



Learning Hubs

Survey of School Teachers

Across Five Local Authorities

Dates: October 2006 – January 2007

Many thanks to **Microsoft** who sponsored the survey by providing an Xbox 360 as a prize and to **Super Soccer Sevens Limited** who assisted us technically.

Microsoft[®]





Background

A survey of 80 teachers was carried out across Edinburgh, Lothian's and Scottish Borders in order to understand more about the views and interactions that they have with technology. Below are the results.

Summary

There is widespread home computer use amongst teachers with 79% having broadband internet access and only 5% without home internet access. Most teachers use a computer to prepare their lessons five or more days a week although using computers to mark homework is rare.

The main concerns teachers had about the learning hubs project was damage and child safety in terms of both theft and access to inappropriate material or websites. Technical issues were another key concern and reduction in handwriting/spelling was another key issue.

84% of teachers felt that it was either essential or very important for a Learning Hub device to have a keyboard.

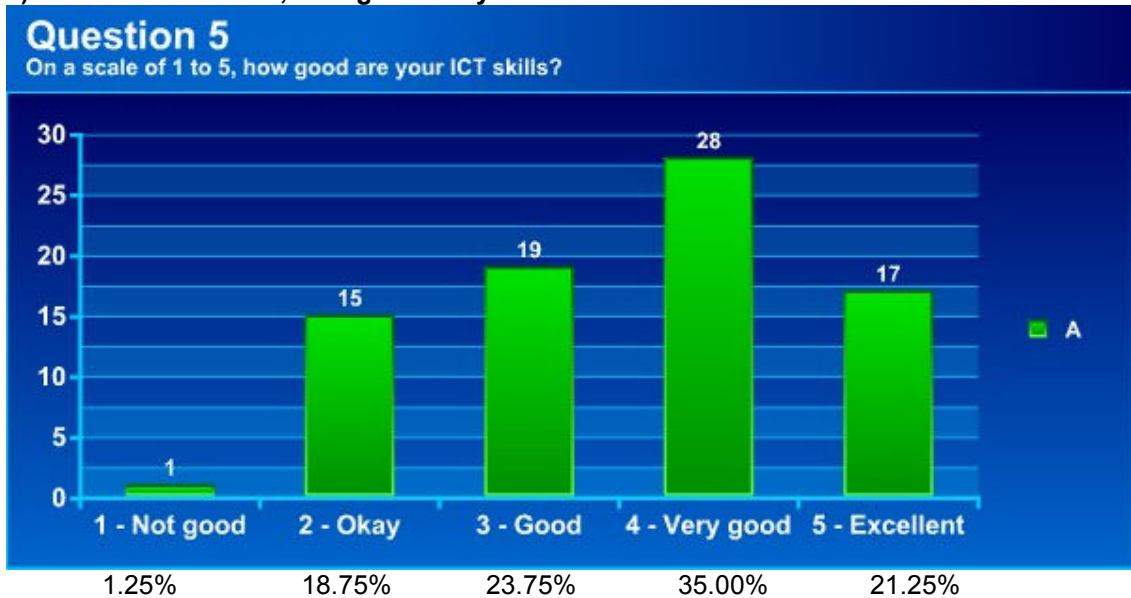
Most teachers disagreed that Learning Hubs would make their job more arduous. 83% either agreed or strongly agreed that Learning Hubs would improve educational attainment.



2) What year is your tutor group?

