

For secondary PGCE tutors and trainees
**Including students with
SEN and/or disabilities
in secondary ICT**

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1 Including students with SEN and/or disabilities in secondary information and communication technology (ICT) lessons

Introduction

This booklet gives tutors and trainees information about subject-specific issues in the ICT curriculum for students with SEN and/or disabilities. It offers a straightforward introduction to planning inclusive ICT lessons. There are also suggestions for further reading and support in section 7.

Each booklet in this series contains a self-audit table (section 3). This offers a range of ideas that you can use to check against your practice and the practice you observe. The organisation of information in this table is based on the most recent research evidence and the views of expert teachers.

Recent evidence (eg Davis and Florian, 2004) suggests that much of what has traditionally been seen as pedagogy for students with SEN and/or disabilities consists of the approaches used in ordinary teaching, extended or emphasised for particular individuals or groups of students. This applies even when teaching approaches may look very different, eg when teachers are working with students with complex needs.

Trials of these materials in 2007/08 suggested that grouping teaching approaches into themes helps new teachers and those who work with them to consider and discuss their practice. Therefore each self-audit table is grouped under eight themes:

- maintaining an inclusive learning environment
- multi-sensory approaches, including information and communication technology (ICT)
- working with additional adults
- managing peer relationships
- adult-student communication
- formative assessment/assessment for learning
- motivation, and
- memory/consolidation.

There are many overlaps between these themes, but the model offers a useful starting point to help you develop teaching approaches that include students with SEN and/or disabilities.

ICT

"The increasing use of technology in all aspects of society makes confident, creative and productive use of ICT an essential skill for life. ICT capability encompasses not only the mastery of technical skills and techniques, but also the understanding to apply these skills purposefully, safely and responsibly in learning, everyday life and employment. ICT capability is fundamental to participation and engagement in modern society.

"ICT can be used to find, develop, analyse and present information, as well as to model situations and solve problems. ICT enables rapid access to ideas and experiences from a wide range of people, communities and cultures, and allows pupils to collaborate and exchange information on a wide scale. ICT acts as a powerful force for change in society and citizens should have an understanding of the social, ethical, legal and economic implications of its use, including how to use ICT safely and responsibly. Increased capability in the use of ICT supports initiative and independent learning, as pupils are able to make informed judgements about when and where to use ICT to enhance their learning and the quality of their work."

National Curriculum, QCA, 2009

The ICT curriculum advocates developing ICT capability, which is much more than acquiring basic skills and techniques. ICT capability focuses on students' ability to identify, understand and apply appropriate knowledge, skills and understanding in the use of technologies. Students are expected to use a range of technologies appropriately and develop understanding that can be transferred to other areas of learning or life, eg developing successful digital presentations or making appropriate use of the internet.

In key stage 3, students mainly engage in short tasks (with the exception of year 9, where a range of approaches and qualifications are being offered by schools).

In key stage 4, there is more focus on project work that encompasses longer tasks – a shift to understanding and following the life cycle of a system. Students are required to describe, review, modify and critically evaluate all stages of their project's development. At this stage students will also need to use ICT to support their studies across the curriculum. With support, many students with SEN and/or disabilities can be successful throughout both key stages.

The 14–19 reforms are challenging the traditional breaks at the age of 16 between school, college and training. At 14, many students are on regular or block out-of-school placements and have a range of progression routes available. These developments offer opportunities to integrate academic and vocational study and can present challenges to students with SEN and/or disabilities in terms of mobility and accessibility of resources.

A range of technologies is available to support students with SEN and/or disabilities:¹

- **The use of technology to train or rehearse:** early technology to support students with SEN was often based on a drill and practice approach and there is still plenty of this software around, often intended to help students gain literacy and numeracy skills. Although technology like this has its place, it should only be used when needed. Too often this technology has taken centre stage. Before considering using these systems, refer to the Becta guidance on individual learning systems (ILS) (McFarlane, 1999).
- **The use of technology to assist learning:** this technology removes barriers to communication and interaction and includes switches, text readers and speech and communicator devices, such as the well-known technology used by Stephen Hawking. Using keyboard shortcuts instead of a mouse, or using a foot-controlled mouse a head-controlled mouse or a wireless mouse, enables all students to be involved in creating databases or graphic plans. Screen filters may help with glare.

