



Outline proposals for a new basic ICT curriculum

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Skills vs. education

- Current focus is on skills acquisition from a menu
- BUT learning to use IT changes peoples capacity to interact with the world and opens up possibilities that need discussion to realise

Control of technology

- PCs are not washing machines or TVs
- Keyboards, mice GUIs are new items to control
- Fear of the technology is a major issue
- Who can be relied on to help – there is not AA for PCs?
- What is a virus checker? A firewall? ...
- Protecting yourself from fraud

Assessing trustworthiness and authority

- How do you recognise bias in an unknown site – few of the clues of the printed world
- Issues of critical life decision information – e.g. medical information
 - Established journals
 - Advocacy groups
 - Commercial

 - MMR as an exemplar

Searching skills

- How to construct effective searches –
Boolean logic and varying syntaxes
- Critical nature of spelling
 - Google will deal with errors
 - But not with ‘bron titus’ or ‘Desni Chile’

E-mail

- Often the main incentive to learn
- Why do you have to learn to format a document in Word first?
- How do you chose a provider
 - Web-based or POP3?
- Links to how to chose an ISP
 - Need to have basic understanding of how the Internet works

How to buy a PC and peripherals

- What is an acceptable specification for what purposes
- New or second-hand?
- What do all these megabits and gigabobs do?

Accreditation

- Spiky profiles
- Keyboard skills and information assessment skills may be a widely differing levels
- Accredit individual learning and attainment records?