Being an easy to use repository for the full range of electronic learning resources *finding resources on some school networks is very difficult due to the sheer volume of material stored and the resulting complexity of the folder structures needed to organise it*
- Tailoring content and tasks to user needs and learning styles *supporting the management of learning, breadth, flexibility and the customising of learning*
- Continuity of learning *supporting home learning, parental involvement and access to performance information, allowing remote access (from anywhere with an internet connection) and promoting links between institutions*