¹ Based on the taxonomy suggested by Chris Abbott, 2007.

- **The use of technology to enable learning:** this technology plays an active role in the learning process, perhaps by asking questions, intervening in an activity or presenting interactive scenarios or simulations. It transforms learning rather than simply modifying the learning context. An interesting example is Kar2ouche: Social Communication,² which allows students with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) to 'walk their way' through scenarios involving social communication in everyday situations. The package contains tools that adults can use to create appropriate scenarios.

Because the range of hardware and software is wide and continually expanding, teachers should always seek to collaborate with other colleagues on removing barriers to learning and participation for particular students or groups of students. Students will also be able to advise on the technologies that suit them best. They may not need anything 'special'. Much of the better known, generic software, such as Microsoft Office, contains accessibility facilities for disabled students.

Roles and responsibilities

Recent legislation and guidance make clear that **all** the teaching staff in a school are responsible for the provision for students with SEN and/or disabilities. All staff should be involved in developing school policies and fully aware of the school's procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for students with SEN and/or disabilities. Staff should help students with SEN to overcome any barriers to participating and learning, and make any reasonable adjustments needed to include disabled students in all aspects of school life.

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) has substantial implications for everyone involved in planning and teaching the curriculum. Schools have specific duties under the DDA to:

- make reasonable adjustments to their policies and practice to prevent discrimination against disabled students
- increase access for disabled students, including access to the curriculum, through accessibility planning, and
- promote disability equality and have a disability equality scheme showing how they will do so.

These duties are important and significant. They require schools to:

- take a proactive, systematic and comprehensive approach to promoting disability equality and eliminating discrimination, and
- build disability equality considerations in from the start at every level of activity, including developing and delivering the curriculum and classroom practice.

Schools must address their various DDA duties together in a way that brings greater benefits to disabled students, staff, parents and other users of the school. Using the self-audit table in this booklet to develop an inclusive approach to your teaching will help you carry out these duties in your subject.

2 Where this booklet refers to a specific product, no recommendation or endorsement of that product is intended, nor should be inferred.

Modifying the curriculum and the National Strategies to match students' needs

Teachers have a statutory duty to modify the programmes of study (or National Strategy materials).

"Schools have a responsibility to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils."

National Curriculum, QCA, 2008

This is more than just giving students 'access to the curriculum'. The curriculum is not immovable, like some building, to which students with SEN and/or disabilities have to gain access. It is there to be changed, where necessary, to include all students.

The statutory 'inclusion statement' in the National Curriculum sets out a framework for modifying the curriculum to include all students. Teachers have to:

- set suitable learning challenges
- respond to students' diverse learning needs, and
- overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment for particular individuals and groups of students.

These principles allow you to:

- choose objectives for students with SEN and/or disabilities that are different from those of the rest of the group, or
- modify the curriculum to remove barriers so all students meet the same objectives.

Planning for students with SEN and/or disabilities should be part of the planning that you do for all students, rather than a separate activity. It doesn't need to be complicated or time-consuming. You can simply jot down brief notes in your lesson plans on the learning objectives and approaches you will use to remove barriers for students with SEN and/or disabilities. Any personal targets the student has can inform this planning. At times it may be appropriate to plan smaller steps to achieve the learning goal or provide additional resources. It is often possible to use the support available to do this, either from the SENCO or teaching assistant/mentor.

You should also think about the questions you will ask different groups and individuals and the ways you will check that students understand. Some students with SEN and/or disabilities will show they understand in different ways from their peers, so you should look at a range of opportunities for students to demonstrate what they know and can do.

2 Removing barriers to the secondary ICT curriculum for students with SEN and/or disabilities

Teaching and learning

To make ICT lessons inclusive, teachers need to anticipate what barriers to taking part and learning particular activities, lessons or a series of lessons may pose for students with particular SEN and/or disabilities. So in your planning you need to consider ways of minimising or reducing those barriers so that all students can fully take part and learn.

In some activities, students with SEN and/or disabilities will be able to take part in the same way as their peers. In others, some modifications or adjustments will need to be made to include everyone.

For some activities, you may need to provide a 'parallel' activity for students with SEN and/or disabilities, so that they can work towards the same lesson objectives as their peers, but in a different way – eg using specialist software or equipment to enable communication through signs or symbols rather than text.

