

Full Governing Body Paper – ICT Update Report	
From: Mr. P. Gillman (Elementary) & Mr	Date: Thursday 11 th July
Samuels (IT lead)	
Date of meeting : Monday 22 nd July	Agenda Item No.
Aim of paper: For the Governing body to review the ICT Update	
Action required: For the Governing body to review and note the report.	
Strategic Objective: (Business Admin) Reliable provision of quality IT equipment & support	
highly skilled teaching': classroom approaches that ensure pupils are routinely engaged in	
'effortful thinking' (utilising subject-specific reasoning and vocabulary) –	
'Technology enhanced': selective & considered deployment of ICT apps/systems for deeper	
engagement	

Introduction:

This report provides an update on the Computing curriculum at Beam County Primary School, focusing on the current Kapow program, a Management Information System (MIS) review, and Cyber Security measures.

Background:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays a crucial role in our school's daily operations and educational delivery. This report aims to keep the Governing Board informed about recent developments and planned initiatives for our Computing program.

The Kapow Curriculum:

- Beam County Primary utilises the Kapow curriculum for all year groups (EYFS to Year 6). Kapow offers a structured and engaging approach to learning digital literacy, coding, and computational thinking skills.
- The curriculum aligns with the National Curriculum for Computing, ensuring students develop essential skills in areas like:
 - Online safety and digital citizenship (See Achievements below)
 - Algorithms and problem-solving
 - Programming and coding languages
 - Data handling and analysis
 - Creating digital content

Benefits of Kapow:

- Engaging and Age-Appropriate: Kapow utilises interactive activities and age-appropriate tasks to keep students motivated and learning.
- **Progression and Skills Development:** The curriculum builds upon prior knowledge, ensuring a clear progression of skills throughout the year groups.

• **Teacher Training and Support:** Kapow provides comprehensive training and resources for teachers, allowing them to effectively deliver the curriculum.

Achievements:

We are pleased to report that all students from Year 1 to Year 6 successfully completed online safety units within the Kapow curriculum. This demonstrates a strong foundation in safe online practices for our entire student body. Feedback from pupils (Pupil Voice) indicates a high level of confidence when navigating the online world.

Parental Engagement:

Beam County Primary prioritises parental involvement in keeping children safe online. We recently hosted a successful online safety workshop featuring a guest speaker from BDSIP. The workshop provided parents with valuable guidance on supporting their children's online activities and creating a secure digital environment at home.

Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback, we are excited to announce that the online safety workshop will become an annual event at Beam County Primary.

Teacher Consensus:

The following summarises the feedback received from the teachers regarding the implementation of computing instruction.

There is a strong consensus among teachers that they would feel more confident and effective in delivering computing lessons if they had access to reliable and efficient computers.

Rationale:

Outdated or unreliable computers can present challenges for both teachers and students. These challenges can include:

- Difficulty in demonstrating computing concepts smoothly.
- Increased classroom disruptions due to technical issues.
- Frustration for students struggling with unresponsive technology.

Teachers believe that reliable and efficient computers would:

- Allow for a smoother learning experience.
- Enable them to utilise a wider range of teaching resources and activities.
- Foster a more positive learning environment for students engaged with computing.

Management Information System (MIS) Review:

This report highlights the need for a review of our current MIS. An effective MIS streamlines administrative tasks, provides valuable data for school improvement, and facilitates communication with parents.

Review Considerations and Planned Actions:

- Integris
 - Cloud based so is automatically kept up to date
 - Sold by RM to The Key Group in early 2023 The Key Group have their own MIS offering called Arbor. Ongoing support for Integris has been confirmed but maintaining and developing two MIS products may not continue indefinitely
- Moving MIS products:
 - Elementary ICT would recommend seeking the direct experience of other schools in the Borough who have migrated away from Integris in order to gauge the benefits of a competitors MIS product and the quality of the migration of data
 - If the school wished to move MIS the decision should be carefully considered due to but not limited to the following:
 - The considerable level of staff training required to use a new system is often heavily underestimated
 - Only the CTF system is standard across all MIS products all other data capture is implemented in each products own way, it's not uncommon for much of the historical data to be omitted from any migration process between systems.
 - Assessment frameworks long established within the school may need to be recreated in the new system from scratch, historical data may need to be manually transferred
 - Integration with Kapow would need to be confirmed as compatible and a migration process planned

Cyber Security:

Cyber Security remains a top priority for Beam County Primary. We have implemented the following measures to ensure a safe online environment for students and staff:

- Filtering and monitoring new DFE standards:
 - LGFL are looking to offer SENSO Safeguard Cloud to its schools this would allow tracking and reporting on internet activity in line with the new DFE standards: <u>Safeguard</u> <u>Cloud Online Monitoring and Safeguarding - Senso Cloud</u>
 - The system would send alerts to nominated staff where searches for or attempts to access inappropriate content etc are detected
 - No further detail has yet been confirmed in regards to the offering Elementary ICT is advising schools to wait for further information from LGFL before purchasing their own solution
 - LGFL's School Protect portal for the schools internet filtering does provide facility for the creation of regular reports providing information on attempts to access restricted sites – the reports aren't detailed enough to identify user accounts but can be used as an interim tool to present evidence that activity is being monitored
 - Elementary ICT have confirmed that any requests to block or allow websites are referred to the Schools safeguarding team for consent before any changes are made this allows the team responsible in the school for monitoring and reporting on internet filtering to maintain control of the systems they are required to report on