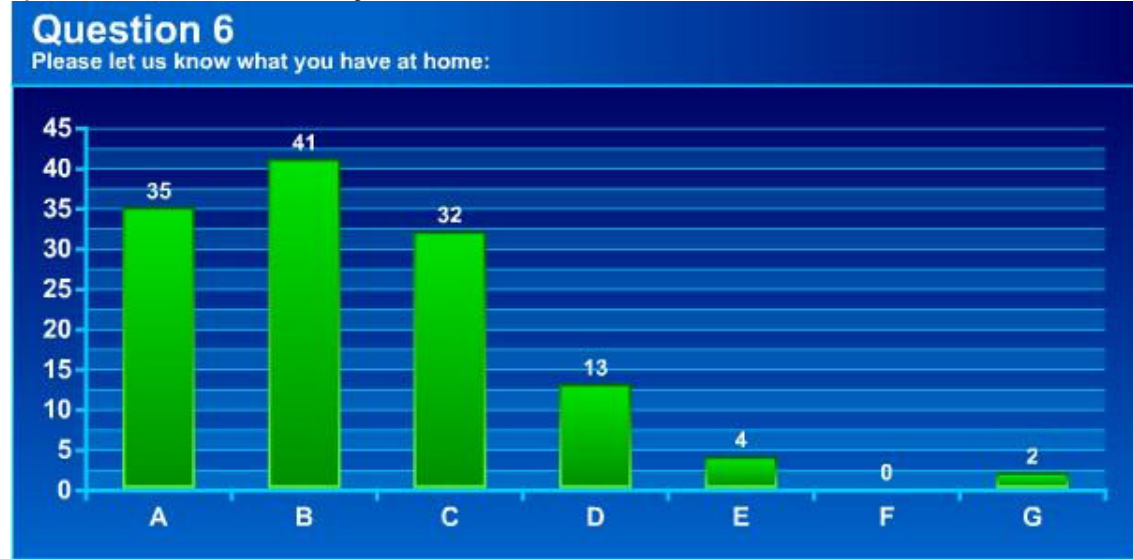
		Percentage	Responses
Please select		0.0	0
S1	■	5.0	4
S2	■	5.0	4
S3	■	5.0	4
S4	■	7.5	6
S5	■	3.8	3
S6	■	1.3	1
S7		0.0	0
P5	■	7.5	6
P6	■	12.5	10
P7	■	7.5	6
N/A	■	45.0	36
Total responses:			80

5) On a scale of 1 to 5, how good are your ICT skills?





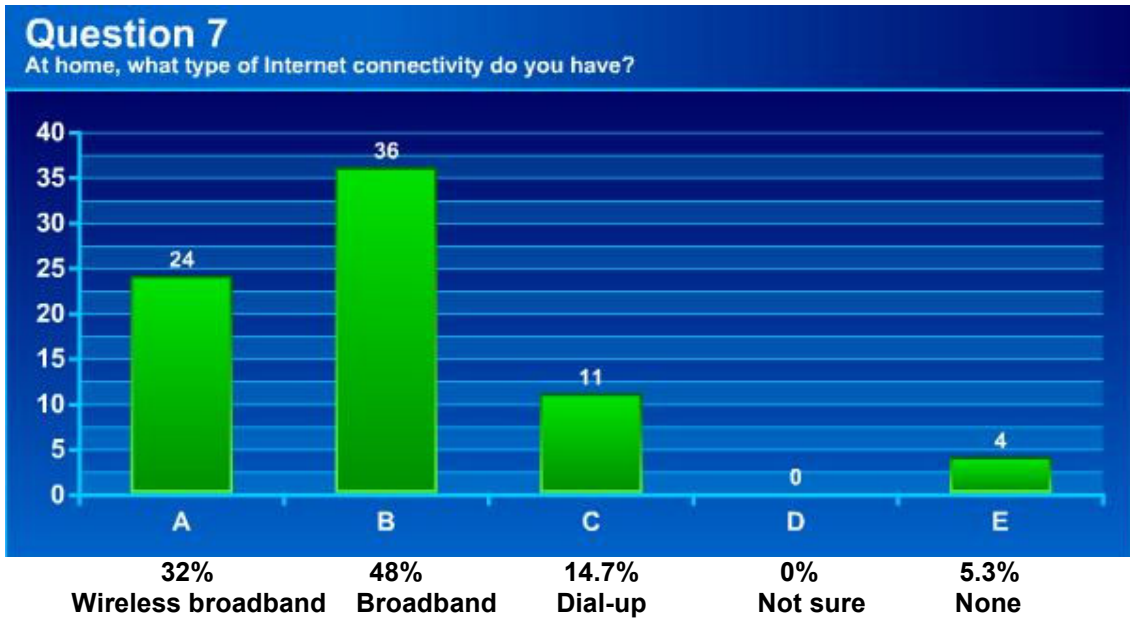
6) Please let us know what you have at home:



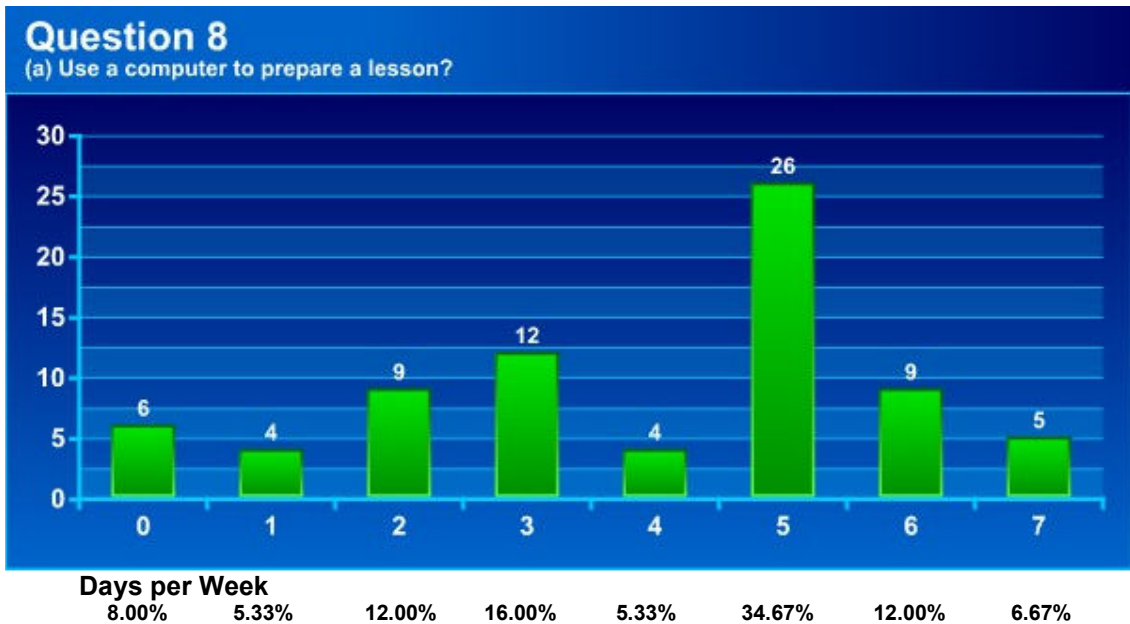
- A) A desktop
 - B) A laptop
 - C) Microsoft PC
 - D) Apple Mac
 - E) Both Microsoft/Apple
 - F) I dont want a computer
 - G) No computers
-

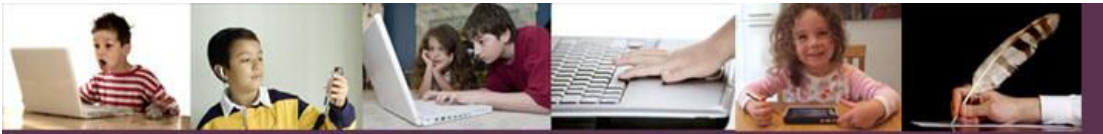


7) At home, what type of Internet connectivity do you have?



8) On average how many days each week do you...

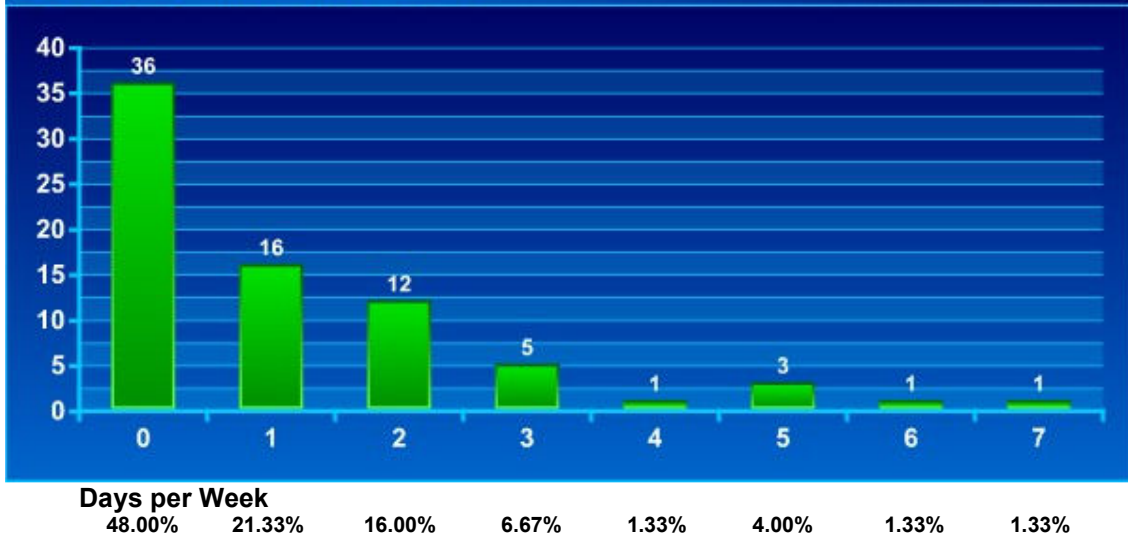




Learning Hubs - Scotland's future resides in the minds of pupils whose potential to thrive is limited only by their opportunity to learn