Occasionally, students with SEN and/or disabilities will have to work on different activities, or towards different objectives, from their peers.

There are some examples in the checklist in section 3.

Assessment

When assessing students, you need to plan carefully to give students with SEN and/or disabilities every opportunity to demonstrate what they know and are able to do, using alternative means where necessary.

In assessment:

- **“Where a pupil is unable to use particular types of equipment, assessment of attainment should be based, where possible, on the use of alternative equipment; otherwise assessment should be based on a pupil’s understanding of the processes used in ICT as demonstrated through oral and written responses.**
- **The attainment of pupils who normally require adapted equipment, such as particular switches or voice-activated software, should be assessed using these specialist items.”**
National Curriculum, QCA, 2009

3 Self-audit for inclusive ICT lessons: planning teaching, learning and support

You can use the following checklist to audit your practice and plan for more inclusive lessons.

The left-hand column of the table suggests approaches that are appropriate for students with SEN and/or disabilities in all subjects. The right-hand column suggests extensions and emphases that may be helpful in removing barriers for students with SEN and/or disabilities in ICT.

In most cases, the actions recommended are good practice for all students, regardless of their particular SEN and/or disability.

In other cases, the actions taken will depend on the barriers to taking part and learning identified in relation to the lesson being taught and students' particular SEN and/or disabilities. For example, the challenges of including students with a visual impairment in ICT may be quite different from those for including students with other SEN and/or disabilities.

Some young people with identified needs – such as behaviour difficulties – may benefit from changes in activities or working with selected others or rest breaks. In these cases, it is helpful to discuss and plan with a support assistant who knows the young person well. The SENCO, subject associations and/or organisations supporting people with particular SEN/disabilities may be able to offer more specialist advice.

These examples are not comprehensive or exhaustive. They are intended to stimulate thinking rather than offer detailed advice on how to teach the subject to students with different types of special educational needs and/or disabilities. You will wish to add your own general or subject-specific ideas to the self-audit table.

Maintaining an inclusive learning environment

Maintaining an inclusive learning environment	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Sound and light issues For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • background noise and reverberation are reduced • sound field system is used, if appropriate • glare is reduced • there is enough light for written work • teacher's face can be seen – avoid standing in front of light sources, eg windows • students use hearing and low vision aids, where necessary, and • video presentations have subtitles for deaf or hearing-impaired students and those with communication difficulties, where required. 	<p>Sound and light issues There is effective and quiet ventilation in the computer room. Computer monitors are positioned to reduce glare. Interactive whiteboards are non-reflective to reduce glare.</p>		
<p>Seating Students' seating and the main board position are planned for the shape of the room. Students can see and hear clearly, as necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the teacher • each other, and • the board/TV/screens. <p>Seating allows for peer or adult support. There is room for students with mobility difficulties to obtain their own resources, equipment and materials. Furniture is suitable. Consider the choice of chairs and desks, eg adjustable height tables, raised boards.</p>	<p>Seating Check classrooms are not cluttered with ICT equipment. Make sure students with motor impairments have appropriate assistive technology and software to support them and enough space to use it. There should be adequate space at computer desks for students to work off-screen, collaboratively and on paper. Seating should allow all students in the class to communicate, respond and interact with each other and the teacher in discussions. Avoid the need for copying lots of information. For example, notes on interactive whiteboards can be printed off for all students.</p>		

Maintaining an inclusive learning environment	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Resources Storage systems are predictable. Resources are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible, eg within reach, and • labelled clearly to encourage independent use, eg using images, colour coding, large print, symbols, Braille, as appropriate. 	<p>Resources Consider using a wireless keyboard and mouse to facilitate teacher-student interaction with minimal disruption.</p> <p>Is there one dedicated computer for assistive technology/specialist software, or can students with SEN and/or disabilities move between the resources?</p> <p>Provide assistive resources, such as templates or diagrams, to support students' input.</p>		
<p>Displays Displays are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible, within reach, visual, tactile • informative, and • engaging. <p>Be aware of potentially distracting elements of wall displays.</p>	<p>Displays</p>		
<p>Low-arousal areas A low-arousal area is planned for students who may need it and is available for use by all students. The area only needs to have immediately relevant materials/resources to minimise distraction.</p>	<p>Low-arousal areas Students on the autistic spectrum may become deeply involved in working in isolation on a computer. They will benefit from clear preparation and support when returning to a group.</p>		

