



National Centre for Technology in Education
Ionad Náisiúnta don Teicneolaíocht san Oideachas

NCTE

National Centre for Technology in Education

Annual Report 2007

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FOREWORD

I am very pleased to publish the 2007 Annual Report of the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE). It describes a busy year for the NCTE as we developed and delivered our various programmes and initiatives.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) remained a strong focus for the NCTE in 2007 and over 11,500 teachers attended professional development workshops and courses. A particular focus of NCTE's CPD activity for 2007 was in supporting the T4 roll-out of new syllabi by providing tailored ICT courses for teachers.

Participant numbers increased by approximately 11% and the number of ICT courses/modules available increased to 37.

The provision of digital content for learning and teaching continued through the expansion and development of Scoilnet, as well as through our work on other content-rich educational websites, such as the *French.ie* website and ImageBank.ie. Having secured an agreement with OSi to licence a range of mapping data for use in second-level schools, the NCTE undertook a public procurement process for the provision of an online Maps Viewer. Work began on building and developing the website in late 2007 in collaboration with the Geography Support Service.

The Broadband in schools programme saw 3,923 no. of schools connected and supported by the Broadband Helpdesk

The NCTE is very fortunate to have access to ongoing input and collaboration of the other educational bodies and teachers' representative group. Their cooperation and assistance enables us to carry out our work more effectively and plays a significant role in the success of our various initiatives. I would particularly like to acknowledge the direction and support of the ICT Policy Unit in the Department of Education and Science throughout the year. As Director of the NCTE I was delighted to be invited to chair the ICT Strategy group established by the Minister for Education & Science.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and pay tribute to the commitment, dedication and achievements of my own staff in the NCTE during 2007.

Jerome Morrissey
Director

National Centre for Technology in Education
Dublin City University, Dublin 9

THE WORK OF THE NCTE

Established in 1998 as an agency of the Department of Education & Science (DES), the National Centre for Technology in Education (NCTE) is responsible for managing the implementation of the Department's *ICT in Schools* policy. The Centre's core mission is to promote and support the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) by teachers and students in their daily teaching and learning and a range of supports are provided to schools to facilitate this. By encouraging teachers to explore the potential of ICT in their teaching, some innovative and engaging methodologies are evolving in Irish schools. Such developments are immensely positive, eliciting benefits for both teachers and students alike. The holistic integration of ICT in schools can create a dynamic, relevant learning environment — one that enables students to realise the learning objectives of the curriculum and become confident, creative users of new technologies.

Technology Integration Initiative (TII)

This initiative provides a range of planning, advice and supports to schools as they develop their ICT infrastructures. Throughout 2007, the delivery and support of the Schools Broadband Programme has continued to be a primary focus. This has included the management of the Schools Broadband Service Desk, one of the key supports made available to schools.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

CPD focuses on the delivery of continuing professional development for teachers in the use of ICT in learning and teaching. Courses are generally delivered through the education centre network and there are 37 courses in the current portfolio.

Digital Content

The Digital Content initiative develops and provides access to digital content appropriate to the Irish school curriculum. This includes the development of satellite websites within specific curriculum areas, as well as sourcing and evaluating software suitable for educational use. Software licensing agreements also fall under the remit of Digital Content.

Scoilnet

The Scoilnet initiative manages Scoilnet.ie, the portal for Irish education, as well as the NCTE website, the Internet Safety website, Webwise.ie, and several standalone project websites. Scoilnet.ie is a key access point for those seeking curriculum-relevant learning resources. The Scoilnet team manages, maintains, develops and grows all elements of the Scoilnet website including its database of 9,947 teacher-reviewed web links.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and ICT Initiative

The SEN and ICT initiative works within each of the other initiatives to develop resources and supports relating to special needs education. The management of specific projects on the use of ICT in special needs education is also included within this initiative.

ICT in the Classroom

The NCTE is committed to supporting and promoting innovative and effective practice of ICT in learning and teaching. Consequently, a diverse range of independent or collaborative projects have been undertaken with teachers and students in schools in recent years. The case studies and evaluations produced from these innovative projects push the boundaries of ICT practice in schools forward, and encourage and enlighten other teachers in their integrated ICT practice.

Internet Safety

The NCTE, through its Webwise Initiative, seeks to promote safer and more effective use of the internet by young people.

The “Watch Your Space” Internet safety campaign targeting teenagers was launched by Minister Hanafin on Safer Internet Day.

An Internet Safety Pack was sent to every school in the country and 50 tutors were trained to deliver a new Internet Safety continuing professional development course in Education Centres throughout the country.

In partnership with the National Parents Council (NPC), we began delivering Webwise Internet Safety Parents Seminars to parents groups and providing speakers to school AGMs.

ICT Advisory Service

The NCTE funds, supports and coordinates the ICT Advisory Service, which operates from the 21 full-time Education Centres around the country. ICT advisors provide local ICT advice and supports schools under the management of the education centres.

In a broader context, the NCTE collaborates with a number of agencies of the Department of Education and Science, other Government Departments’ initiatives and with external organisations on a wide range of matters relating to ICT in education. This role involves inputs to policy development, the provision of advice and guidance, proposal research and development, and the rollout of collaborative projects. Such cooperation and partnership is a key component of the NCTE’s success as a delivery-focused agency. It helps to ensure that ICT, and its relevance to all aspects of education, continues to have strategic importance within the sector in line with the advancement and maturation of Ireland’s knowledge-based society.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007

99% of schools had been provided with broadband by the end of 2007. At the beginning of the 2007, 3,800 schools had been provided with broadband, and by the end of 2007 this had reached 3,923.

The range of technology advice and guidance was extended and 33 areas were updated to assist schools in relation to technology and its use in the integration of ICT in learning and teaching.

More than 11,500 teachers participated in NCTE funded ICT courses and support groups in 2007 which shows an increase in numbers from previous years. Four new courses and eight new modules were designed, developed and rolled out in 2007, which brings the total number of ICT courses/modules available to 37.

The NCTE worked with the T4 Technology Support Service and the Technology Teacher Professional Networks (TPNs) to provide a dedicated programme of professional development for teachers teaching the revised syllabi of Architectural Technology, Design and Communication Graphics and Engineering Technology and the new subject Technology at Leaving Certificate level. This programme encompassed the design and delivery of four introductory ICT modules, and three modules on Parametric CAD. This programme complemented the T4 in-service programme, and was a huge success with over 1,000 teacher training places on these supplementary evening courses as well as the in-service programme.

Scoilnet, the portal for Irish education, recorded overall traffic of 1.27 million visits during the year - an increase of over 200,000 on the previous year. During these visits to the site over 11 million page views were accessed.

The Webwise Watch_Your_Space Campaign was launched for Safer Internet Day 2007 by Minister Mary Hanafin, TD. The poster campaign and Watchyourspace website were selected as an Internet Safety awareness raising resource by the European Commission's Safer Internet project at the Internet Governance Forum in Rio de Janeiro in November 2007. In December 2007, Webwise presented to the 7th Eminent Conference in Brussels on its innovative Internet Safety learning and teaching module *//:Be Safe_Be Webwise://*.

In 2007 the NCTE finalised terms with OSi and undertook a public procurement process for the provision of an Online Maps Viewer in which the OSi data could be presented. In November 2007 the contract for the implementation and support of an Online Maps Viewer was awarded. Work on the building and development of the Scoilnet Maps website commenced swiftly in late 2007 with a working beta site in place by year end.

FÍS continued to gather momentum in schools and some 25 films from the regional screenings were short-listed for the National FÍS Film Festival, which was held on the 25th October 2007 in The Helix, Dublin City University with special guest Evanna Lynch, star of the Harry Potter films.

The NCTE's collaboration with the History In-Service Support Team continued throughout 2007 primarily through the management and support of their website www.scoilnet.ie/hist. Website traffic statistics for 2007 grew by 44%, reflecting the value and importance of the resources and content contained within it. A total of

38,199 site visits were recorded for the entire year with a monthly peak of 4,976 in November 2007.

STAFF

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Technology Integration Initiative

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Svetlana Vasilieva

Accountant

Sonja Ryan

Accounts/Administration Assistant

Rita Grimes

Administration Assistant (from June 2007)

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

The focus of NCTE's Technology Integration Initiative (TII) is to promote and support the use and integration of suitable ICT infrastructure in schools. The TII initiative provides advice and guidelines in a range of technology areas. The main elements of schools' ICT infrastructure are broadband, networking in schools, and the wide range of ICT equipment and systems used in schools. This includes PCs, laptops, tablet PCs, digital projectors, digital and video cameras, multimedia stations, interactive whiteboards, printers, servers, laptop trolleys etc, and includes ICT for special educational needs (SEN) and other equipment and systems used to integrate ICT into teaching and learning. The TII initiative links and supports other NCTE initiatives and projects to provide an inter-initiative approach to supporting ICT Integration in schools.

The development of a functional and stable ICT infrastructure underpins and supports the integrated use of ICT in classrooms and empowers teachers and students. Co-ordinating the installation and support of broadband in schools via the Schools Broadband Programme was a major focus in 2007.

Throughout the year, the NCTE provided information and advice and support on all aspects of ICT integration to schools, via direct contact, via the NCTE website and via correspondence with schools. NCTE also worked closely with the Department of Education & Science to support queries on a range of areas. Advice and support is provided on the NCTE website at www.ncte.ie/ICTAdviceSupport/ on a range of ICT matters as follows:

ICT advice sheets covering areas were updated to reflect the latest advances in technology and ICT use in schools. The ICT Advice sheets cover the following areas

Computing devices:

Computers including PCs, Apple, Laptops and Thin Clients.

Other ICT equipment

These included Digital Projectors, Printers, DVDs, Digital Cameras, Digital Video Cameras, MiniDisc Players/Recorders, Scanners, Interactive Whiteboards, PDAs, Video, Conferencing, and Mobile Phones.

Software

These included Educational Software and Software Licensing

Networking and related areas

These included What Is A Network, Networking Basics, Wireless Networks and Intranets, Storage and Backup, Computer Viruses, and Securing Equipment

Various ICT Areas

These included the Internet, School Web Sites, Internet Safety, Datalogging, Programmable Bricks, ICT and Special Needs (SEN), Ergonomics, Health and Safety, and an ICT Glossary.

Schools Broadband Programme

The Schools Broadband Programme provides first and second level schools with a high-speed managed broadband connection and associated centrally managed services.

The impact is seen in terms of the additional services being provided. Faster broadband connections along with associated content filtering, provided centrally, are perceived by schools as the main benefit of the programme to date.

The schools broadband service not only consists of faster Internet connection, it also comprises always-on, high-speed access to the Internet and centrally managed services. The latter include content and website filtering, a centrally-controlled “firewall” for all schools and integrated anti-virus control. The Schools Broadband Network is thus a controlled gateway through which schools access the Internet and other online resources.