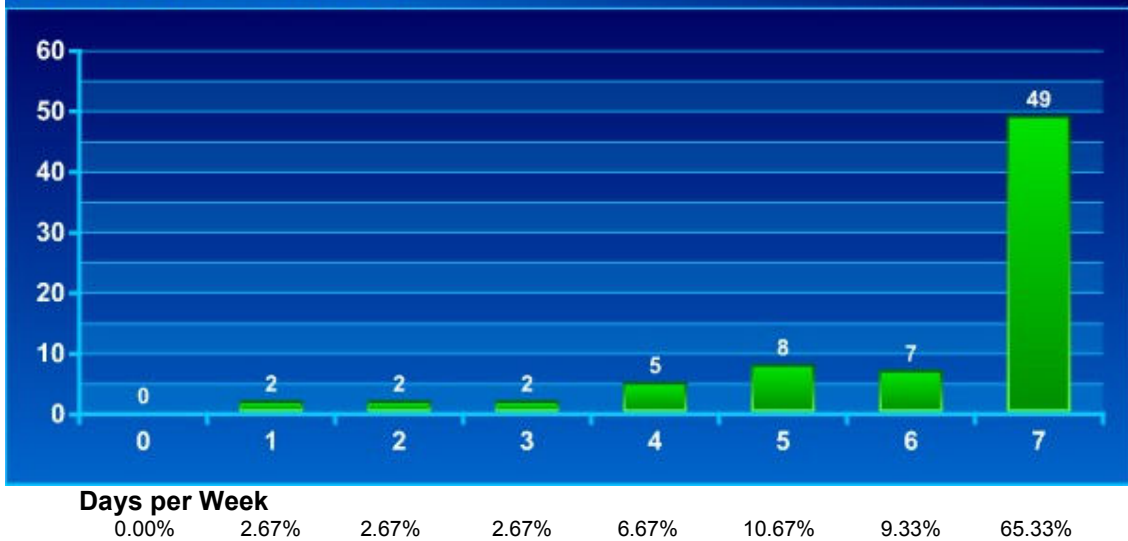
Question 8

(b) Use a computer to mark/set homework



Question 8

(c) Use a computer for personal use





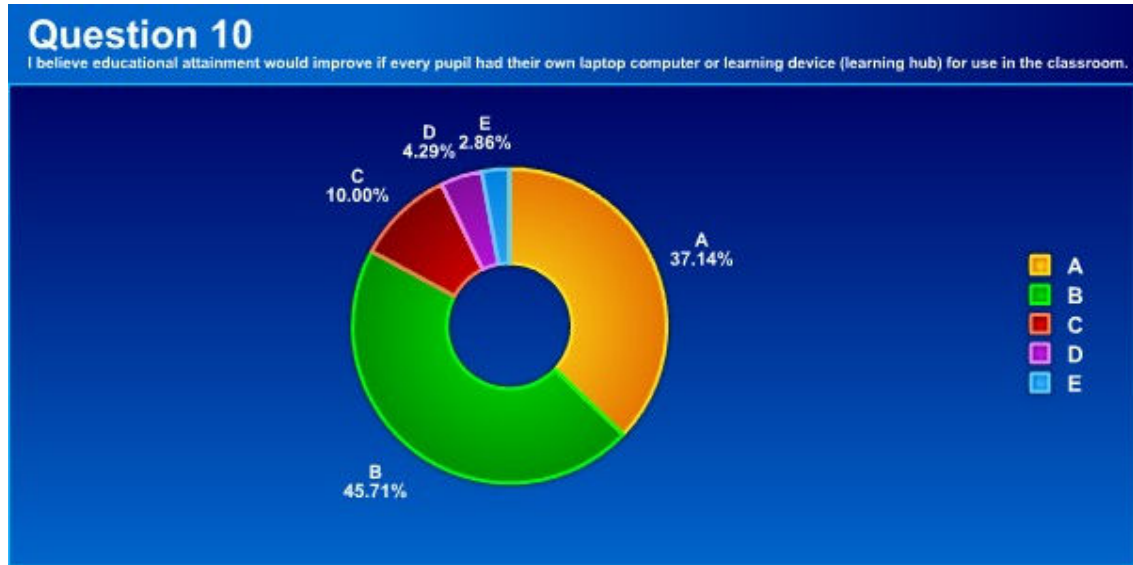
Learning Hubs - Scotland's future resides in the minds of pupils whose potential to thrive is limited only by their opportunity to learn

9) If every pupil in your tutor group was given a mobile learning device or learning hub, what priority would you put on each of the features below in regard to the importance towards their education?