Maintaining an inclusive learning environment	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Health and safety Health and safety issues have been considered, eg trailing leads secured, steps and table edges marked.</p> <p>There is room for students with mobility difficulties to leave the site of an accident.</p> <p>Remember that students with an autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) may have low awareness of danger.</p>	<p>Health and safety Check the room in terms of health and safety, eg in relation to wires and cables. Make sure anti-repetitive strain injury (RSI) measures and practices are in place.</p> <p>Make sure all students have appropriate breaks in tasks such as data entry.</p> <p>Students are protected from, and taught how to deal with, abusive behaviour such as cyber-bullying – helping to maintain their psychological well-being.</p> <p>ICT offers a wide range of possibilities for responses, many of them visual. Ensure that the audio channel is also offered. A sound recording linked to a simple presentation can be highly effective.</p>		
<p>Unfamiliar learning environments Students are prepared adequately for visits.</p>	<p>Unfamiliar learning environments</p>		

Multi-sensory approaches, including ICT

Multi-sensory approaches, including ICT	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Multi-sensory approaches Students' preferred learning styles are identified and built on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when teaching – eg visual, tactile, auditory and kinaesthetic approaches are used, such as supporting teacher talk with visual aids; using subtitled or audio-described film/video • for recording – alternatives to written recording are offered, eg drawing, scribing, word processing, mind maps, digital images, video, voice recording, and • to promote security and aid organisation – eg visual timetables are used to show plans for the day or lesson; visual prompts for routines, such as how to ask for help; shared signals are developed so that students can convey their understanding, uncertainty or need for help. 	<p>Multi-sensory approaches Choose resources and tasks that support alternative ways of communicating, eg presentations that use relevant digital video- or audio-editing software.</p>		

Multi-sensory approaches, including ICT	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>ICT</p> <p>ICT is used to support teaching and learning.</p> <p>Accessibility features are used to include students with SEN and/or disabilities, as appropriate, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keyboard shortcuts instead of a mouse • sticky keys • a foot-controlled mouse, a head-controlled mouse or a wireless mouse • screen filters to cut down glare • increased font sizes for screen extension – in any case, fonts used in printed material should not be smaller than 12 pt (24 pt for screen presentations) • clear font type (normally sans serif, such as Arial or Comic Sans) • appropriate contrast between background and text, and/or • a talking word processor to read out text. <p>Students with poor motor control may gain confidence and achieve success through writing/drawing on the computer.</p> <p>Predictive text can encourage students to use a more extensive vocabulary and attempt 'difficult' spellings. It can be enhanced by using subject-specific dictionaries.</p>	<p>ICT</p> <p>Consider access to, and coordination of, ICT resources to enable students to complete tasks successfully. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using symbol-processing software or a picture communicator for students with speech and language communication needs • using head switches, touch screens, or an alternative mouse or keyboard for students with reduced motor skills, or • adjusting the screen resolution, or using a bigger screen, for students with a visual impairment. 		

Working with additional adults

Working with additional adults	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Consulting students Wherever possible, students are consulted about the kind and level of support they require.</p>	<p>Consulting students</p>		
<p>Planning support Support from additional adults is planned to scaffold students' learning, allowing them, increasingly, to work independently. Planning should identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which individuals/groups will receive support • where in the lesson students will need support • the type of support students should receive, and • when students should be allowed to work independently. <p>Additional adults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are clear about the lesson objectives • know the sequence of the lesson • understand the lesson content • know how to break tasks into more manageable chunks • are provided with key questions to encourage formative assessment, and • where appropriate, are familiar with any ICT used to support students. 	<p>Planning support Make sure additional adults are trained so they are comfortable with any software and hardware being used, and understand how it can support independent learning.</p>		
<p>Evaluation Additional adults report to the teacher on students' progress. The effectiveness of support is monitored and reviewed.</p>	<p>Evaluation</p>		