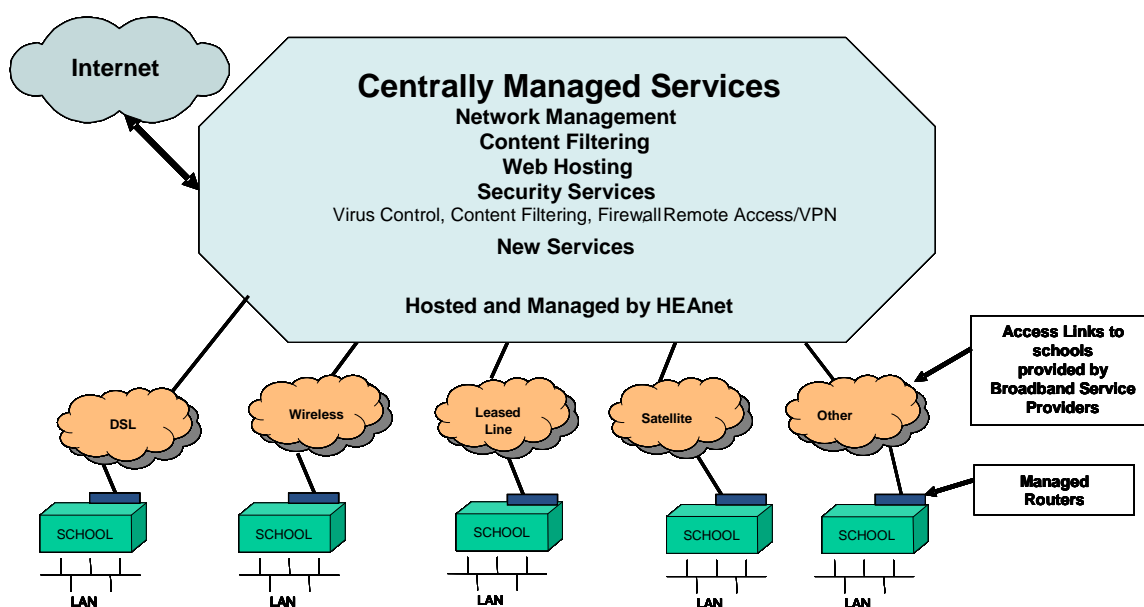


Figure 1: The Schools Broadband Network

The predominant focus for 2007 was to support schools already connected and to complete the installation to remaining schools. This generally involved resolving any broadband problems, handling information requests and questions from schools on broadband-related issues, and assisting schools in their use of broadband. 99% of schools had been provided with broadband by the end of 2007. At the beginning of the 2007, 3,800 schools had been provided with broadband, and by the end of 2007 this had reached 3,923.

Schools connect to a centrally-managed network via a broadband connection and router, installed by service providers under contract to the Department of Education & Science. The network is managed by HEAnet, Ireland's National Education and Research Network. The connection from schools to HEAnet's network is provided by service providers using different technologies, depending on local conditions. The particular technology and the type of connection used to connect each school

depends on a number of factors, such as the broadband technology options available locally as well the school size. Connections are predominantly provided via digital subscriber loop (DSL) and unbundled local loop (ULL), wireless, satellite and a small number of leased lines. Satellite technology was installed in schools only where DSL or wireless technology was not available locally to the school at installation planning time.

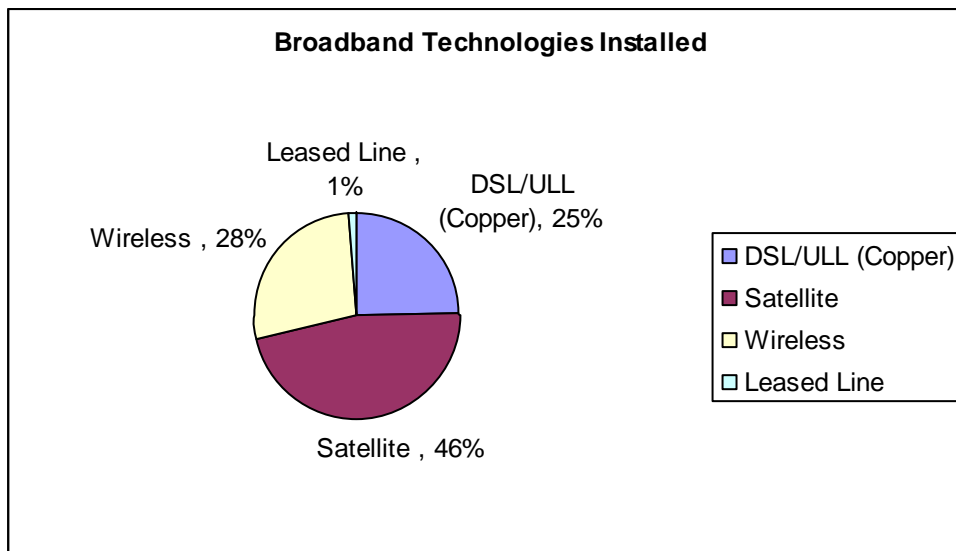


Figure 2: Broadband technologies installed

It is planned to add additional services to the network, so that the Schools Broadband Network and associated services will evolve to become a critical element of school ICT infrastructure and an invaluable gateway to educational services, content and resources.

Project Implementation

Six companies won contracts to provide broadband connections to schools: BT, Digiweb, HSDData, Irish Broadband, Last Mile Wireless and Smart Telecom. Each service provider was awarded specific schools to connect to the broadband network. Eircom won the contract to provide and install routers in schools. Schools were allocated to a service provider based on the most appropriate technology for each school as determined during the tender evaluation process.

Communications with Schools

NCTE has overall responsibility for communication and co-ordination between schools and the programme, and for supporting and advising schools during all stages of the project implementation.

Advice and guidelines were provided to ensure that schools were aware of each step involved in the installation process. This included information on preparing for broadband, for example, selecting a suitable line for DSL services, ensuring the availability of suitable power outlets and consideration of a suitable location for the equipment in the school.

Throughout the programme groups of schools with the same or similar issues or schools with specific issues were contacted, in order to address their issues. The Broadband Service Desk was available throughout the school year and also during

school holidays to allow for enhanced communication and feedback with schools. A broadband section on the NCTE website focused on providing relevant information, a feedback form for customer input, and answers to “frequently asked questions”.

Broadband Service Desk

The NCTE-managed Broadband Service Desk is the primary means of day-to-day communication and co-ordination between schools and the broadband programme. Fully operational since April 2005, the main roles of the Service Desk are:

- To provide a single point of contact between schools and the Schools Broadband Programme providing information, advice, guidance and technical support.
- To co-ordinate operational activities between service providers and the NCTE.
- To co-ordinate and test all broadband connections and broadband router equipment once installed by service providers.
- To provide a fault management, escalation and resolution process for all issues raised by schools and other parties.

Schools are encouraged to call the Service Desk via an 1800 free number or to communicate by email on any issues or queries they may have regarding their broadband service.

During 2007, the Service Desk handled approximately 19,390 incoming calls and approximately 6,440 emails mainly from schools.

The Service Desk has a team of specially-trained support staff and is managed by the NCTE Broadband Support Manager.

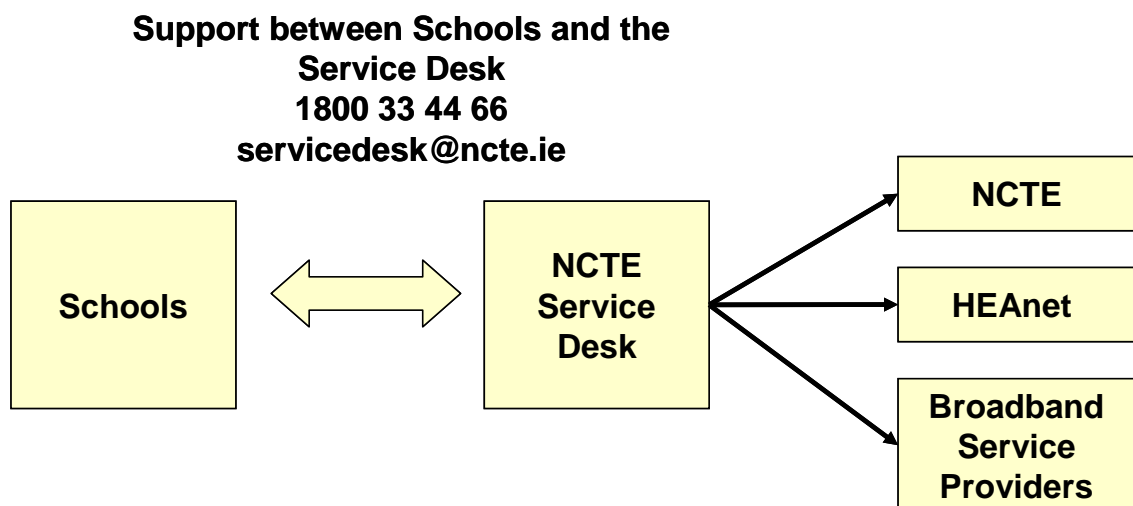


Figure 3: NCTE Service Desk

Benefits for Schools

The Schools Broadband Programme provides a significant improvement in the development of ICT infrastructure in schools, the benefits of which positively impact on all schools in the network.

- *High-speed Internet access.* This enables multi-user access to the Internet at any one time, facilitating access to rich multimedia content including images, music, video clips and so on. With broadband, the time to download such material is much shorter.
- *'Always-on' Internet access* throughout the school day, and at evenings and weekends. Schools can spend as much time as they need online without tying-up phone lines or worrying about the cost.
- *Centrally managed services*, such as content filtering, firewall protection and secure email with integrated anti-virus and spam control. Content filtering reduces the risk of inappropriate content being accessed by schools and enhanced email services will provide secure email accounts. This should facilitate an improvement in inter-school communication and e-twinning of schools. Other services will be introduced in response to schools' requirements.

Local Computer Networks

During 2004-2007, networking grants amounting to approximately €23 million were allocated to schools by the Department of Education & Science for the provision of school computer networks, which facilitate the distribution of broadband and curriculum resources throughout the school. NCTE in turn provided guidelines to assist schools in how to go about networking their school. During the year, NCTE continued to provide information and advice on local computer networking, both directly to schools and via the ICT Advisory Service.

Hermes: Schools "Thin Client" Broadband Wireless

The Hermes project involves nine inter-connected schools in north Co. Dublin sharing a common ICT infrastructure and using "thin client" broadband wireless technology. ("Thin client" means that many applications run on a central server, rather than on individual PCs in a network). The project continued during 2007, funded by the Department of Education and Science via NCTE. The project delivers centrally-hosted learning applications and managed broadband Internet access to the nine linked schools and helps to achieve enhanced ICT integration on a whole school basis. A centralised technical support service is provided to schools to ensure maximum service and application availability to users.

The focus for 2007 was in integrating an ICT into the curriculum and using Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) based collaboration platform to promote and support the building and sharing of resources among schools, teachers and students.

Teacher training activities focused mainly on VLE-centred activities such as creating and sharing content, and ensuring that all teachers were provided with knowledge and understanding of how the system worked and how to use it to create, modify, upload and share content learning resources.