	1 Must have	2 Should have	3 Could have	4 Won't need	Average Score
Internet connection (browser)	59 (80.82%)	9 (12.33%)	4 (5.48%)	1 (1.37%)	1.27 / 4 (31.75%)
Instant messaging	7 (9.59%)	17 (23.29%)	35 (47.95%)	14 (19.18%)	2.77 / 4 (69.25%)
e-mail	40 (54.79%)	26 (35.62%)	5 (6.85%)	2 (2.74%)	1.58 / 4 (39.50%)
Calendar	22 (30.14%)	28 (38.36%)	18 (24.66%)	5 (6.85%)	2.08 / 4 (52.00%)
Contacts	18 (24.66%)	30 (41.10%)	21 (28.77%)	4 (5.48%)	2.15 / 4 (53.75%)
Word Processing	61 (83.56%)	8 (10.96%)	2 (2.74%)	2 (2.74%)	1.25 / 4 (31.25%)
Note pad	17 (23.29%)	21 (28.77%)	28 (38.36%)	7 (9.59%)	2.34 / 4 (58.50%)
Sketch pad	18 (24.66%)	24 (32.88%)	25 (34.25%)	6 (8.22%)	2.26 / 4 (56.50%)
WebCam	2 (2.74%)	14 (19.18%)	41 (56.16%)	16 (21.92%)	2.97 / 4 (74.25%)
Digital Camera	17 (23.29%)	22 (30.14%)	26 (35.62%)	8 (10.96%)	2.34 / 4 (58.50%)
Video Recording	11 (15.07%)	23 (31.51%)	29 (39.73%)	10 (13.70%)	2.52 / 4 (63.00%)
Audio recording	15 (20.55%)	27 (36.99%)	25 (34.25%)	6 (8.22%)	2.30 / 4 (57.50%)
Phone	0 (0.00%)	8 (10.96%)	24 (32.88%)	41 (56.16%)	3.45 / 4 (86.25%)
Presentation (e.g. powerpoint)	46 (63.01%)	16 (21.92%)	9 (12.33%)	2 (2.74%)	1.55 / 4 (38.75%)
PDF reader	38 (52.05%)	25 (34.25%)	6 (8.22%)	4 (5.48%)	1.67 / 4 (41.75%)
File Manager	31 (42.47%)	29 (39.73%)	10 (13.70%)	3 (4.11%)	1.79 / 4 (44.75%)
File Storage	41 (56.16%)	26 (35.62%)	4 (5.48%)	2 (2.74%)	1.55 / 4 (38.75%)
Keyboard	47 (64.38%)	14 (19.18%)	10 (13.70%)	2 (2.74%)	1.55 / 4 (38.75%)
Small screen (less than 6")	5 (6.85%)	11 (15.07%)	29 (39.73%)	28 (38.36%)	3.10 / 4 (77.50%)
Medium screen (6" to 14")	21 (28.77%)	32 (43.84%)	16 (21.92%)	4 (5.48%)	2.04 / 4 (51.00%)
Large screen (15" or greater)	12 (16.44%)	15 (20.55%)	23 (31.51%)	23 (31.51%)	2.78 / 4 (69.50%)
Handwriting recognition	14 (19.18%)	30 (41.10%)	19 (26.03%)	10 (13.70%)	2.34 / 4 (58.50%)
Voice recognition	7 (9.59%)	30 (41.10%)	21 (28.77%)	15 (20.55%)	2.60 / 4 (65.00%)
CD RW	25 (34.25%)	17 (23.29%)	20 (27.40%)	11 (15.07%)	2.23 / 4 (55.75%)
DVD player	28 (38.36%)	17 (23.29%)	16 (21.92%)	12 (16.44%)	2.16 / 4 (54.00%)
DVD RW	15 (20.55%)	16 (21.92%)	26 (35.62%)	16 (21.92%)	2.59 / 4 (64.75%)
					2.20 / 4 (55.00%)