Managing peer relationships

Managing peer relationships	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Grouping students All forms of student grouping include students with SEN and/or disabilities.</p> <p>Manageable mixed-ability grouping or pairing is the norm, except when carefully planned for a particular purpose.</p> <p>Sequence of groupings is outlined for students.</p> <p>The transition from whole-class to group or independent work, and back, is clearly signalled. This is particularly helpful for students on the autistic spectrum.</p>	<p>Grouping students</p>		
<p>Managing group work and discussion Students move carefully from paired discussion to group discussion – the language necessary for whole-class discussion work may be a barrier for students who find it difficult to express themselves in public. Paired and small group discussions provide opportunities for all to take part.</p> <p>Students are assigned specific roles (eg chair, writer, reporter, observer) which gives all students something to do and keeps them focused.</p>	<p>Managing group work and discussion</p>		
<p>Developing responsibility Students with SEN/disabilities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • given opportunities to initiate and direct projects, with support as appropriate, and • involved as equal contributors in class/school governance and decision making. 	<p>Developing responsibility Use collaborative tools like blogs, wikis and podcasts to enable students to make a positive contribution.</p>		

Adult-student communication

Adult-student communication	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Teachers' communication Language is clear, unambiguous and accessible.</p> <p>Key words, meanings and symbols are highlighted, explained and written up, or available in some other way.</p> <p>Instructions are given clearly and reinforced visually, where necessary.</p> <p>Wording of questions is planned carefully, avoiding complex vocabulary and sentence structures.</p> <p>Questions are prepared in different styles/levels for different students – careful preparation ensures all students have opportunities to answer open-ended questions.</p> <p>Alternative communication modes are used, where necessary, to meet students' communication needs, eg signing, Braille.</p> <p>Text, visual aids, etc are checked for clarity and accessibility. For example, some students might require adapted printed materials (font, print size, background, Braille, symbols); some may require simplified or raised diagrams or described pictures.</p>	<p>Teachers' communication ICT skills are demonstrated clearly and progressively.</p>		
<p>Students' communication Alternative communication modes, such as sign or symbol systems, are encouraged, and students' contributions are valued.</p> <p>Advice is sought from the SENCO, a speech and language therapist, local authority advisory staff, and/or the student themselves on the best way of using such communication modes in lessons.</p> <p>Discussion of experiences and investigations is encouraged to help students understand them.</p>	<p>Students' communication Exploit the possibilities of encouraging talk in front of a computer screen between students who are nervous about face-to-face discussion and eye contact.</p> <p>Presentations to the group that involve ICT resources can raise prestige and improve social communication by having a role outside the classroom, eg for presentations to parents or the induction of younger students into a new year group.</p>		

Adult-student communication	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Student-teacher interaction Where appropriate, students are allowed time to discuss the answers to questions in pairs, before the teacher requests verbal responses.</p> <p>Students with communication impairments are given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time to think about questions before being required to respond • time to explain, and • respect for their responses to questions and contributions to discussions. <p>Additional adults prepare students to contribute to feedback sessions, where necessary.</p>	<p>Student-teacher interaction</p>		

Formative assessment/assessment for learning

Formative assessment/ assessment for learning	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Understanding the aims of the lesson Lesson objectives are made clear in pictures/symbols/writing, as appropriate.</p> <p>Objectives are challenging yet achievable. This will promote self-esteem and enable all students to achieve success.</p>	<p>Understanding the aims of the lesson Build up a chart (using a wallchart or other space) to show each lesson's focus and how successive lessons or topics link together to develop an area of work in ICT. This could include symbols, images or objects to make it more accessible.</p>		
<p>Focus on how students learn Students' own ways of learning and remembering things are emphasised.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to talk about how they achieved something. Dialogue is the key to successful assessment for learning. Teachers communicate in ways students are comfortable with.</p>	<p>Focus on how students learn</p>		
<p>Students know where they are in relation to learning aims End-of-lesson discussions focus on one or more of the ideas explored and the progress that students have made towards them during the lesson.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to look back to previous work/photos/records to see how much progress they have made.</p> <p>Half-termly or termly self-assessment sheets are used for students to assess their progress – a range of recording methods is accepted.</p>	<p>Students know where they are in relation to learning aims Revisiting a mind map of the same area of learning, say after three weeks of studying an ICT topic, can be a good way of assessing – through the added 'branches' of the map – how students' understanding of concepts is developing. This approach can be particularly valuable for students for whom oral and written communication present a barrier, as pictures and symbols can be included.</p>		

