

**NEXT
GENERATION
LEARNING**

Experience the
**future of
learning
today**

 nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

$2a + b = 21$

$a + b = 15$

$5p + q = 100$

$2p - q = -30$

$2(x + 3) = 10$

$2x + 7 = 10$

Guten tag

Buenos días

Buongiorno

Bonjour

Roald Dahl

A. Milne

J.K. Rowling

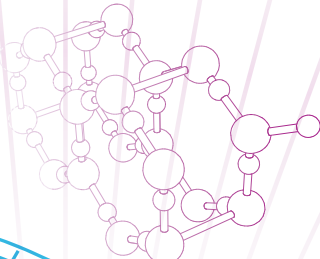
Beatrix Potter

Enid Blyton

Jacqueline Wilson

Philip Pullman

David Pilkey



**Children who use
technology to support
their learning achieve
more than those
who do not.**



Children today are increasingly using technology in school and at home. This guide will help you understand the benefits of technology in learning by explaining:

▶ What Next Generation Learning is all about

▶ Why learning with technology is a good thing

▶ How using technology at school supports learning

▶ Why using technology at home supports learning

▶ How to get Next Generation Learning

▶ Where to go for useful information

What is Next Generation Learning?

Children are growing up in a technological age and are likely to be more comfortable with technology than most adults.

Whether they're sending a text message, surfing the web or using an interactive whiteboard in school, the daily use of technology is second nature to many children by the time they reach secondary school.

Technology is playing an increasingly important role in everyday life. It's part of our home lives, it's used for entertainment and communicating, and to help with our shopping, banking and holidays.

Technology is also playing an increasingly important part of your child's everyday life at school – Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is taught as part of the national curriculum and technology is also key to supporting learning across all other subject areas.

This is good news. Technology offers enormous opportunities for your child's education. In fact, research shows that children with access to technology at school and in the home have a greater chance of achieving better grades and ultimately finding a good job.

Find out more



nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

Read on to find out how you, as a parent or carer, can make the most of the opportunities that technology has to offer in supporting your child's learning, or visit our website at: nextgenerationlearning.org.uk



Why is learning with technology a good thing?

Whether your child is using a PC, a laptop, a digital camera/camcorder or a mobile phone connected to the internet, using technology is an exciting way to learn. It helps children to question and learn things for themselves. It also enables them to gather and share information and experiences. And that's not all...

- ~ it can help improve learning and achievement in all areas
- ~ children enjoy technology and are more engaged in their learning because it's both motivational and fun
- ~ it helps children to be more creative and independent in their learning
- ~ it can improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills
- ~ it helps parents, carers and schools to keep in touch and work together to support children's learning.

Prove it!



nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

Making learning fun and exciting is one thing, but how can you be sure that it makes a difference to how well your child does at school? Will it help them to achieve more, move into further education or assist in their future career?

Quite simply, the answer is yes!

RESEARCH SHOWS:

1 schools that use technology across the curriculum and wider school life have reduced absence rates and achieved a higher percentage of A*– C grades at GCSE

2 pupils studying Key Stage 2 Maths, Science and English in schools which make the best use of ICT improve at twice the rate of the national average

3 when young people use technology to support their learning at home they do better in national tests.

What about at school?

Computers and internet access are obvious examples of technology in schools. But even from the age of five your child could be getting to grips with interactive whiteboards, digital video cameras, multimedia presentations and online blogs! The good news is that the number of technology resources are now at record levels in schools throughout England.

WHAT CAN YOUR CHILD EXPECT?

Far from the traditional idea of a separate 'Computer suite', most schools now at least offer:

Mobile technologies:

Anytime, anywhere learning is here. As devices like laptops and personal digital assistants (PDAs) become more affordable, the way young people learn is changing – the technology is now on hand when needed.

Interactive whiteboards:

Blackboard and chalk is in the past. Today, over 95% of UK schools have interactive whiteboards, making learning more engaging, effective and much more fun.

Learning platforms:

A growing number of schools can now offer what is called a 'learning platform'. These learning platforms provide real benefits to pupils, such as allowing them to:

- ~ access learning material outside the classroom
- ~ submit homework and assignments for marking and assessments
- ~ store work and notes in their own personal learning space
- ~ take part in live discussions with other pupils and teachers.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

1 To stay up to date with your child's learning in the curriculum.

3 To view reports, attendance records and grades.

2 To keep track of homework assignments.

4 To keep in touch with teachers, tutors and other school staff.

Ask your school what they have available and what their plans are for developing their learning platform in the future.

DID YOU KNOW?

All primary and secondary schools now provide internet access to pupils.

What about at home?

Research clearly shows that the single most important factor behind educational achievement is getting parents and carers involved in their children's learning.

The great news is that technology is making this easier than ever.

JUST LOOK AT WHAT IT OFFERS

- 1 Allows children to learn in the way that suits them best.
- 2 Supports their homework and revision.
- 3 Helps you to build on what they're learning at school from home.
- 4 Children can explore their creativity and develop questioning minds.
- 5 Makes learning more inspiring for all.