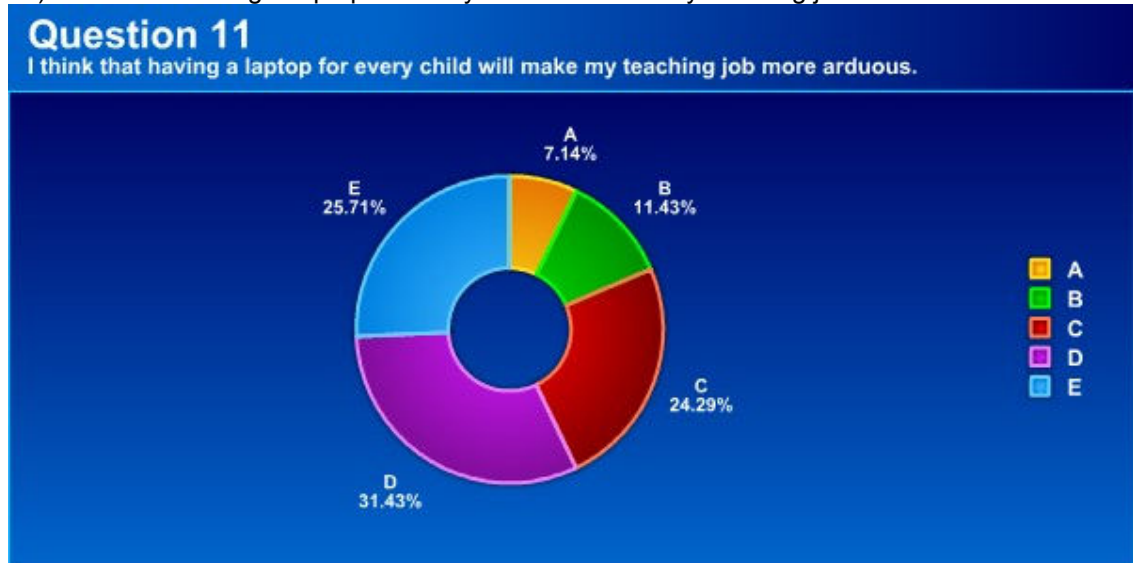


10) I believe educational attainment would improve if every pupil had their own laptop computer or learning device (learning hub) for use in the classroom.



A= I strongly agree, B= I agree, C= neither agree nor disagree, D=I disagree, E= I strongly disagree

11) I think that having a laptop for every child will make my teaching job more arduous.



A= I strongly agree, B= I agree, C= neither agree nor disagree, D=I disagree, E= I strongly disagree



12) In descending order of importance please list your top five concerns regarding the provision of learning hubs to children.

Complete list of all responses given to this question

- accessible to misuse of internet
- rely on spell checker on word docs too much
- will become impossible to get them to handwrite
- space!
- Problems connecting to internet
- Getting damaged
- Time getting all children started
- damage
- logging on difficulties
- cost
- charging
- storage
- i have no concerns, i believe it would be an asset in all circumstances
- Child protection via internet
- Whichever system the children are using the teacher must have the same. This makes it easier for demonstrating / teaching purposes.
- parents lack of knowledge
- sibling lack of knowledge
- personal organisation
- ability to maintain focused research
- ability to maintain quality learning
- fixing technical problems
- using a laptop scroll instead of a mouse
- inappropriate use
- dependency on typescript instead of handwriting
- full picture of childs' abilities if they are using spell/grammar check
- safety using the internet
- connection speed
- reliability
- hardware support
- skills of teaching staff
- Personal Security
- Extra time preparing work
- Learning how devices work
- Pupils breaking/loosing device
- Pupils spending time talking on device to one another rather than working on given work.
- Security and safety of pupils and staff should be taken into account and all possible senarios should be thought through before rolling out such as scheme.
- maintenance
- theft/misuse
- Technical Problems
- Monitoring what they are doing
- Connectivity with existing hardware
- Safety
- Training for students
- Misuse
- loss/theft
- misuse- inappropriate websites etc
- bullying
- maintenance
- many children cannot even bring a pencil to school. If we become too dependent on learning hubs classes could be split into the haves and havenots in an even more obvious way than now



- initial costs
- cost of replacements
- pupils losing them
- improper care of them
- storage?
- Keeping them charged and in a secure place when not in use ...holidays/ weekends etc
- Training for staff
- Initial Training for students
- Ongoing training
- Maintenance
- I do not have any concerns about providing learning hubs to pupils, in fact I think pupils having this provision will make teaching much more exciting for the teacher and much more interesting for the pupils. The children in my school do not have computers at home and I would love them to become true digital natives. At school I use our laptops every day and the pupils just cannot get enough of this kind of learning.
- security