Formative assessment/ assessment for learning	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Giving feedback Marking and other feedback helps students improve their performance. Feedback is given in an appropriate form – verbally, in writing.</p> <p>Specific, rather than general, feedback is given. Comments are positive, explicit and evaluative.</p> <p>Emphasis is on the students' progress and achievement. Weaknesses are presented as areas for development. Opportunities are offered for students to attempt a piece of work again. These approaches are particularly useful for students who find it difficult to receive comments about improving their work.</p> <p>Praise is given discreetly where students find public praise embarrassing or difficult.</p>	<p>Giving feedback</p>		
<p>Understanding assessment criteria The number of goals/assessment criteria is kept small.</p> <p>Teachers talk to students about what they are trying to achieve.</p> <p>Students are involved in setting their own goals. Some students may find it difficult to understand the need for targets. Others may need time and support in target setting.</p> <p>Self-assessment and peer assessment are encouraged. Students are taught to use the language of assessment, eg "better...".</p> <p>Peer marking is encouraged, where buddies can evaluate each other's work in relation to success criteria.</p>	<p>Understanding assessment criteria Students know what level they are working at – through displays, use of assessment systems, display of objectives and levels.</p>		

Formative assessment/ assessment for learning	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Reviewing progress and helping students to improve</p> <p>Teachers' responses to students' errors recognise, value and build on the thinking that led to them.</p> <p>End-of-lesson discussion considers the ways of working the class has found fruitful or difficult. Students are asked, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • which key words, concepts, skills or processes were difficult and why, and how this could be improved • which parts of a task slowed them down, and • what could be done to make things go more efficiently. <p>Some students may have anxieties about planning to improve, especially if it involves editing or redoing a task. Students are encouraged to see how they've improved on their previous best.</p>	<p>Reviewing progress and helping students to improve</p>		
<p>Gathering assessment evidence</p> <p>A range of sources of assessment evidence is drawn upon.</p> <p>Assessment looks at what students know and can do, not at labels associated with SEN and/or disabilities.</p> <p>Notes made about individual students' difficulties/successes in the lesson take account of their oral contributions as well as their written work.</p>	<p>Gathering assessment evidence</p>		

Motivation

Motivation	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Understanding the structure of the lesson Students are clear about the duration and overall structure of the lesson. Visual timetables or other devices are used to indicate the structure and progress of lessons.</p>	<p>Understanding the structure of the lesson</p>		
<p>Relevant and motivating tasks Tasks motivate students. They:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stimulate interest and enthusiasm are challenging but manageable draw on real and familiar contexts are relevant to students' lives, and build on previous learning in the subject and in other areas of the curriculum. 	<p>Relevant and motivating tasks Programs such as Kar2ouche: Social Communication allow students with an autistic spectrum disorder (and others with communication and interaction difficulties) to 'walk their way' through scenarios involving social communication in everyday situations. The package contains tools with which adults can create appropriate scenarios.</p>		
<p>Reward systems Students understand reward systems and are motivated to achieve the rewards available.</p>	<p>Reward systems</p>		

Memory/consolidation

Memory/consolidation	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Recapping Recap learning from the previous lesson.</p> <p>Main points from the lesson are fed back by students, noted down and saved so students can refer to them.</p>	<p>Recapping</p>		
<p>Reducing reliance on memory The amount of material to be remembered is reduced. Repeat or display important information.</p> <p>The meaningfulness and familiarity of the material is increased.</p> <p>Mental processing and explanations of complex tasks are simplified.</p> <p>The use of memory aids is encouraged. These can include wallcharts and posters, useful spellings, personalised dictionaries, cubes, counters, abacus, Unifix blocks, number lines, multiplication grids, calculators, memory cards, audio recorders and computer software.</p> <p>Activities are structured so that students can use available resources, such as word banks.</p> <p>Strategies, including using ICT-based records, are used to reduce the need for students to rely on their short- or long-term memories.</p> <p>New learning fits into the framework of what the student already knows.</p> <p>Teaching assistants prepare students to contribute to feedback sessions, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Reducing reliance on memory Display students' work, assessment criteria for tasks, or projects and posters to encourage students' understanding or trigger their memory.</p> <p>Demonstrate software in short, achievable steps for students who, for example, may have a poor concentration span or poor motor skills.</p> <p>Reduce the possibility of frustration at not being able to use programs to achieve an objective by having 'how-to' posters on the wall.</p>		