An independent evaluation of the Hermes project is being carried out. It measures how effective integration of ICT in teaching and learning is enhanced in schools by the underlying software resources and VLE platforms

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROVIDING TEACHERS WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ICT

“Very enjoyable and a must for everyone in teaching at the moment.”

Participant on the tutor training for the ***Integrating the Internet into Teaching & Learning*** course, spring 2007

One of the key roles of the NCTE is the provision of ICT continuing professional development (CPD) for teachers. In 2007, the NCTE continued to design, develop and deliver a comprehensive programme of ICT courses, workshops, support activities and training resources to primary and post primary teachers.

Course Participation

NCTE-funded professional development activities are offered in partnership with the regional network of Education Centres. In addition, NCTE facilitates programmes of ICT professional development with other educational partners, e.g. INTO, the Colleges of Education, curriculum in-service teams and other government agencies such as Discover Science and Engineering. This includes the provision of funding, course development and review, supply of course materials and tutor training. 11,549 ICT professional development places for teachers were funded through the NCTE's CPD initiative in 2007.

| Course Participation in 2007: | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------|--------------|-------|
| Provider | Attendance | Primary | Post-Primary | Mixed |
| Education Centres | 10374 | 5757 | 4617 | |
| NCTE online | 495 | | | 495 |
| INTO Summer Programme | 400 | 400 | --- | --- |
| Mary Immaculate College | 120 | 120 | | |
| Liberties Learning Initiative | 121 | 111 | 10 | |
| Other tutor training | 39 | 33 | 6 | |
| Total | 11,549 | | | |

Course Development

Four new courses and eight new modules were designed, developed and rolled out in 2007. This brought the total number of courses/modules offered by NCTE to 37.

1. INTEGRATING INTERNET SAFETY INTO LEARNING & TEACHING

This new course was developed in conjunction with the NCTE's Webwise team. Webwise is the NCTE's internet safety initiative. The course is aimed at primary and post-primary teachers and focuses on the integration of internet safety in learning and teaching. The course provides teachers with practical examples of how to take internet safety precautions within their subject disciplines. It aids teachers to operate within best practice guidelines and offers strategies which teachers can use to minimise risks when using the Internet in the school environment.

The course is 20 hours in duration but it also may be broken down into shorter modules of two to five hours.

2. BEBO SUPPORT WORKSHOPS

This two and a half hour workshop, which is aimed at primary and post-primary teachers, encourages a hands-on approach where participants go online and learn how to use the Bebo social networking website. It was developed based on feedback from teachers in November 2007 outlining internet safety issues in particular in the area of social networking, which were of concern to them. The materials for the workshop are based on one of the internet safety course modules.

The topics covered in the workshops were:

- What is Bebo?
- Creating a personal profile and adding content
- Configuring a Bebo Profile and applying safety features
- Making Friends and Leaving Comments
- Exploring classroom ready activities and resources for teachers responding to the issues of social networking by students.

3. BASIC INTRODUCTORY ICT MODULES

The NCTE developed four short introductory ICT skills modules, suitable for primary and post-primary teachers, which could be delivered as stand-alone modules or incorporated into a customised teacher professional development programme. The modules are 2.5 – 5 hours in duration and are designed to be delivered in the format of short evening support group sessions.

The four modules developed were as follows:

- Creating Presentations and Worksheets Using ICT
- Introduction to PCs and File Management
- Introduction to Digital Media
- Introduction to the Internet & Email.

4. PARAMETRIC CAD MODULES 1, 2, AND 3

The Parametric CAD modules were developed by the NCTE in collaboration with the T4 Technology Support Service and the Technology Teacher Professional Networks (TPNs) to complement and supplement the T4 in-service programme for teachers teaching the revised syllabi of Architectural Technology, Design and Communication Graphics and Engineering Technology and the new subject Technology at Leaving Certificate level.

Teachers attending the professional development in-service programme were provided with the opportunity to indicate their interest in attending NCTE ICT training in their own time. A significant demand was highlighted from teachers of technology subjects for –

(1) introductory courses in ICT skills (such as the modules under 3 above)

(2) professional development opportunities in the area of Parametric CAD in addition to those provided by T4

To address item 2) the NCTE worked with t4 and the Technology TPNs to design and deliver three new modules based on Parametric CAD.

Each module is 10 hours in duration and is delivered in the format of 4 X 2.5 hour evening sessions.

- Module 1 – is aimed at teachers with minimal ICT experience. It is a foundation course in the CAD software SolidWorks, which encompasses ICT fundamentals.
- Module 2 – explores the fundamentals of SolidWorks with teachers who have a working knowledge of ICT.
- Module 3 – develops the SolidWorks skills of teachers with a focus on editing and customisation.

As these modules were linked directly to the new curriculum and the T4 in-service programme, there was a high take-up of these modules with over 1,000 training places delivered via the education centre network in 2007.

5. INTO - DEVELOPING AN ELEARNING CULTURE IN YOUR SCHOOL (ONLINE COURSE)

As part of the INTO summer course programme for 2007, the above course was developed, which focuses on exploring and identifying online resources, using and creating digital content, and identifying software suitable for educational use. It also explores the potential of Interactive Whiteboards as an educational tool. The course is approximately 20 hours duration and is aimed at primary teachers with good ICT skills and a broadband internet connection.

6. KIDSMART EARLY LEARNING & LEARNING VILLAGE TRAINING PROGRAMME

The NCTE has collaborated with IBM on the KidSmart Early Learning Programme since 2000. The programme consists of the supply of specially designed KidSmart Young Explorer Early Learning computer centres for children aged 3-7 years to selected schools, the provision of teacher training, a website with support for parents and teachers and access for teachers to the Riverdeep Learning Village online communication and collaboration forum and repository.

One of the roles of the NCTE in this partnership involves providing teacher training opportunities to the participating schools. In 2007, a new teacher training programme was developed for primary schools participating in the KidSmart Early Learning Programme.

The aims of the course are:

- To enable the teacher to integrate ICT & KidSmart into Early Education
- To enable collaboration across the KidSmart Early Learning community using Riverdeep Learning Village
- To develop teaching strategies to maximise the benefit of KidSmart Early Learning programme in the classroom.

The 20 hour course provides advice, hands-on opportunities and strategies to enable teachers to successfully integrate the KidSmart Early Learning unit into their classroom. It can be broken down into shorter modules for delivery during term-time as an evening course.

An online version of the course was also piloted in the summer of 2007.

7. CREATING A SCHOOL WEBSITE USING WEBSITE X5

Following on from an NCTE Software Central **FIVE STEPS** Website project in 2006, which involved 25 schools using Website X5 software to create a school website and evaluating the benefits this software provided as a web development tool, all full-time Education Centres were provided with a site licence for the software by NCTE. The feedback from the project was very positive with participants reporting the ease of use and cost effectiveness of the software for school website development. As a result, many Education Centres ran courses in creating a school website in five easy steps during 2007 and they proved to be very popular.

Course Review

The NCTE reviews courses regularly to ensure they are up-to-date and relevant. In 2007, the following courses were reviewed and updated:

1. The Internet: A Teaching & Learning online course
2. Using ICT as a Teaching & Learning Resource
3. The Internet & Email for Learning course.

ICT Professional Development and Special Educational Needs

The NCTE continued to offer its suite of seven specialised courses for teachers of students with special educational needs. A total of 46 ICT & Special Needs courses and 12 ICT & Special Needs Support Groups were run in 2007 with 727 participants attending.

Tutor Professional Development

The recruitment of, and provision of professional development for, tutors is a key activity of the NCTE. The NCTE provides comprehensive training to tutors in all new courses and for major course updates. In 2007, the following tutor professional development activities took place:

- To coincide with the development of the new internet safety course, a tutor professional development programme was designed and delivered to 34 tutors over 4 days.
- In order to facilitate the online course The Internet: A Teaching & Learning

Resource, two tutor professional development workshops were held in Spring 2007 and prior to the Summer 2007 course. 21 tutors attended, which included 17 newly recruited tutors.

- 41 tutors participated in two tutor professional development training days for the newly developed Parametric CAD modules 1 and 2. This was jointly organised with the T4 support service team and the Technology Teacher Professional Networks.
- A three day teacher tutor training programme was developed for the FIS project. 18 FIS tutors attended this training in October 2007. The tutors were teachers who had attended FIS training locally and who were actively implementing the FIS methodology in their schools.
- In order to support the new Kidsmart Early Learning course, tutor professional development was delivered to 16 tutors.
- In collaboration with the INTO, 10 tutors received professional development to prepare them to facilitate the new Developing an eLearning Culture for your School online course.

The *Tutor News*, which is an NCTE newsletter for NCTE tutors, issued three times in 2007. The tutor section of the NCTE website was updated and maintained throughout 2007 to provide information and resources on individual courses, as well as general resources for tutors such as template PowerPoint presentations, tutoring tips, and digital video clips of ICT usage in classrooms.

Summer Courses

The NCTE continued to work with other educational partners to deliver an ICT summer course programme. There was a high uptake on summer courses attendance among primary teachers.

The NCTE and the INTO collaborated on two courses in 2007:

- 1) Using ICT as a Teaching & Learning Resource
 - 2) Developing an eLearning Culture in your School (see section 5 above)
- In July and August 2007, 400 primary teachers participated on these joint NCTE/INTO courses nationwide.

NCTE-funded summer courses also took place in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. The courses funded were:

- Interactive Whiteboards in the Primary Classroom (20 participants)
- Internet Resources for the Primary Classroom - online (100 participants).

Online Courses

The NCTE online course, *The Internet: A Teaching & Learning Resource*, ran in Spring, Summer and Autumn 2007, with a total of 495 teachers participating in the course. The course was also jointly promoted with Leadership Development for Schools (LDS) in Autumn 2007 and offered to the principals on the LDS programmes.

An online course registration system was designed and implemented for managing the bookings for the NCTE online courses.

Promotional Activity

The NCTE website provides comprehensive information on the full range of NCTE-funded ICT professional development courses available for teachers. It contains a complete list of the ICT courses available, as well as a detailed schedule of those offered each term in each of the education centres:

www.ncte.ie/ICTTraining/CourseSchedule/.

In addition, leaflets promoting NCTE courses were sent to every first and second level school in the country and to the network of education centres, in both the Spring and Autumn 2007 terms.

NCTE ICT professional development for teachers was also promoted through educational magazines such as InTouch and Astir.

