Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
Secretary of State
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

22 June 2010

Dear Mr Gove,

Joint statement: A vision for ICT in education

At a meeting on 4 June 2010 Naace, the ICT Association, brought together leaders from key organisations from across the education system to discuss the future of Information Communication Technology in Education.

Agreement was reached on a joint vision statement. We now circulate this to you and other interested parties. We seek assurances from you that the new government recognises the importance of ICT to learning, to learners, to management, and to the overall success of the whole education system.

The freedoms promised to schools, colleges and beyond by the coalition government provide new opportunities for teachers, lecturers and learners to make the best possible use of ICT to support, enrich and extend learning across and beyond the curriculum, thereby improving achievement, enabling personalisation and ensuring employability.

Responsibility for leadership in this field must be shared between schools, colleges, providers of adult learning, local authorities, industry, and government. If we work together, through membership organisations, subject associations and looser networks and communities of educationalists, technologists and policy makers, we can provide the mutual support and challenge that will be needed if the learners in our charge are to continue to benefit.

When used well and managed wisely, ICT is a powerful tool to ensure that:
- curriculum and pedagogy stay relevant to an increasingly digital world and economy;
- all learners are included, protected, and empowered;
- teachers and lecturers have efficient, effective and economic access to digital resources, together with the tools to create and deploy these resources themselves.

The education system is ripe for the development of new models that:
- maximise the return in learner achievement from investment in ICT;
- support effective pedagogy;
- provide an evidence-base to inform decision-making;

- enable efficient procurement of software, hardware, infrastructure, and services through improved market competition and collaborative purchasing;
- assure the quality and independence from commercial or ideological bias of support available for those in leadership roles.

The success of the country depends on the long term strength of the economy and for this, fluency in ICT matters as much as does competence in English and Mathematics. In short, a digitally literate and digitally creative workforce is of vital importance to every citizen, and achieving this demands an entitlement to the best possible use of ICT in education – by learners, by schools, colleges and institutions, and by educational leaders.

We look forward to confirmation that the newly elected government shares our vision for ICT in education, and we look forward to working with government on putting the vision into practice.

The organisations listed below endorse the above statement, as a constructive means of engendering discussion with the government at this important time.

Full name of organisation	Short Name	Representative Name
Association for Learning Technology	ALT	Seb Schmoller
Association of Colleges	AoC	Martin Doel OBE
Aspect	Aspect	John Chowcat
British Educational Suppliers Association	BESA	Ray Barker
British Educational Suppliers Association New Educational Technologies Group	BNETG	Martin Parry
Computing at School	CAS	Simon Humphreys
City Learning Centres' Liaison Committee	C.L.C.L.C.	Martin MacGillivray
The Design & Technology Association	The D&T Association	Andy Mitchell
e-learning Foundation	e-learning Foundation	Valerie Thompson
Economics, Business and Enterprise Association	EBEA	Duncan Cullimore
EduGeek Ltd	EduGeek.net	Russell Dyas
The FITS Foundation Ltd	FITS	Trevor Greenfield / Steve Butler
Futurelab	Futurelab	Dan Sutch
The Association for Information Technology in Teacher Education	ITTE	Dr Ken Powell

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MirandaNet Fellowship	MirandaNET	Dr John Cuthell / Christina Preston
Naace	Naace	Mark Chambers
National Association of Head Teachers	NAHT	Sion Humphreys
National Association for Special Educational Needs	Nasen	Lorraine Petersen OBE
National Association for the Teaching of English	NATE	Tom Rank
National Education Network	NEN	Chris Kastel
National Institute of Adult Continuing Education	NIACE	Alastair Clark
National Society for Education in Art and Design	NSEAD	John Steers
Open Source Schools	OSS	Miles Berry
Suppliers Association for Learning Technology and Interoperability in Schools	SALTIS	Crispin Weston
United Church Schools Trust/ United Learning Trust	UCST/ULT	Dr Albin Wallace
The Visualiser Forum	The Visualiser Forum	Dave Smith
157 Group	157 Group	Lynne Sedgmore