Memory/consolidation	ICT	Observed	Tried out
<p>Consolidating learning Students' understanding is checked, eg by inviting students to reformulate key learning.</p> <p>Using visual or concrete ('real') materials, or activities involving movement, to reinforce or consolidate learning through a range of sensory channels.</p> <p>Reteach or revise material, where necessary, eg post-lesson tutoring.</p> <p>Opportunities are provided for students to repeat and reinforce previously learnt skills and processes on a regular basis, in similar and different contexts.</p> <p>Encourage students to develop their own strategies, eg an agreed approach to asking for help, rehearsal, note-taking, use of long-term memory, and place-keeping and organisational strategies.</p>	<p>Consolidating learning Leave enough time to consolidate students' learning away from the computer screen.</p>		
<p>Independent study/homework Independent study/homework is explained during the lesson, not at the end, to make sure it is understood and recorded. Teachers check all students are clear about homework tasks.</p> <p>Homework tasks are accessible after the lesson, eg published on a noticeboard or on the school learning platform, so students can return to them, if necessary, after the lesson.</p>	<p>Independent study/homework Students' independence can be supported by an appropriate form of e-portfolio, depending on their preferred mode of communication.</p>		

4 ICT and Every Child Matters

In 2003, the green paper 'Every Child Matters: Change for children' was published. The key outcomes for the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda were drawn up after consultation with children, young people and families. The five outcomes that mattered most to children and young people are set out below. Each of the outcomes can be addressed through the ICT curriculum.

Outcome	General educational aspects	Through the ICT curriculum
Be healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards independent learning • Actively enquire about differing environments • Keep mentally and emotionally healthy 	<p>Effective ventilation in the computer room.</p> <p>Mental well-being is promoted by learning activities which promote challenge, allow achievement and are fun.</p> <p>Use of a range of settings (including open spaces).</p>
Stay safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep safe in school and on school trips • Have stability and security • Know about their place in the wider community 	<p>Regular checks on equipment, wiring and risk analysis.</p> <p>Students do not queue by the printer.</p> <p>Laptops or other mobile technologies can be easily transported on trolleys or other moveable storage furniture.</p> <p>Password setting rules and internet safety policy in place.</p> <p>Online safety: students understand the risks of displaying personal information on the internet.</p> <p>Students know about codes of use and penalties of misusing information management systems, including electronic registers, especially when timetabled to see health or social services, or take their medication.</p> <p>Data protection in place, eg concerning using students' photographs on websites or other information about individual students' identities.</p> <p>Students learn about ICT health and safety as part of the curriculum.</p>

Outcome	General educational aspects	Through the ICT curriculum
Enjoy and achieve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve personal and social development • Enjoy lessons • Achieve to their potential • Use alternatives to written recording, where appropriate 	<p>Personalisation offers real choice.</p> <p>Online learning tools enable students who are in hospital (say) to achieve as well as those in school.</p> <p>Students with physical disabilities are included by using devices such as head-operated mice.</p> <p>Effective links with parents through virtual learning environments (VLEs).</p>
Make a positive contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand issues of difference and diversity through studying other environments and cultures • Understand about, and support, the local community • Involve themselves in extra-curricular activities 	<p>The school uses collaborative tools like blogging, wikis and podcasts to enable young people to make a positive contribution.</p> <p>Podcasting students are encouraged to develop business ideas, based on ICT, and encouraged to put them into practice through schemes such as Young Enterprise.</p> <p>Students learn to use presentation software well.</p> <p>Students are taught about the digital divide, both in their own country and the world as a whole.</p> <p>Students from schools in different countries collaborate through online forums.</p>
Achieve economic well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about ways to ensure their own economic well-being in the future • Experience visits from people who do various jobs • Visit different workplaces • Learn about different economies in different countries 	<p>Students are taught about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current and likely trends in computing and their applications, and • the social and economic effects of developments in computing. <p>Students are taught practical skills that are valued in the workplace.</p> <p>Opportunities for access are set at the school regardless of home circumstances, eg access through library or after-school club.</p> <p>Students learn about other cultures through the internet and software programs.</p>

5 Early development in the National Curriculum: the P scales for ICT

For students working below level 1 of the National Curriculum, performance descriptions (P scales) for ICT can be used to describe a 'best fit' for a student's performance.