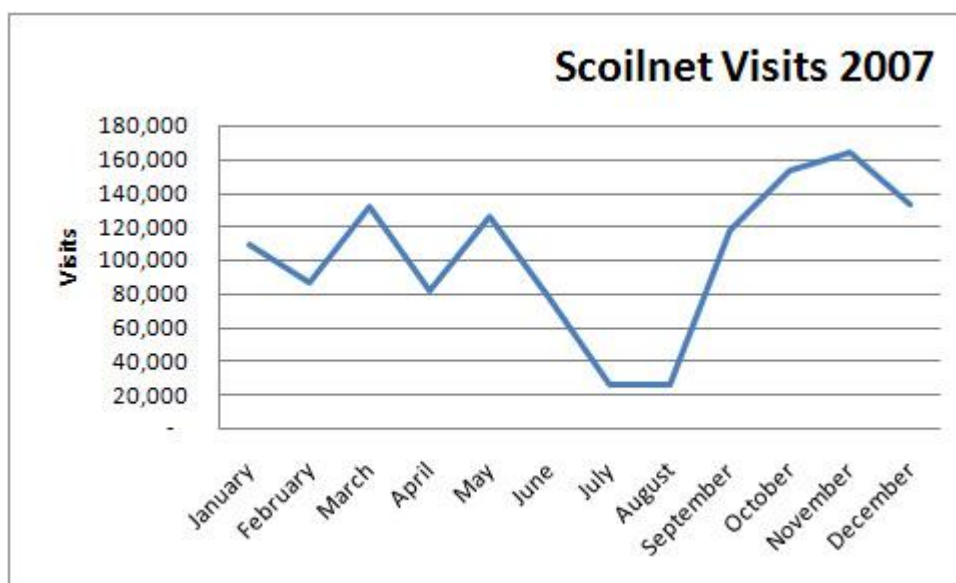
Presentations on the work of NCTE's CPD initiative for teachers were also made to the Subject Association Representative Group and to the National Centre for Guidance in Education.

In order to promote the collaboration with T4 and the Technology TPNs, a specific promotional leaflet for the new ICT Introductory modules and the Parametric CAD modules was designed and printed. These leaflets were distributed at the T4 in-service days, through the Education Centre network and also as part of the Technology TPNs membership mailings and conference programmes.

SCOILNET

The focus of the Scoilnet initiative is the promotion and use of online content and services for learning and teaching. At the core of the initiative is the development of the Scoilnet website (www.scoilnet.ie); the development and maintenance of the NCTE website; supporting the development of other professional development and curriculum support service websites; and supporting school websites.

Scoilnet, the portal for Irish education, recorded overall traffic of 1.27 million visits during the year - an increase of over 200,000 on the previous year. During these visits to the site over 11 million page views were accessed.



Subject Matter Experts

Scoilnet Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) find, review and categorise online resources according to the Irish curriculum. Ongoing training, support and advice are provided to the SMEs to ensure that the quality of content and reviews are of a high standard. A central element of the SMEs work involves the monitoring of existing resources to ensure they remain relevant.

In 2007 the 'team' approach, whereby a group of three or four SMEs work collaboratively on one subject area, was followed for the major subject areas. The subjects worked on were: English; Gaeilge; Maths; SESE History; SESE Geography; SESE Science; Drama for primary schools and Maths; Gaeilge; English; Geography; Religious Education; Science; Spanish; Economics, Business Studies for post-primary schools. This resulted in a substantial increase in the number of resources in these subject areas and a rise in the traffic to these subjects.

In total 30 teachers (18 post-primary; 13 primary) worked part-time and successfully completed 46 contracts as Subject Matter Experts. The number of reviewed resources within the Resource Finder increased by 2,354 to give a total of 9,947 by the year end.

Site Developments

Themepages, crosswords and quizzes were created by SMEs and continue to be among the most viewed pages on Scoilnet. A number of interactive “Image Explorers” were developed by SMEs for primary Gaeilge through a *Magic Studio (TM)* tool and further innovative learning objects are planned for 2008. Scoilnet's e-newsletter service was launched in January 2007 with three unique newsletters targeting primary teachers, post-primary teachers and post-primary students. Newsletters are sent fortnightly to over 700 subscribers and to all schools.

The Star Site section www.scoilnet.ie/schoolsonline provides recognition to school websites that are developed and display best practice. There were 43 school websites highlighted in the 'star sites' archive by the end of the year. Scoilnet was given editorial space in the *In Touch* magazine and used it to promote the most viewed resources accessed through the site, a chosen teacher's favourite sites and a school 'star site'. Over the year some 938 submissions to ‘contact us’ were answered or acted on.

Reference Materials

The NCTE undertook a procurement process to acquire access to online reference materials. Categories of content identified included encyclopaedias, dictionaries, thesauruses, atlases, media sources and other material supportive of the primary and post-primary curriculum. Content will be through text, graphical, audio and video format and will be available to schools online through the Schools Broadband Network.

Completed documentation for the Invitation to Tender was placed on eTenders in August. By the close of the Request for Tender period four consortium suppliers had submitted bids. Financial, technical and economic evaluations were completed and a full pedagogical evaluation was undertaken by a team of teachers before the end of the year. Recommendations were made to the Department of Education and Science in January 2008.

EU Metadata Project

The NCTE worked with 13 European ministries of education to develop metadata standards and WEB 2.0 systems for sharing educational content between teachers and learners across Europe. MELT (Metadata Ecology for Learning and Teaching) is a content-enrichment project built on existing technical architectures to form a network of content repositories so learners and teachers can easily carry out ‘federated searches’ to find content.

During 2007 the final metadata schema was agreed by the partners and was applied to all relevant Scoilnet resources. Metadata links for some 1,350 Scoilnet resources were put into the *Learning Resource Enclave* (LRE) and translated into Irish and Spanish.

A European review of the project to date was positive and in 2008 it is planned to connect the Scoilnet website to the metadata repository.

MALL – Mobile-Assisted Language Learning

MALL, a pilot project, investigating the use of ICT to enhance learning, teaching and assessment of oral Irish in post primary schools took place over a ten week period ending in May 2007. It was developed and managed by the National

Council for Curriculum and Assessment in partnership with the NCTE and a small advisory committee was convened comprising representatives from the NCTE, NCCA, State Exams Commission, Fóras na Gaeilge, Rathoath College and Learnosity.

Mobile phones, laptops, the Internet and a text based chat application were used with a total of 72 second year students and their three teachers in Rathoath College. The project centred on the use of mobile phones by students to make calls to an automated system and respond to prompts covering many topics within the Junior Cycle curriculum. Laptops were then used by teachers to download student responses in order to provide feedback based on the Junior Certificate marking scheme. Students were also sent vocabulary words and phrases through daily SMS by teachers and participated in supervised web-based conversations.

The project was evaluated internally by means of teacher and student questionnaires, teachers' reflective diaries and a cost analysis. Consequently, a Phase Two project proposal for 2008 was drawn up which will see the continuation of the project on a much larger scale, incorporating six schools and 400 students.

Virtual Learning Environment

The NCTE continued to use a customised Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) developed by Fronter. The primary purpose of the VLE software is to help teachers manage online educational courses.

The Leadership Development for Schools (LDS) initiative was the first initiative to be facilitated with access to the VLE and they continued to use the system, which was upgraded with increased functionality, for their professional development programme for school management. Some 3,000 school leaders work through the VLE while a further 400 use the Fronter environment for an NCTE online course and assorted activities.

Geography

The Geography Support website www.scoilnet.ie/geography was maintained as a reference point for the Geography in-service training delivered to Leaving Certificate teachers of the subject. Links to some in-service sessions were updated to enable teachers to make reference to online versions of PowerPoint and documents displayed during training sessions.

A further 169 resources were added to the Geography Resource Finder so that by the end of the year there were some 504 reviewed resources in the Geography Resource Finder. There were 9,066 visits recorded to the site (up from 5,012 the previous year).

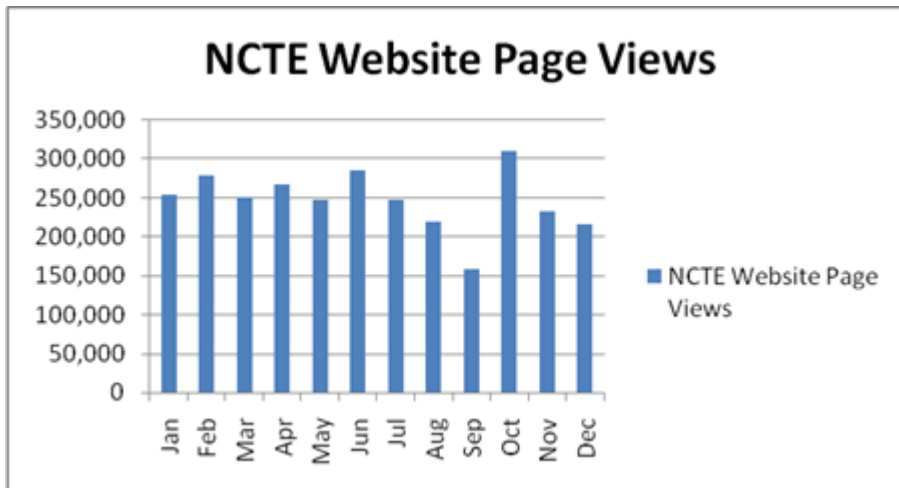
French

French.ie is a portal site created by and for French teachers in Ireland and is part of the broader Scoilnet portal. The steering committee has representatives from organisations involved in French language learning including NCCA, the Inspectorate, the French Teachers Association and the third level sector. Four SME contracts were completed during the year, adding a further 136 reviews (651 in total) of websites for use in classroom practice. Traffic to the site was consistent during term time with a total of 40,372 visits to the site recorded (up from 28,712 visits in 2006). The site forum is used by the community to discuss issues of relevance to the teaching of French. Some 14,819 views of 24 posts were made

during 2007. A poster to promote the site was designed in late 2007 for distribution in early 2008.

NCTE Website

The NCTE website provides comprehensive information, support and advice on ICT in education. A popular feature is the NCTE Newsletter which is sent monthly by email to more than 3,000 subscribers. The newsletter highlights NCTE activities and topical items regarding ICT in education. Back copies of NCTE Newsletters are available online at www.ncte.ie/news.



Note: These figures include automated traffic.

As part of a major upgrade, the NCTE successfully migrated its mail service to a new server in August 2007 and began planning for the migration of all hosted websites, along with a number of NCTE websites, to a new server in 2008. The new server greatly increases capacity for both email and web hosting. In 2007, the NCTE also replaced all 4 of its firewalls in order to improve and enhance the security of NCTE's servers and network infrastructure. The NCTE provides free webhosting and email for over 50 educational organisations in Ireland including some Education Centres, Subject Associations and DES initiatives.

INTERNET SAFETY

PROMOTING SAFER USE OF THE INTERNET - 

Callout 1: "Social Networking sites have led to an explosion of creativity, but young people also needed to be in control. Disclosing too much personal information can put young people at increased risks."

Minister for Education & Science
Mary Hanafin T.D.

Webwise.ie is the NCTE's Internet Safety initiative. It provides teachers, children and parents with educational resources, advice, and information about the potential risks of using the Internet. Through education programmes, teacher training, and awareness initiatives it empowers children and young people to be autonomous and responsible Internet users. Webwise carries out research into children's use of the Internet, monitors emerging trends, and seeks to reinforce the positive role of the Internet in education. Webwise is the Irish Internet Safety awareness node of Insafe, the European Safer Internet network. Through this network the NCTE, through Webwise, shares best practice, information, and resources with European partners.