- robustness during use/ abuse
- insurance...who pays?
- ease of use
- compatibility/ portability
- Brilliant and innovative, not to mention, committed,idea. I thought it had sunk without trace. The aforementioned device has to be able to be charged easily (solar top up?) and quickly and easily 'talk' to other devices/ networks/ systems. Otherwise it will just become another toy. Talking of which, it has to have an enjoyable factor built in. Like the iPods used at Gracemount HS. Yes we can here podcasts, store data, files, photos, etc. but we can also listen to some rockin' tunes. Kills 2 birds with one stone. Good luck.
- loss or damage to units
- need for IT training
- costs
- managability
- maintenance/faults
- preparation of work for me
- impact on present learning/teaching
- that we rely too much on ICT
- loss and damage of equipment
- ICT is a pathway which we should embrace and develop. It is very much a when and how issue, as there are many important elements of non ICT teaching that we still need to keep imbedded in our classroom practise
- insurance
- responsibility for breakage
- Security of the system
- Care of the equipment
- Ease of use
- Cost
- Back up of services
- protection of pupils online outwith school's firewall
- security of learning hub - transport of
- security of hub in pupil's home environment
- suitability for my children with special needs - prog like co-writer, clicker etc
- ease of remote desktopping to save time setting up activities
- security - how to ensure its safe
- web security - ensuring children cannot access unsafe material
- repairing and who foots the bill
- We also have a concern that as part of this project is to provide teaching staff with a lap top or hub of some sort, we however have a team of nursery nurses who have experience and expertise in preparing resources etc on computers, why are they not being included in this



project as the resources they provide for us in school are very valuable and this seems to undermine the importance of what nursery nurses do within a special schools setting.

- access to inappropriate sites
- access to chat rooms
- access to myspace type sites
- use of bluetooth to exchange assessments
- "my computers no working" "no power" etc
- reliability of equipment
- lack of user skills
- damage to equipment
- access to improper materials
- damage to the machine
- not bringing them to school (no bags !)
- who repairs them
- losing them
- some pupils using them
- A spellcheck facility would pick up mistakes like decending !!!
- Children's inability to use them properly
- Time spent setting up in class
- Basic skills like spelling and handwriting will be forgotten
- Cost
- Potential of some children damaging equipment
- theft
- chatrooms
- forget to bring them
- breakdowns
- e-mail use
- Since I don't know what a learning hub is I am unable to answer this question.
- how to utilise them effectively
- cost and the necessary reductions in other areas
- damage through accidents or malice
- ease of classroom management
- how often the software is updated to keep them effective
- The premise is an exciting one - but more thought needs to go into the practicalities of day to day life in a classroom and how they will be used.
- they would rely on them too much
- they would never write
- they would play games
- they would use it for frivolous communication
- they would not look after them
- training
- cost
- maintenance
- internet distractions
- slower pupils fall behind
- removes shared learning
- impossible to check on each pupils work
- not suitable for practical subjects
- maintenance, support, repair
- ensuring all pupils have ICT skills for effective use
- replacement funding
- cost
- need to be well trained on how to use correctly
- storage
- charging ready for use
- maintenance
- keeping up todote software.



Children will need to be well trained how to use the system properly before they start using it.

- inherent risk to pupils
- practicality
- cost
- security
- environmental footprint
- training needed for teachers
- cost
- Inappropriate sites
- Confusion of the less able
- Teachers' time
- Quality and amount of IT support
- Cost
- Pupils relying on them and core skills reducing
- Going out of date
- Maintenance of them
- misuse of equipment
- faults in the equipment
- slowing down a poor typist
- network failure
- power usage
- They can be a very useful teaching aid when used properly. The main concern is that they could be readily misused.
- management of repairs
- Teacher skills
- Pupils skills
- development time
- A computer for every pupil would greatly enhance the opportunities of pupils. It would provide them with skills and information essential to become the people of the future that they can be informed, skilled, contributing, succeeding. They would enjoy learning in an environment which promotes initiative and enterprise.
- Personal information sharing
- Internet access
- Software upgrading
- Inappropriate use
- Damaging equipment
- Technology problems
- Headphones supplied for Music subject?
- Over reliance of computers by pupils
- Would need relevant software for my subject - music.
- Must work with all necessary programs
- Printing must be easy and stress free
- Work easy saved and retrievable
- Help when computer isn't working properly
- If new computer needed then transferring data must be easy
- I think all of your outline for learning hubs sounds like fantastic progress. However it, as always, needs to be well thought out, trialed and any teething problems sorted before introducing on a large scale. Access to individuals who can help with any technical problems is a must too.
- Time taken to set up at start of lesson and shut down at end
- Problems occurring - if children rely on these what happens if a fault occurs
- Distraction - could be tempted to use internet / IM when supposed to be working
- becoming too reliant on these - would they replace all teaching alternatives
- possibility that they may encourage pupils to become lazy - wont seek out alternative ways of learning new ideas/ topics
- Would have to be distributed uniformly - exact same machine to all pupils so as no bullying issues - ie "mine is better than yours" type issues.
- misuse/abuse