All schools must report on students' attainment at the end of each key stage in terms of both P scales and national curriculum levels.

P scales 1–3 address very early levels of learning and are the same in all subjects, but illustrated with subject-specific examples.

As a trainee teacher, you may not meet students assessed at these very early levels very often. If you have to teach these students during your placements, you should expect a great deal of support in differentiating teaching and learning.

From **P4**, each subject has its own progression. For example:

At **P1** "Any participation is fully prompted".

But by **P8** students "can load a resource and make a choice from it, (for example, a particular game on a CD, a section of a DVD, tracks on a music CD...). They communicate about their use of ICT".

The full P scales for ICT are set out in QCA's Planning, Teaching and Assessing the Curriculum for Pupils with Learning Difficulties: Information and communication technology (please see section 7).

From **P8**, students move to the national curriculum levels.

While a typically developing child will have achieved **P8** by the age of four, some students will take considerably longer.

At all times you should be aware of the need to respect the developmental maturity of the students you are planning for. Choose materials and tasks appropriate to the age and maturity of the students. This is a particular issue when using software and other published resources.

6 Bilingual learners

"Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught."
SEN Code of Practice (DfES, 2001)

Students must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty because they are learning English as an additional language (EAL).

Bilingual learners take up to two years to develop basic communication skills (street and playground survival language).

Some students may take a long time before they feel confident enough to actively take part in classroom activities and use the English they have learnt. A 'silent' period is typical of this learning and should not be seen as a learning difficulty.

Many learners with EAL do not acquire language in the same way as first language learners. A student may be fluent orally but struggle considerably with reading or writing; or a student may be very literate in written English, but lack confidence in the rapid flow of speech required in conversational dialogue. It is therefore important to assess language competence in all language modes and not to assume a level of competence based on performance in one mode.

'A Language in Common' (QCA, 2000) is a common assessment scale that can be used to gauge where students are in their acquisition of English. It gives assessment steps for students with EAL working below national curriculum level 1 and is useful in helping teachers reach a common understanding of the nature of each step or level of language acquisition. It also shows how the information can be used for target setting and what support may be needed to ensure progress.

Another useful resource is 'Assessing the Needs of Bilingual Pupils: Living in two languages' by Deryn Hall.

When a class or subject teacher feels that a lack of progress in a bilingual student's learning may be due to a learning difficulty (SEN or disability) they should consult the SENCO or inclusion manager and work with them to develop an appropriate response.

7 Sources of information and advice

Publications

- Abbott, C, Detheridge, T and Detheridge, C, 2007, Symbols, Literacy and Social Justice, Widgit Software
- Abbott, C, 2007, E-inclusion: Learning Difficulties and Digital Technologies, Futurelab
- Davis, P and Florian, L, 2004, Teaching Strategies and Approaches for Pupils with Special Educational Needs: A Scoping Study, DfES Research Report RR516
- Florian, L and Hegarty, J (eds), 2004, ICT and Special Educational Needs: A tool for inclusion, Maidenhead, Open University Press
- Hall, D, 2001, Assessing the Needs of Bilingual Pupils: Living in two languages, David Fulton Publishers
- McFarlane, A, 1999, ILS: A Guide to Good Practice, Becta
- North, M and McKeown, S, Meeting SEN in the Curriculum: ICT, David Fulton Publishers
- QCA, 2000, A Language in Common: Assessing English as an additional language
- QCA, 2009, Planning, Teaching and Assessing the Curriculum for Pupils with Learning Difficulties: Information and communication technology – available online at: www.qcda.gov.uk/libraryAssets/media/P_scales_ICT.pdf

Websites

- Bobby is a web-based, free public service that analyses web pages for their accessibility to people with disabilities: www.cast.org/bobby
- Inclusion section of the Becta schools website:
http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=tl&catcode=ss_tl_inc_02
- Inclusive Technology offers advice and displays a range of resources that can be used in supporting people with special needs: www.inclusive.co.uk
- www.immersiveeducation.com (for KarZouche) – a selection of resources to aid teaching
- www.widgit.com – a selection of resources to aid teaching

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