Webwise 2007 Three-Point Campaign

Webwise developed a three-point Internet Safety Campaign for 2007 and aimed its awareness materials and resources at schools and teachers in order that its safety messages could be disseminated to children and young people and also to their parents.

Internet Safety and the Social Web

The first strand of the campaign culminated in the launch in February for European Safer Internet Day 2007 of the *Watchyourspace.ie* Campaign by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, T.D. The Watchyourspace.ie Internet Safety campaign is aimed at 10 – 16 year old children and teens and is to help teachers and schools to address the safety issues raised because of the advent of social networking and Web 2.0 user-generated social websites.



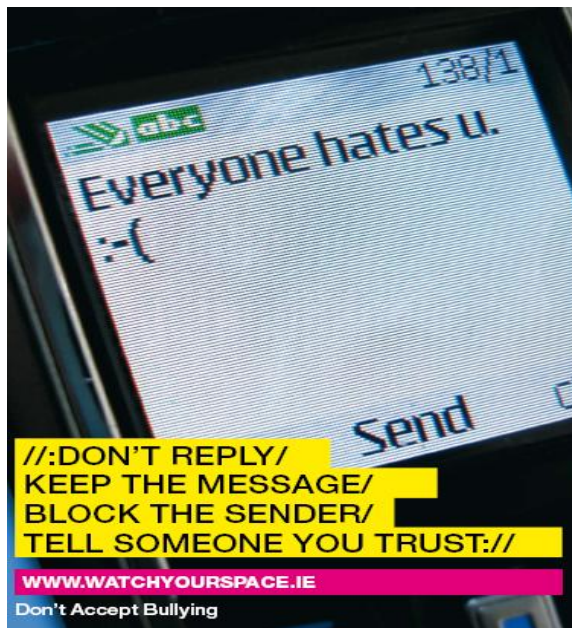
Minister Hanafin launched the teen advice and referral site www.watchyourspace.ie which links to the Childline helpline and website to help children and teens find help and support. Webwise also trained the Childline volunteers to help them respond to children and young people's queries and problems relating to their use of new technology and the Internet.



Education Minister Mary Hanafin, T.D. launches www.watchyourspace.ie

In March the Webwise *Internet Safety Education Pack* was distributed to every primary and post-primary school in the country. The Internet Safety Education Pack contained;

Webwise Information and Advice for Schools booklet,
 Webwise Survey (2006) of Children's Use of the Internet,
 Surfwise Classroom Resources,
 Webwise 10 Tips for Parents and the two [watchyourspace.ie](http://www.watchyourspace.ie) posters -
 TextBully and Post Once/Online Forever posters.



Callout 2: Watchyourspace posters selected as best awareness raising resource for teens. InSafe Network 2007.

The campaign received great media attention nationally and in September 2007 the direct and hard hitting *Watchyourspace* posters were selected as a best awareness raising resource for teens by the Safer Internet Network, InSafe, at its annual meeting.

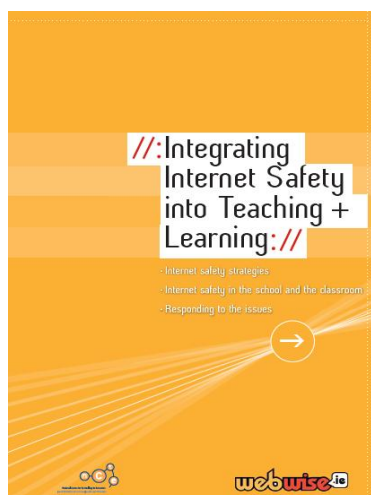


Webwise was chosen to represent the European Commission and its Safer Internet Project in Rio de Janeiro in November 2007 at the Internet Governance Forum with the *Watchyourspace* campaign representing an example of European Best Practice in Child Protection and Internet Safety awareness raising at the Global Forum.

Internet Safety in the Classroom

The second strand of the Webwise 2007 campaign was aimed at enabling primary and post-primary teachers to safely integrate the Internet into their teaching and learning programmes. Webwise devised and created *//Integrating Internet Safety into Teaching + Learning//* a teachers' Internet Safety course to assist teachers in protecting their students when using the new technologies.

Callout 3: "All teachers should be made aware of the content of this course."
Teacher – July 2007 course.



Callout 4: "Very useful and practical course, user-friendly activities as regards Acceptable Use policies." Teacher – July 2007 course.

The Continuing Professional Development course consists of training manual and resource book, *//Integrating Internet Safety into Teaching + Learning//* with a CD ROM and a supporting website: www.webwise.ie/LearningResources.



Primary and post-primary teacher-tutors in Athlone receiving training in the new Internet Safety Course, May 2007.

Callout 5: Encouraging parent and child to learn Internet Safety messages together.

Webwise Learning Resources

As part of the *//Integrating Internet Safety into Teaching + Learning//* resource collection Webwise worked throughout 2007 with the Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Support Groups to build lessons and classroom activities around the key Internet Safety messages of the Watchyourspace.ie Campaign. The lessons have been mapped to their curricula and were trialled and evaluated in classrooms in September and October 2007. The Junior Certificate Internet Safety module *//Be Safe_Be Webwise//* is available at www.webwise.ie/LearningResources, and will become part of the spring schedule of in-service training for SPHE teachers, post-primary, and launched on Safer Internet Day 2008.

The new Chatwise Interactive Lessons, launched in March 2007, deal with direct contact sites safety issues for children aged 7 – 11. To accompany the interactive lessons a series of classroom ready activities and offline work was created with take-home activities to encourage parent and child to discuss and learn Internet Safety messages together.

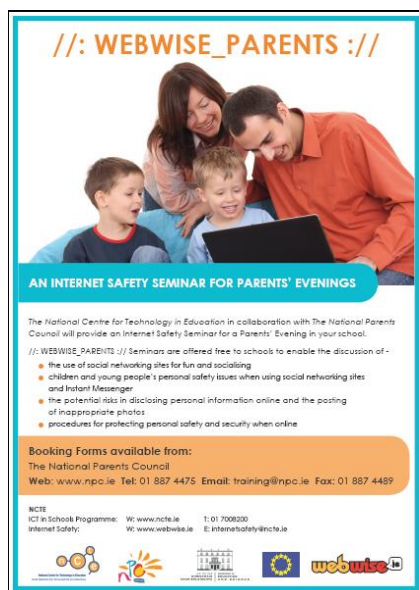


Internet Safety and Parents

For the third and final strand of its 2007 Internet Safety campaign Webwise worked closely with the National Parents' Council Primary to meet the needs of parents looking for information and support on Internet Safety issues.

//: Webwise_Parents :// seminars were launched in September 2007 and schools can book an Internet Safety Presentation by contacting the National Parents' Council Primary.

Callout 6: //:Webwise Parents:// an Internet Safety seminar for Parents' Evenings.



The Webwise Watch_Your_Space Survey 2007

The majority of Irish teenagers surveyed for the Watchyourspace 2007 Survey had a social networking site.

- 82% of teens surveyed used social networking sites
- 69% were accessing social networking sites more than three times a week.

The survey of 374 teenagers, administered at the Young Scientist Exhibition, examined how Irish teenagers are using social networking websites (SNWs).

Bebo is the most popular social networking site in Ireland for young people (72% reporting it as the SNW site they used most frequently) and it provides them with an exciting way to stay in touch with friends and to socialise.

Callout 7: 79% disclosed their full name
49% disclosed their date of birth.

The Watchyourspace 2007 Survey showed that the widespread use of these sites has radically changed how young Irish people are sharing personal information online. There is cause for concern that one in eight teenagers surveyed said that they displayed their mobile phone number on a social networking site.

Jerome Morrissey, Director of NCTE:

"The WATCH_YOUR_SPACE campaign demonstrates our commitment to raising awareness amongst young people of how to use these sites positively, creatively and safely. However, we are fighting the tide as websites continue to ask young children to enter their contact details, including mobile phone numbers, on registration forms. The time has come for owners of websites targeting children to accept their responsibilities and take action to protect their users."

Callout 8: 12% disclosed their mobile phone number
8% disclosed their home address.

Webwise believes in order to safeguard the young it is important for children and young people, their parents and teachers to understand, assess and manage risks, both on and off line. To compliment the Watchyourspace site for teens and the Webwise_Parents seminars for parents, Webwise created and introduced a social networking 2.5 hour workshop for teachers in December 2007. The hands-on practical workshops entitled Bebo – What's going on! Teachers' Workshop are suitable for primary and post primary teachers and are being delivered in each of the regional education centres.

Webwise in 2007 and Forward into 2008

Throughout 2007 Webwise created and developed continuing professional development programmes and courses, tools and resources to help ensure the safety of children and young people online. In recognition of its work in providing an integrated education programme for teachers, students and parents Webwise was invited by European Schoolnet to present at the Eminent Conference in Brussels on 6th December 2007.

Callout 9: 7th Eminent Conference, December 2007.

The 7th Eminent Conference (The Experts Meeting in Education Networking) with the theme of 'political priorities for education and the role of technology' brought together representatives from the Ministries of Education in Europe and ICT experts to discuss and promote initiatives that foster developments in education across Europe. The NCTE's Webwise initiative presented on its Internet Safety curriculum resources, in particular

//: Be SAFE_Be WEBWISE // its learning and teaching programme created in collaboration with SPHE (post-primary) and which will be launched in February 2008 for Safer Internet Day 2008. Webwise believes safeguarding children and young people as they use new technologies requires education aimed at their use and behaviour on the Internet. //: Be SAFE_Be WEBWISE// is designed to

address their personal safety needs when online and to help them make safer choices and become responsible Internet users for life.

The Webwise three-point Internet Safety Campaign for 2007 which aimed its awareness materials and resources at schools, teachers, children and parents proved to be most effective and successful. In 2008 Webwise will work to respond to emerging issues and create resources to help all concerned understand, assess and manage risks to help support schools, parents and of course children and young people themselves in ensuring their safety and protection online.

DIGITAL CONTENT

The Digital Content initiative focuses on developing, sourcing and providing access to digital resources that are relevant to the Irish curriculum. This is achieved through the evaluation of software and the production of digital resources for key areas of the curriculum in collaboration with partners such as Geography Support Service (GSS). Access to online digital content through the Schools Broadband Network has become a particular focus of the initiative in recent years, and in 2007 much progress was made in this respect.

Scoilnet Maps

In 2006 the NCTE agreed in principle with Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) to license a large range of their mapping data (maps and orthophotos) for use in second-level schools. Mapping is a core component of the Geography curricula at junior and senior cycle and the provision of regularly updated maps, orthophotos and digital terrain models was considered a basic tool for the teaching of mapping skills in the classroom. Furthermore, GIS is included in the recently revised Leaving Certificate Geography curriculum and the teaching and examination of this component will require geographical information data to be available to students in the near future.