- User based Web Filtering:
 - Currently staff and pupils have the same rules applied for which websites they can and cannot visit
 - It is possible to enable User Based filtering where staff and pupils would have a different set of rules however the implementation of this could introduce disruptive complexities to the way teachers used the internet within school:
 - LGFL would be linked to the school's MIS and/or network so it could recognise which are pupil and which are student user accounts
 - Access to websites restricted for pupils would require teachers to enter an LGFL username and password to gain access this username and password would be different to their school or email logins and would require the password to be regularly changed. Forgotten usernames and passwords could become a significant barrier to teaching
- Social Media Access for specific computers:
 - To allow school staff to access social media for functions such as updating school sites, Elementary ICT have reserved a small number of IP addresses that can have specific websites allowed to devices connected to the network using those IP addresses
 - Access to the sites is governed by the computer and not the user logging in so it's important that the location of computers using these special IP addresses are carefully chosen
- Devices used at home:
 - Pupils using school devices at home are not subjected to the same filtering restrictions as in school as they are using their unfiltered home broadband service
 - Software services are available that force a school owned device to use the same filtering system as the school wherever they connect however this can be quite costly considering it's limited use
 - Elementary ICT are in the early stages of investigating ways to utilise software currently in use by school devices to provide a level of protection when used on non-school broadband connections

ICT Development:

- ICT Refresh and lifecycle program:
 - Development of a long term ICT lifecycle program is currently in progress– this will identify the quantity and cost of ICT devices across the school and project annual expenditure to proactively upgrade these devices over a period of time defined by the school
 - Elementary ICT have provided a simple formularised excel file to quickly asses approx. annual replacement costs and plan each years purchases in advance – the excel file is intended to be used indefinitely and modified by the school to suit their own process
 - The advantages of a planned proactive approach to replacement are:
 - > The school is aware in advance of the regular expected annual expenditure of replacing a proportion of its ICT equipment and can plan ahead for it
 - Replacing in this way avoids the issue of having to replace large amounts of equipment at great expense at the point where it is no longer usable and therefore having a severely detrimental affect on the schools ability to function as well as its finances
 - Allows the school to consider new approaches to technology and teaching and to roll out across the school in a planned manner according to the areas of most need or greatest benefit

- If cost of replacing equipment annually is too high it's a good indication that the school needs to scale back its current use of technology all equipment has a useful lifespan and will need replacement at some point, recognising this in advance allows a planned retirement of equipment giving the chance for teaching practices to be adapted and embedded proactively
- Known upgrades/replacements required:
 - o Server:
 - Current server is outside warranty
 - Due to prohibitive costs of new servers Elementary ICT recommend sourcing a refurbished server on behalf of the school – this can reduce the cost from approx. £8-10k to approx. £1k
 - Current server would still be used as a backup for the newer one all contents are automatically replicated so in the event of one server failing, the other one can be brought into service with minimal disruption and no loss of data. This system has been tried and tested in other schools and has proven effective
 - Old iPads:
 - ➢ 93 out of 141 iPads are running obsolete versions of the iOS operating system and cannot upgrade any further due to their age − these old iOS versions won't allow newly acquired apps to be installed or older apps to upgrade to the latest version
 - Replacing with new iPads may not be the best approach, changes to the way pupils use technology in their lessons may mean that tablets may not be the best replacement – part of the annual ICT refreshment program is to examine use of the equipment being replaced and identify if it's still the most appropriate device for the purpose it's being used for. Points worth considering are:
 - ✓ at the time of purchase iPads were the only real choice for a tablet device however Samsung Galaxy tabs are under half the cost and provide much the same user experience and most apps are available on both platforms
 - ✓ iPad apps were a valuable free teaching tool due to the lack of equivalent resources on the internet however the vast majority of teaching resources are now available directly on the web so in most cases access to a web browser is the only requirement for a device
- Laptops upgrade:
 - Many classrooms rely on laptops as the teachers primary computer however a large proportion of laptops within the school have now passed the point of obsolescence despite having been upgraded with additional RAM and Solid State hard drives
 - Part of the annual ICT refreshment program is to examine use of the equipment being replaced and identify if it's still the most appropriate device for the purpose it's being used for:
 - ✓ We would recommend seeking staff opinion on whether a desktop computer would be more appropriate for the classrooms where a laptop is due to be replaced
 - ✓ Replacement of laptops with desktops would allow current laptops that are still usable to be available to staff for home use, meetings etc without having to rely on the one used in their classroom this would also mean the classroom can be used by other staff as all equipment would remain in place

Next Steps:

- ICT Lifecycle Excel File:
 - Complete brief survey of school equipment
 - Choose lifecycle period and confirm annual expenditure is feasible

- Plan for next year or two with approximate costs within agreed budget
- Obsolete laptops and iPads:
 - Identify if replacing like for like is appropriate
 - Prioritise planned replacement schedule where budget is a constraint
- Refurbished Server:
 - o Confirm if and when Elementary ICT should begin sourcing

Moving Forward:

We are committed to providing Beam County Primary students with a well-rounded Computing program equipped with the skills needed to thrive in a digital world. We will keep the Governing Board updated on the progress of the MIS review and any further developments in our Cyber Security practices.