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# Innovation & Research Experience

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# Innovation & Research 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 client.

## Innovation & Research Projects and Contracts

### Research Mark and Enquiring Schools

EdICTs has been working with NFER/Futurelab in developing strategies for learning within their Enquiring Schools Programme and working on the Research Mark as an Assessor. As a consultant for Futurelab, EdICTs is involved in supporting several of the enquiry based research projects running in the following schools:

- *Accrington Academy*
- *Wilmington Grammar School for Girls*
- *Wilmington Grammar School for Boys*
- *Copland Community School*
- *The Rofft Primary School*
- *Stoneleigh Academy*
- *Tredway Primary School*



### DCSF Innovation Unit

EdICTs supported the 'Resourcing Personalisation' programme. The work required supporting and challenging five large scale Next Practice Field Trials in schools around the country. Next Practice in Resourcing Personalisation investigated how schools might deploy their resources more effectively to meet the needs of all learners. There are 17 Field trials in total and whilst EdICTs has responsibility for five, we are heavily involved with all 17. The field trial sites that EdICTs supported are:

- *Cramlington Community High School* <http://www.cchsonline.co.uk/>
- *Bridgemary Community Sports College* <http://www.bridgemary.hants.sch.uk/>
- *John Cabot City Technology College* <http://www.cabot.ac.uk/>
- *Leasowes Community Specialist School* <http://www.leasowes.dudley.gov.uk/index.shtml>
- *De Ferrers Specialist Technology College* <http://www.deferrers.com/>

As part of this work, EdICTs built up considerable expertise in running a Change Management Framework Programme, Knowledge Management and Knowledge Elicitation methods for recording the story of development work.

### **Sheffield Learning Journey**

EdICTs was commissioned by Sheffield City Council to deliver a programme of curriculum development for at least 20 schools using web 2.0 technology to enhance pupil learning.

### **Becta 'Content Packaging' Programme**

EdICTs was contracted by Becta to manage the stakeholder consultation element of a programme to create a technical profile for a standard to improve interoperability between learning platforms and e-learning content. Working through the industry group SALTIS, and with representatives of the end-user community, we ran a programme of consultation – developing explanatory resources, online questionnaires, webinars, industry and end-user workshop events, face-to-face and telephone interviews – leading to a stakeholder report compiled by RM.

### **East Sussex Diploma Exemplar Project**

EdICTs helped develop the infrastructure, technology and resources required to support teaching and learning at and across Creative Learning Centres in East Sussex. Advanced Virtual Learning Environment Technology and Interactive 3D Information Technology will be used to transform the teaching and learning experiences for learners across the LA.

### **DCSF BETT Stand**



EdICTs was asked to organise and manage the DCSF presence at British Education Training Technology (BETT) show 2007.

This involved:

- *liaising with senior officers within the DCSF to identify the focus of the exhibition stand;*
- *identifying and booking speakers for the stand theatre and to reinforce the key Government messages;*
- *briefing stand staff and the production of briefing papers;*
- *the selection and management of stand design, build, and installation;*
- *organisation of invited guests to DCSF briefing sessions, designed to raise the ICT awareness of staff within the DCSF.*

In addition, as a sub section of the BETT exhibition, EdICTs project managed the organisation of a major conference for industry and key LA leaders to promote the innovative work undertaken by the ICT games industry and the DCSF. At and after the show we organised independent evaluation of the DCSF presence at the BETT and found it to be very successful with an average attendance at presentations being 110%.

### **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.

### **Suppliers Framework BBC Digital Curriculum**

EdICTs were preferred suppliers of digital learning resources to BBC, and were successful in winning contracts under the former BBC Jam service. At the time the BBC Trust recommended the cessation of the service, EdICTs were in production of an innovative resource for the teaching and learning of RE at 11-14. Our partner organisations, Notion23 and Gooii have received and been nominated for numerous industry awards such as the BETT award, 1 BAFTA award and 2 other BAFTA nominations and a Webby award.

## References

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

| <i>Educational Consultancy</i>  | <i>IT Services</i>  | <i>Innovation</i>  |
|---|---|--|
| Mr Mark Robinson<br>BEST section<br>States of Guernsey Education Department<br>Grange Road<br>PO Box 32<br>St Peter Port<br>Guernsey<br>GY1 3AU<br>Channel Islands<br><br>Tel: 01481 710821 | Mr Rob Lamont<br>Oasis Community<br>Learning<br>1A Kennington<br>Road London<br>SE1 7QP<br><br>Tel: 020 7633 2097 | Mr Gareth Mills<br>NFER/Futurelab<br>The Mere<br>Upton Park<br>Slough<br>Berkshire SL1 2DQ<br><br>Tel: +44(0)1753 637400 |