In 2007, the project moved forward as the NCTE finalised terms with OSi and then undertook a public procurement process for the provision of an Online Maps Viewer in which the OSi data could be presented. Following the tender period, a six-member evaluation team came together in September 2007 to review the tenders received. The team members brought GIS, mapping, education, financial and infrastructural expertise to the evaluation process. A short-listing process took place in which 3 companies were invited to meet with the evaluation team and in November 2007 the contract for the implementation and support of an Online Maps Viewer was awarded to WebBased Ltd, a UK company specialising in the online delivery of OS data to first and second-level schools in the UK. Work on the building and development of the Scoilnet Maps website commenced swiftly in late 2007 with a working beta site in place by year end.

During the project scoping period, research indicated that the provision of mapping data to Geography teachers within schools was most welcome but that teachers would find it equally valuable to have access to the maps from home in order to facilitate lesson preparations, etc, out of school hours. This was an important criterion and NCTE was keen to implement it as part of the project roll-out. As OSi's mapping data has significant commercial value, NCTE was obliged to implement a secure login procedure for teachers wishing to access the website outside of the Schools Broadband Network. An LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) login system for teachers was devised and developed by HEAnet in collaboration with NCTE. Concurrently, during the autumn 2007 Geography In-Service, the Geography Support Service (GSS), briefed teachers about Scoilnet Maps and provided them with registration forms. More than 800 teachers chose to complete and return registration forms and feedback indicated that all warmly welcomed the provision of mapping data online. The NCTE's close working relationship with the GSS has been a critical success factor in the initial rollout of Scoilnet Maps. With the website due to go live early in 2008, the GSS 2008 In-Service will introduce and train teachers on its use in the context of supporting the revised Leaving Certificate Geography curriculum. The NCTE hopes to continue its

close collaboration with GSS throughout 2008 in the ongoing promotion and development of Scoilnet Maps.



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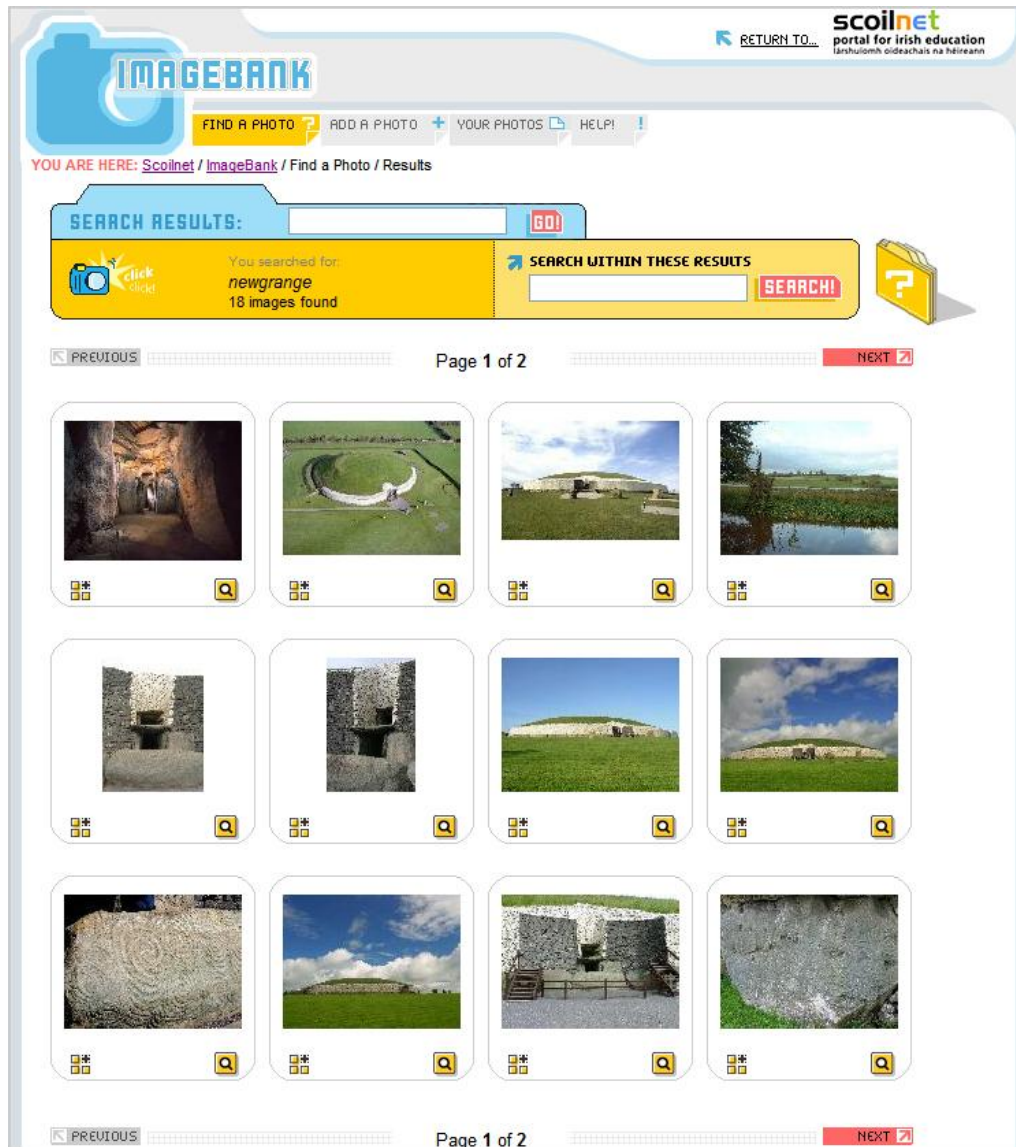
Imagebank

During 2007 work continued on the NCTE's photo library website, ImageBank. User testing with teachers was planned and undertaken in June and, following the findings of this research, the site went live in October. Produced as an in-house project, ImageBank contains over 1,400 reviewed and approved images and has been warmly received by teachers as it offers a safe, reliable means of sourcing images for use within the classroom.

ImageBank was developed as a direct result of feedback from teachers and other professionals in the education sector who raised concerns about the difficulties associated with sourcing and using images that support and are relevant to the Irish curriculum. ImageBank is fulfilling its remit of supporting teachers wishing to safely integrate ICT use in their classroom.

Copyright issues, and a lack of knowledge regarding same, have been largely

addressed within ImageBank through the use of Creative Commons licensing (www.creativecommons.org). Creative Commons licences encourage a cooperative and community-minded approach to the sharing of digital images and provide educational users with the opportunity to use resources appropriately and correctly. NCTE intends to continue to emphasise the user-generated content aspect of ImageBank as this is considered a key feature to the ongoing success and sustainability of the website.



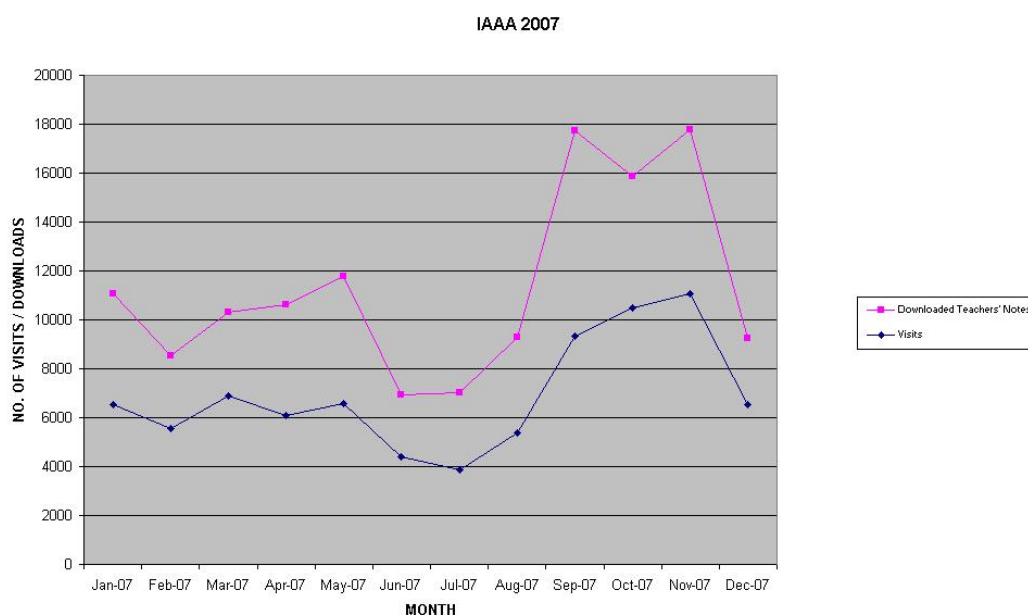
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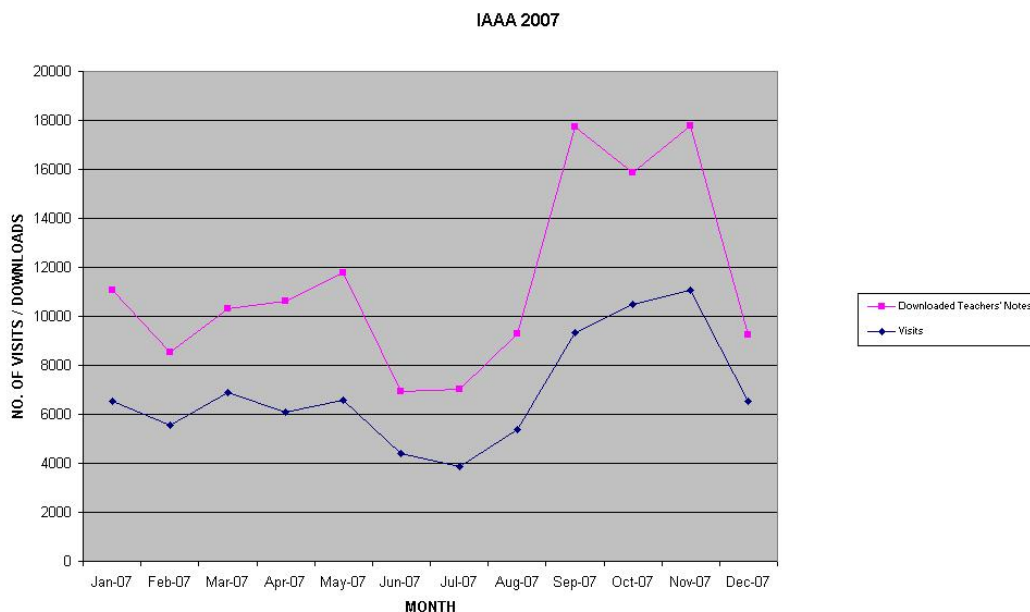
Since 2003, IMMERSE, the digital learning partnership between the NCTE and RTÉ, has led to the production and development of several curriculum-relevant digital resources. These have been in the format of both DVD and online materials and include:

- I Am An Artist (Primary Visual Arts) — www.iamanartist.ie
- Sci-Spy (Primary Science) — www.sci-spy.ie
- Science Unleashed (Junior Cycle Science) — www.scienceunleashed.ie

- Look at History through the RTÉ Archives (Senior Cycle History) — www.scoilnet.ie/lookathistory

In 2007, the Digital Content team continued to maintain and update the various websites associated with IMMERSE. Approximately 120 email queries and requests were received from users, mostly regarding the supply of DVDs or the sharing of artwork in the I Am An Artist gallery. Overall, traffic to the IMMERSE websites increased during the year. The I Am An Artist website, in particular, saw significant traffic growth with total website visits up from 64,742 in 2006 to 82,663, a 27% increase. In November 2007, the website reached an all time high of 11,081 site visits. The 43 curriculum-focussed Teachers' Notes available on the I Am An Artist website were downloaded 53,425 times during the year — more than double the 2006 levels. Given their popularity, these Teachers' Notes were translated into Gaeilge and made available on the website in December 2007 in order to support teachers in Gaelscoileanna. It is also noteworthy that 60% of the traffic to I Am An Artist came from the UK and USA indicating that the quality of the content on the website has merit and value across international educational communities. With regard to the other websites, traffic to Science Unleashed, the Junior Cycle science website, increased three-fold in 2007. The total no. of visits recorded exceeded 18,000 during the year up from 5,242 in 2006. The Sci-Spy and Look At History websites maintained their 2006 levels throughout 2007.





