Free Guide: 7 Ways that ICT can help meet the new Ofsted Criteria

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"Your existing ICT provision may be satisfactory – but how could new technology solutions ensure you meet the new requirements?"

Are you ready for the new Ofsted inspections framework?

From January 2012 inspectors will be focusing more sharply on those aspects of schools' work that have the greatest impact in four key areas:

- The achievement of pupils
- The quality of teaching
- The behaviour and safety of pupils
- The quality of leadership and management

This free guide provides seven practical ways for schools to use ICT when developing strategies that will satisfy OFSTED's criteria, now and in the future.

The Achievement of Pupils

1. Engage Students With Online Content

A VLE can improve results by engaging users in the learning process. Lesson can be easily personalised with just a few clicks of the mouse. Multimedia content can also be used to appeal to different learning styles. Lesson materials, homework or even assessment feedback can all be created using a mixture of text, educational games, audio and video.

2. Support Inclusion

A VLE will help you differentiate content for students with special educational needs (SEN).

Applications can be integrated to provide text to speech, or text to symbol translation for learners. SENCO professionals can also use their learning platform to provide advice and information to other members of staff via online messaging.

School social networks are another opportunity to involve all SEN students in daily classroom life. An online community represents a chance for staff to keep all pupils up to date with assignments, school notices and personalised feedback, even if they're not able to attend school regularly.

The Quality of Teaching

3. Share Best Practice

School based social networks and VLE hubs allow staff to collaborate together and produce the best quality lessons for pupils.

Social networks give users the chance to collaborate on planning and preparation, meaning phase or curriculum leaders can support their staff anytime anywhere. Furthermore, a VLE's online file store can act as library of exemplary work. Outstanding lesson plans, useful resources and training materials can all be shared among colleagues to provide inspiration and guidance when teachers need extra support.

The Behaviour and Safety of Pupils

4. Create a Culture of Positive Praise

A school website, VLE or e-portfolio can be used to promote success.

Exemplary work and achievements can be celebrated on a dedicated web page, designed to draw attention to achievements. KS1 and KS2 learners can show their successes within an on-screen profile that displays rewards (stars or points). Older students can use previous results and positive online feedback to show their progress. An e-portfolio acts as an extension of this concept, providing a long-running archive of successful projects for learners to show their

parents and take pride in themselves.

5. Promote e-Safety

A school based, secure social network will educate pupils on how to be responsible online. Monitored messages, swear word filters and open profiles mean students can learn about all the benefits of social networking, without any of the dangers associated with using public sites.

School websites and VLEs can help promote e-safety as well. Web pages and VLE discussion boards can be set up to promote school ICT rules and provide links on e-safety help and guidance aimed at pupils.

The Quality of Leadership and Management

6. Improve Parental and Community Engagement

Used properly, ICT can help build strong relationships between home and school.

A VLE can be integrated with a school's management system to provide students' assessment, attainment and behaviour data, in line with government recommendations. In addition, parent message boards can be set up to promote discussion on school life and home teaching tips. Newsletters and updates can also be uploaded to keep everyone at home up to date with the latest activities and events.

Actual work, such as projects and coursework can also be viewed online in an e-portfolio. Schools that encourage regular e-portfolio updates can provide parents with an accurate view on daily classroom activity.

Staff can strengthen links further with a self-maintained school website. A good content management system can be used by teachers at home or school, making it easy to update parents and even the wider community with regular school news and events. Of course, a well designed website will also capture the brand and ethos of an establishment, attracting potential parents and visitors to the school.

7. Reduce the Constraints on Budgets

Open-source and free technology like the Moodle VLE and Google Apps for Education offer schools freedom over their budgets. No licences or software updates means leadership teams can take control of their ICT budget and distribute it more effectively across the school.

How We Can Help

Webanywhere: a great range of ICT solutions that help schools meet the new Ofsted criteria

Webanywhere is the UK market leader in school websites and can provide your Primary or Secondary school with an extensive range of ICT solutions, including virtual learning environments (VLEs), content-managed school websites, e-portfolios and social networks.

Using some, or all, of these solutions schools can meet aspects of each criteria as illustrated in the matrix below:-

Product name / category	Pupil Achievement		Pupil Behaviour and Safety		Quality of Teaching		Leadership and Management	
Learnanywhere Primary School VLE	Easy to use by KS1 and KS2 age group On-screen e-rewards system (stars, trophies etc)	🟢	Extends school influence beyond the classroom A safe space to share and collaborate	🟢	Accepts interactive multimedia content Instant feedback reinforces 'positive praise' messages	🟢	Online learning environment accessible to pupils and staff Low set up and support costs	🟢
Moodle Secondary School VLE	Enables self-directed learning Rich multimedia capability	🟢	Online classroom creates school / home continuity Secure control over content	🟢	Breadth of capability for planning & delivery 1000s of free plug ins and resources	🟢	Open source technology + no licence fees = lower costs Powerful reporting tools	🟢
Student Jotter e-Portfolio, Internal Social Network	E-portfolio builds pupils' sense of pride Makes social media appropriate for school learning	🟢	Harnesses the positive points of social media platforms A safe space to share, post and discuss course work	🟢	Saves time - central file store centralises work in a single place Enables and accelerates collaborative assessment	🟢	Community participation and information monitoring Secure internal social network that schools can trust	🟡
School Jotter Website builder	Platform for showcasing pupil success Promotes inclusion – builds recognition within community	🟡	Secure control over restricted content Online channel for school campaign communications	🟢	Teaching resources available online, reduces planning time 'Always on', extends community reach	🟡	Enhanced school reputation Multi-publish: No technical expertise needed to maintain	🟢

Key: 🟢 Fully supports Ofsted compliance   🟡 Partially supports Ofsted compliance

To learn more about how learning platforms can be integrated or improved at your school, please call 0800 862 0131 or 01535 604 026.

Alternatively, email info@webanywhere.co.uk