- over-reliance on technology
- assumption that info will hit them in the face and they will fail to do adequate research via books
- access less useful website/ fail to realise that some are not very valuable
- too much time spent surfing rather than learning
- No concern only see it as a positive way of learning
- When one goes wrong a lesson can fail
- A lot of teacher organisation needs to be completed in advance
- I find it hard to think of negatives (apart from the cost and reliability of the hardware and software) but would dovetail its use with other activities.

At present there is not nearly enough access to ICT equipment in schools which is severely limiting some teaching approaches.

Data projectors provide excellent value for money and enhance most lessons.

- Non-networking of Hospital Units
- Remote access not available
- Suitable hardware- we have not been part of any hardware rollouts as schools have been in the past.
- That organisations recognise the need to include Services such as ours. We teach over 600 pupils a year.
- Software roll outs - again we need to be included.
- My biggest concern is the inability to network our schoolrooms in RHSC and YPU Edinburgh. This has been an issue since Summer 2000. To date I have had lots of sympathetic noises but no discernable progress has been made, putting our pupil population at a disadvantage compared to their mainstream counterparts. We also have pupils who we teach at home or community settings due to their health or social circumstances. Again the issue regarding remote access for pupils seems to be low priority.
- repair
- cost
- less interaction with teacher
- Will keep losing them
- Irresponsible use
- Not Necessary
- No room
- Why
- Would only highlight my inability to use them
- to many breakages
- What a crackpot idea.
- Teacher willingness to embrace and use the technology
- Technical back up and support
- Safety and security of hubs outside school
- Probability of excessive restrictions imposed by CEC and BT
- Inappropriate use
- Reliability
- Safety
- Upgrading
- Networking
- Teacher not able to solve technical difficulties
- Damage to/loss of hubs if allowed to take home
- Over dependence on internet as research tool
- Possible demise of collaborative group work
- Possible demise of direct interactive teaching & feedback from peers & teacher
- staffing
- training
- finance
- facilities
- security
- I am Headteacher of a new combined school under PPP. Even our modern facilities prevent us offering on line computing for every child-links, cabling, instant access, storage of



information, teacher confidence etc. are all relevant but this is the way forward. I am not sure all children need everything on their laptop but they need instant access.

- maintenance of hardware and software
- misuse of equipment
- increased risk of exposure to the dangers of the web
- costs
- I am an art and design teacher hoping to achieve a class set of laptops over the next couple years. This will be of terrific benefit in facilitating art studies, graphic design, research, animation, video production, and many more applications. Currently my students are hampered by a shortage of equipment. The provision of a learning hub would be a dream come true.
- pupils will think they can't learn without the use of technology
- actually being able to use the technology to improve learning, not just toys
- technical support / maintenance
- space/storage/cables in class
- cost
- I don't really know that much about learning hubs and so find it difficult to be able to give too much details/opinions, sorry.
- Control of websites
- Control of any 'chat'
- Money - where would it come from
- Storage - little enough space in class as it is
- Use effectively in classroom
- help for less able children to access technology
- Pupil Support
- Technology problems
- Pupils using computer for illegitimate reasons
- Time
- Pupils don't have enough knowledge to use individually
- someone to fix them quickly when not working
- not knowing enough to use them to their full potential
- need for advice and support
- constant changes and updates
- technology moving forward so quickly that things quickly become out of date
- correct use
- internet
- inappropriate e-mail
- appropriate use for safety and security
- appropriate use from damage point of view
- appropriate use for learning
- they might spend too long on these and not do other things
- Reliability and durability of the technology
- Training and support for staff
- Quick technical support for faults
- Financial implications for schools
- Replacing hubs broken/lost/stolen
- security
- compatibility