FÍS

FÍS (literally translated as 'Vision') is a project designed to introduce the medium of film as a support to the Primary School Curriculum (Curaclam na Bunscoile). A pilot project ran from March 2000 to March 2003 in 28 schools. Its success prompted a more extensive rollout of FÍS in 2005 to 50 schools, a further 25 schools in 2006 and a final 25 in 2007. The themes explored by the schools are firmly grounded in the primary curriculum and address all of the principles underpinning it.

The NCTE coordinated and delivered a structured programme of support and training through the education centre network for all teachers involved in FÍS in 2007.

At the close of the school year in June 2007, regional screenings of the films took place around the country, mostly in local cinemas, providing children and teachers with an opportunity to share and celebrate their work and the work of other schools involved in FÍS. The films range from topics on local history to hard hitting crime dramas.

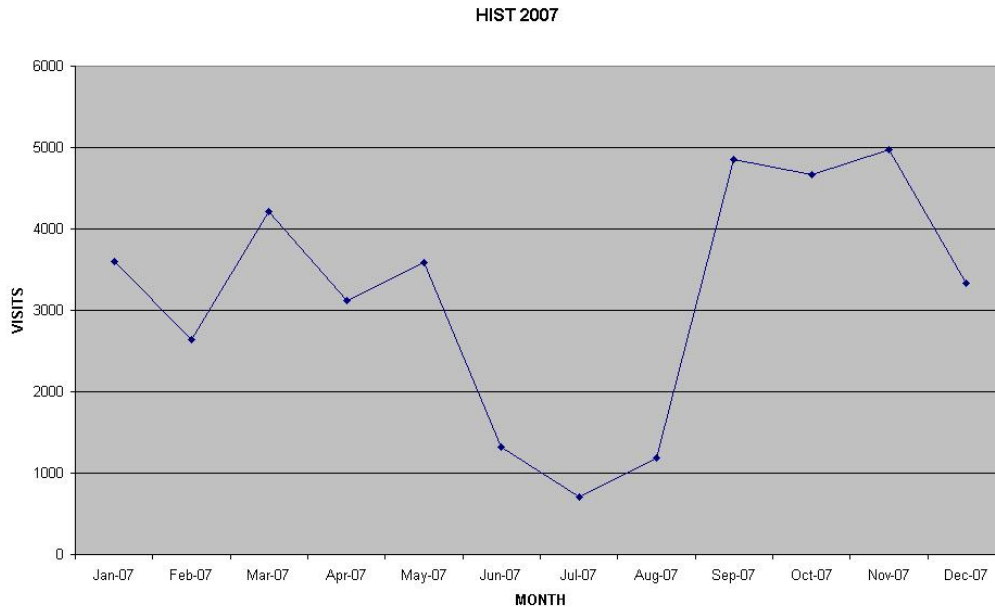
Some 25 films from the regional screenings were short-listed for the National FÍS Film Festival, which was held on the 25th October 2007 in The Helix, Dublin City University with special guest Evanna Lynch star of the Harry Potter films.

The NCTE will continue to coordinate and deliver the expansion of the FÍS project in 2008.

History In-Service Website

The NCTE's collaboration with the History In-Service Support Team continued through 2007 primarily through the management and support of their website www.scoilnet.ie/hist. The website is a key focal point for teachers undertaking in-service and the part-time site manager (appointed in 2005) continued his work maintaining and updating content on the site as required. Website traffic statistics for 2007 grew by 44%, reflecting the value and importance of the resources and

content contained within it. A total of 38,199 site visits were recorded for the entire year with a monthly peak of 4,976 in November 2007. Furthermore, the number of downloaded PDF documents increased 6% over the year to reach a total of 51,254, reinforcing the high level of interaction that site visitors have with the content.



Irish Times Digital Archive From 1859 – 2007

The NCTE has been working with the Library Council and the Irish Times on the digitization of the Irish Times archive since 2006. The work was completed in 2007 and the archive was officially launched on the 8th October 2007 and made available to all schools through the schools broadband network. It will be a very valuable resource for many areas of the curriculum, in particular history.

IRISHTIMES.com

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TITANIC SUNK.

DISASTER TO LINER ON

MAIDEN VOYAGE.

STRUCK AN ICEBERG.

The mammoth White Star Liner Titanic, ac-

knowledged as the largest and most com-

plete passenger vessel in the world, when

she left Queenstown on her maiden voyage

last Thursday, has sunk off Cape Race,

after a collision with an iceberg.

Details of the accident are very meagre, and

have all come to hand by wireless tele-

graphy. The Leviathan struck the ice on

Sunday night, and at once sent out her

calls for assistance. These were answered

by the Allan steamers Virginian and

Perisian, her sister ship Olympic, the

Baltic, and the Cunarder Carpathia. The

Titanic was so seriously damaged that the

passengers—over 1,470 in number—were

at once transferred to the Perisian and the

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The following telegram, receiv-

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the Carpathia are nearly

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THE IRISH TIMES

Tuesday, April 16, 1912

« Pages 7 of 12 »

April 1912

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Software Central

Building on the redevelopment of Software Central in 2006, the focus of the work in 2007 was in populating the various aspects of the site. Additional Shareware and freeware programs were added to guide teachers on the many software applications which could be downloaded free from the web. ***The Software Use in School*** featured six schools covering primary and post-primary giving practical advice on different types of software in use in their schools. Formal evaluations were carried out on 15 software titles covering Special Needs, Primary and Business and Languages in post primary.

39



The NCTE worked on a pilot project with schools using web development software, WebsiteX5. The aim of this project was to create a school website using the WebsiteX5 software and to evaluate its benefits as a web development tool for teachers and students. The emphasis was on the planning process and the content of a school website. The Education Centres received copies of this software to facilitate professional development workshops using this software. The success of this project can be seen in the increase in the number of websites going online particularly with primary schools and many of these are featured on Software Central.

Research continued on sourcing and identifying software for evaluation focusing on post primary and software for use in professional development activities.

Software Central has also dealt with an increased number of queries and advice from teachers on a wide range of topics relating to software use in schools.

The NCTE continued to negotiate and advise on licensing structures and pricing for educational software products in Irish schools. This year NCTE have worked with Microsoft in disseminating information to schools in relation to their Partners in Learning (PIL) Agreement and creating documents to clarify the Microsoft School Licensing process for Software Central. The NCTE was also involved in advising and guiding t4 - Technology Subjects Support Service on software licensing issues.

ICT IN THE CLASSROOM

The NCTE is involved in the design and delivery of a number of innovative projects which focus on the integration of ICT in the classroom and involve partnerships with the education and/or business communities. The case studies and evaluations produced from these innovative projects push the boundaries of ICT practice in schools forward, and encourage and enlighten other teachers to integrate ICT in their daily work.

Digital Schools Award

The Digital Schools Award initiative recognises excellence in a school's approach to the integration of ICT in learning and teaching. The award scheme is unique in that it has the full support, not only of NCTE, but also of Computer Education Society of Ireland (CESI), Irish National Teachers Organisation (INTO), Irish Primary Principals' Network and National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), all of who contributed to its design and development.

The award scheme was launched by the Minister for Education & Science, Mary Hanafin T.D., in 2006 and some 51 primary schools from around the country participated in the first pilot phase of the initiative.

The criteria for securing a Digital School Award is clearly set out on the website, www.digitalschools.ie, and provide schools with a focused set of targets including an online self-evaluation tool. Validators have been appointed and trained by the NCTE to carry out the validation of a school for a Digital Award to ensure that the school satisfies the criteria. The NCTE is leading this project and is advised through a steering committee with representation from the partners involved.

A total of 30 schools had received the award in the pilot phase and subsequently 9 more schools received the award before the end of December 2007.

Twenty-five schools agreed to participate in the NCCA ICT Framework project in 2007, which was undertaken to support schools and teachers in using ICT as a tool for learning and teaching across the curriculum. The NCTE coordinated the participation of the Digital Schools in this project which involved the development of materials showcasing examples of good practice with ICT in the curriculum.

Other work in the Digital Schools initiative included the upgrading of the Digital Schools website and the streamlining of the application process of becoming a digital school. The Digital Schools Award becomes available to all schools in January 2008.

IBM Kidsmart Early Learning

The IBM KidSmart Early Learning Programme is a worldwide programme focusing on disadvantage and special needs in early childhood education. In Ireland, it includes the donation by IBM of computer-based learning centres suitable for use in early childhood education, together with selected Riverdeep educational

software titles. The learning centres are specially designed for children from ages three to seven.

IBM extended its commitment to KidSmart by agreeing to fund 78 units for schools in 2007 and a further 78 units in 2008, bringing its total stated investment in this programme to over €1 million. Some 554 units are now in use in more than 250 schools.

IBM also agreed to provide an access licence to the Riverdeep Learning Village online communications and collaboration platform to every teacher participating in the KidSmart Early Learning Programme.

One of the roles of the NCTE in this partnership involves providing teacher training opportunities to the participating schools. In 2007, a new teacher training programme was developed for primary schools participating in the KidSmart Early Learning Programme. This involved a tutor training programme and the development of training materials for teachers to enhance the support network for KidSmart teachers.

Riverdeep Learning Village

Since 1998 NCTE has also worked in partnership with IBM Ireland in the Wired for Learning project to introduce communication and collaboration technologies to develop the use of ICT for the entire school community. This was used by 20 primary and post-primary schools in Dublin, Cork and Louth. In 2006, Wired for Learning was transferred in a partnership deal between IBM and Riverdeep.

The programme, now known as Riverdeep Learning Village, was extended in 2006 to incorporate schools already in the IBM KidSmart Early Learning Programme and those coming into it. An additional 450 licences were issued to KidSmart Early Learning participants.