How involved are you?



nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Robert Stephenson, Thomas Telford, Richard Trevithick, James Watt

King Edward the Confessor 1042-1066 • King Harold 1066 • King William I the Conqueror 1066-1087 • King William II Rufus 1087-1100 • King Henry I 1100-1135

Icons include: a flying airplane, a propeller, a classical building with columns, a shield with a fleur-de-lis, a shield with a cross, a shield with a star, a shield with a crescent moon, a shield with a wheel, and various symbols of science and technology.

Stay safe online

Using the internet opens up exciting new opportunities for learning. Whatever your child is interested in doing – researching a school project, chatting with friends or playing a game – they're likely to surf the web more often as they grow up.

Here are some simple things you can do to help them get the best from online learning.

- ~ Talk to your children about how they use the internet – take an interest in what they are doing, ask them questions, find out who they're talking to online and why.
- ~ Find out what parental controls are available on your web browser and discuss them with your child. Outline the boundaries without being too heavy handed and always focus on the positives.
- ~ Look at other options to prevent inappropriate content being accessed, such as filtering and monitoring software.
- ~ Get up to speed with your school's Acceptable Use Policy and find out what sanctions apply if the rules are broken. If appropriate, you could try to adopt some of these at home.
- ~ Make sure your home computer is located somewhere where the whole family can use it.



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Find out about some things to be aware of by visiting these websites:

www.childnet-int.org
www.thinkuknow.co.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/parenting
www.direct.gov.uk

You can also educate yourself about how to use the internet. For example, why not make use of your local public library? They can tell you about simple but useful skills, such as advanced internet searching which will help you find the right information quickly.

You can ask your school if they run parent workshops on how to use technology to support learning.

Are you getting Next Generation Learning?

As a parent or carer, you are a key partner in your child's learning. And there's a lot you can do to ensure your child benefits from technology in your home or at school.

Just follow these five steps:

1 Get to grips with technology

Find out more about technology and make sure you have a good understanding of how to use a computer and browse the internet safely.

Once you know more, you'll feel more confident about helping your child safely enjoy the benefits of technology at home and at school.

2 Get connected at home

With the right equipment, internet access and your support, your child can access learning materials from home via their school's website or learning platform and enjoy a wide range of web-based resources and activities. A computer with internet access offers real advantages for children – especially when you use it together.

Get involved



nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

Je m'appelle Claudio. À quelle heure part le train ? Où est le guichet ? Je voudrais un verre d'eau.

Guten tag Buenos días Buongiorno Bonjour



3 Encourage your child as much as possible

Remember that research shows that key to your child achieving their potential is you getting involved in their learning. Here are some easy things to do:

- ~ Discuss a wide range of topics. Research them together on the internet.
- ~ Ask your child to present what they have found using a variety of computer programs. These could be presentation technologies, word processing,

and could even include pictures or video.

- ~ Talk to your school about practice websites that they recommend. Work through some of these with your child.
- ~ You can even access test papers online which you can work through together.

4 Talk to your school

- ~ Ask your teacher how they use technology to support learning in the classroom.
- ~ School governors have a strong say in the standards and quality of education that the school achieves. They should have a good idea of the school's policy on using technology. Don't be afraid to ask questions to find out about their vision for how technology should be used.

Get involved

 nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

5 Go to the Next Generation Learning website

LOOK OUT FOR THE ICT MARK

The ICT Mark is a national accreditation scheme whereby schools are assessed and recognised for making effective use of technology that is having a positive impact on children's learning.

Over 1,000 schools have been awarded the ICT Mark and many more are working towards it. To find out if your child's school has been assessed in the last three years or to look for other schools with an ICT Mark near you, visit: nextgenerationlearning.org.uk



There's a lot you can do to get closer to Next Generation Learning. You'll find additional information and guidance, including some great examples of what schools are doing, visit: nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

95% of teachers believe that the use of technology is having a positive impact on standards in schools and colleges. See if you agree, visit:



Initiated by

Becta leading
next generation
learning

Technology makes learning more enjoyable!

Having access to a computer at school or at home makes learning more enjoyable. It gives children access to a wide range of mixed-media learning resources. Understanding how something works through the internet, a video, online game, animation or even a podcast are all alternatives to a textbook and can be interactive and more memorable!

Use this guide to take a step closer to the future of learning today with Next Generation Learning.

 nextgenerationlearning.org.uk

© Copyright Becta 2008

You may reproduce this material, free of charge, in any format or medium without specific permission, provided you are not reproducing it for financial or material gain. You must reproduce the material accurately and not use it in a misleading context. If you are republishing the material or issuing it to others, you must acknowledge its source, copyright status and date of publication. While great care has been taken to ensure that the information in this publication is accurate at the time of publication, we accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Where a specific product is referred to in this publication, no recommendation or endorsement of that product by Becta is intended, nor should it be inferred.

www.becta.org.uk