Riverdeep Learning Village Ireland is an instructional portal, a single access point for communication, collaboration, teaching and professional development. It was customised in 2006 to reflect an Irish educational context and the language and layout of the primary school curriculum.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) and ICT

ICT initiative ensures that Special Education Needs are included in the main activities and initiatives of the NCTE. It is an initiative that crosses all other initiative activity at NCTE where it seeks to bring a focus to special educational needs learning and teaching for students and their teachers. In addition, the ICT and SEN initiative engages in additional activities and projects focused primarily on the specific needs of students and teachers in special needs education. The SEN and ICT initiative works to develop resources and supports relating to special needs education. The management of specific projects on the use of ICT in special needs education is also included within this initiative.

In 2007 the Scoilnet resources for students with special educational needs and their teachers has grown substantially with over 50 new quality resources on various topics added.

The SEN and ICT initiative has worked to create links with other agencies and organisations involved in the special educational needs such as The National Council for the Blind in Ireland (NCBI), the Special Education Support Service (SESS), Irish Association of Teachers in Special Education (IATSE), Irish Learning Support Association (ILSA), National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) and National Disability Authority (NDA), to provide a more coherent service as regards ICT and special needs. This resulted in the provision of resources, and the updating of information and links on the NCTE and on other websites.

As a follow on from the launch the Engaging Learners Book and DVD and the companion website www.laptopsinitiative.ie, the book and DVD were distributed to all primary schools in the country.

The ICT and Special Needs initiative provided articles and made presentations at the CESI, ISLA and IATSE conferences.

Advice sheets have been compiled and updated relating to a number of disabilities such as ADHD, ASD, ODD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Assistive Technology, and matching students with technology.

Literacy and ICT

The Literacy and ICT Project, which commenced in 2005, aims to explore how targeted intervention using ICT can support literacy in classrooms. The project provides coordinated support for schools using the joint expertise and collaboration of a number of agencies — the NCTE, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and the Primary Curriculum Support Programme (PCSP). The project is developmental and action-enquiry based. Teachers try out models of practice and materials based on identified needs and priorities in literacy. They then record their experiences and successes in exploring the use of ICT to support these needs.

During 2007, the project coordinator, the PCSP and the local ICT Advisor worked with each of the schools in further exploring and identifying the literacy needs among their children and in matching the technology with the learning needs. Teachers attended workshops in local education centres on how best to use the technology provided to them through the project. These workshops were followed up with school visits by the project coordinator and the PCSP team. During the year, the teachers were seen to be more imaginative and effective in using a wide variety of technologies to match the curriculum needs. A two-day dissemination event was held in June 2007 in Monaghan where teachers from each of the schools presented their work to date on the project, exchanged ideas and planned ahead for the next academic year. It was also an opportunity for the evaluation team to attend and hear first hand about the initiatives taking place in each school.

Four of the schools developed websites during the year. Others started to use other new technologies to enhance literacy in their schools such as animation and adopting the FÍS methodologies in their classrooms.

The project expanded within the existing schools as other staff members adopted

the methodologies and approaches of the original project teachers, thus further embedding a culture of integrated ICT activity within those schools. They were also able to draw on the experiences of their colleagues within their own schools for advice and assistance as well as the advice received from the other support agencies.

Empowering Minds

The *Empowering Minds* project is a developmental project which began as a major project of the NCTE's Schools Integration Project (SIP). It is based on a new approach to activity-based learning. Using mainly LEGO Mindstorms materials, children construct models which can be programmed to behave in certain ways, reacting to their environment and moving in different directions by acting on readings taken from the light, from touch and from temperature sensors. New materials now include sound and distance sensors which provide further scope for exploration.

The project is coordinated by the NCTE and a project Steering Committee, comprising of teachers and a representative from St. Patrick's Teacher Training College, provides ongoing direction for the project.

An Empowering Minds National Forum took place in March 2007. Presentations were made by a variety of teachers from different school types describing their own projects and their engagement with the Empowering Minds group.

NCTE and Discover Science and Engineering (DSE) agreed to co-fund the development of the project in an additional 10 schools in the Cork region which had received an Award of Science Excellence from DSE. Following the selection process in late 2006, these schools received funding for materials and equipment. Initial workshops took place in Cork for the teachers from the selected schools in early 2007 and support was provided by the Project Coordinator throughout the year.

The NCTE funded and organised the 9th Annual Roboshow in St. Patrick's College in May 2007. The Roboshow is an opportunity for children from 7 to 13 years of age to display imaginative projects. Some 15 schools, with more than 400 primary school pupils, and their teachers attended. 8 schools from Dublin, 3 schools from Kilkenny and 1 each from Sligo, Kildare, Laois and Tipperary, exhibited their work.

Examples of Projects exhibited at Roboshow 2007 included:

Tir na nÓg

The Industrial Revolution;

The Port Tunnel & Casino in Marino

LEGO Ploughing Championships

The Bridges of Dublin

Creations of Leonardo da Vinci

Don Quixote – with modern applications of wind power and sustainable energy

The Witches of Slievenamon with accompanying film.

Discover Sensors

Throughout 2007, the NCTE continued to work closely with Discover Science and Engineering and the other project partners, the Junior Science Support Service (JSSS) and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), on the Discover Sensors project. The project supports and explores the use of sensor technology, in particular, the use of data logging in the Junior Certificate Science curriculum.

The NCTE is a member of the project Steering Committee and provides funding to the project for the teacher training component.

During 2007, the NCTE provided funding for teacher in-service training in spring 2007 and following the expansion of the project to new schools involved in the project in autumn 2007. The NCTE provided funding for substitution cover, tutor fees, participant travel and subsistence, venue, catering and administrative costs.

A second round of six workshops was held in spring 2007 for the pilot participants. 30 schools attended this second round of workshops.

A decision was made by Discover Science & Engineering to expand the project in the second year 2007/2008, and 19 education centres were involved in the hosting of 22 training days for 143 schools in September, October and November 2007. Support groups were also held in the autumn as a follow-up to the in-service training days. In total, 427 training places were provided at Discover Sensors in-service training days and supplementary support groups in 2007.

The NCTE also co-funded the travel and subsistence costs of the attendance of 20 teachers at a Discover Sensors tutor training programme which was held over 3 days in Killarney in summer 2007.

Connect School Project

Connect School is an interagency initiative in operation since May 2006. The Connect school, St. Aidan's Community school in Brookfield, Tallaght, has been working with South Dublin County Council, the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, and the Department of Education and Science and its associated bodies, particularly the National Centre for Technology in Education, the Dublin West Education Centre and the South Dublin County Regional Office to develop student centred technology through an innovative learning culture for students in this post-primary school.

The anticipated outcomes of the project are:

- Higher school attendance rates
- Improved engagement in the classroom
- Better educational outcomes for students
- Student Centred Technology and Learning / Teaching methodologies developed

- Increased awareness and application of Information and Communication Technologies

The NCTE is a member of the Connect School Steering Committee which meets regularly throughout the year. The NCTE also funds the project through the provision of funding for the teacher professional development which is provided via the Dublin West Education Centre.

The NCTE is also a member of the Connect School Evaluation Advisory Group. The remit of this group is:

1. To oversee the tender process for the establishment of an Evaluation Framework, including short-listing
2. To advise on the evaluation outputs, criteria etc.
3. To oversee the Evaluation process including reviewing all reports

The NCTE was involved in the drafting of a tender notice which is expected to be published in 2008. The objectives of the planned evaluation are to assess the effectiveness of the project in achieving its stated goals and the outcomes to date, and to make recommendations to inform the future planning of the project and other ICT in Education Initiatives.

Liberties Learning Initiative

The Schools Programme of the Liberties Learning Initiative seeks to develop a range of programmes to address the digital divide in primary and second level schools located close to the Digital Hub, a government initiative in Dublin's inner city. The objective of the Schools Programme is to assist disadvantaged schools in the area to equip their students with the skills needed to live in a digital age.

The NCTE supported the Diageo Liberties Learning Initiative in 2007 by funding a fulltime project co-ordinator, a programme of teacher professional development, substitution cover for teachers to attend ICT training workshops and Missonmaker software for the schools involved in the project.

NCTE advised on the delivery of a programme of professional development which included Principals' workshops on ICT, workshops for teachers on using Photostory software, podcasting, clay animation and Web 2.0. A total of 121 primary and post-primary teachers attended teacher training and 150 participants attended a schools showcase event.

THE ICT ADVISORY SERVICE

The NCTE funds, supports and coordinates a regional ICT Advisory Service for schools. This is delivered in conjunction with the regional network of 21 full-time education centres. The education centre's role is to manage and support the delivery of the NCTE's ICT implementation plan at local level and to assist in meeting the operational objectives of the NCTE. This includes the provision, by education centres, of a range of ICT CPD opportunities in the centres and in the local schools as required. This service is primarily provided by ICT advisors and ICT administrators in the centres. Both the ICT advisor and administrator are directly managed by the education centre.

ICT advisors are employed and directly managed by their education centre. In 2007, ICT advisors were based in 19 education centres throughout the country and their role was to provide advice and support to schools in their education centre region and to promote the ongoing, integrated use of ICT by teachers and students.

School Visits

A central part of the ICT advisors' work is visiting schools to advise on ICT-related issues and to promote ICT integration by teachers. In 2007 a total of 1,645 school visits were made, 74% to primary schools, 22% to post-primary schools and 4% to Special Needs Schools. Broadband and technical issues constituted 18% of the school visit requests followed by 16% support for local school innovative projects.

School visits generally included Internet safety issues, the promotion of upcoming ICT courses for teachers, a technical component and school ICT planning matters. Apart from school visits, requests for assistance received by ICT Advisors were handled by phone and email.

ICT ADVISORS' SCHOOL VISIT STATISTICS 2007

Based on data from 19 ICT Advisory regions

| No. of Education Centres | Total no. of school visits | Primary Schools Total | Post-Primary Schools Total | SEN Schools |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 21 | 1645 | 1,217 | 370 | 58 |

| Total No. of School Visits per month in 2007 | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| January | 143 | 9% |
| February | 153 | 9% |
| March | 182 | 11% |
| April | 123 | 7% |

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| May | 208 | 13% |
| June | 151 | 9% |
| July | 56 | 3% |
| August | 25 | 2% |
| September | 158 | 10% |
| October | 173 | 11% |
| November | 171 | 10% |
| December | 102 | 6% |
| Total | 1,645 | 100% |

| Breakdown of Total Number of school visits by main purpose | No. | % |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| Broadband/Census/technical support/computer networking grants and building school networks | 291 | 18% |
| Support for local school innovative projects e.g. FIS, dissolving boundaries, Kidsmart, Laptops initiative etc. | 274 | 16% |
| Teacher training and professional development, including whole school training | 210 | 12% |
| School ICT planning | 128 | 8% |
| Advice on ICT hardware purchase | 143 | 8% |
| School website design and development | 114 | 7% |
| Advice on integrating ICT in the classroom/curriculum | 115 | 7% |
| Sourcing, utilisation, demonstration, purchase and licensing of Software | 86 | 5% |
| Scoilnet and educational websites | 66 | 4% |
| Internet safety/AUP | 59 | 4% |
| Advice on Special needs and ICT | 58 | 4% |
| Use of Digital media | 59 | 4% |
| Other | 42 | 3% |
| Total | 1,645 | 100% |

FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

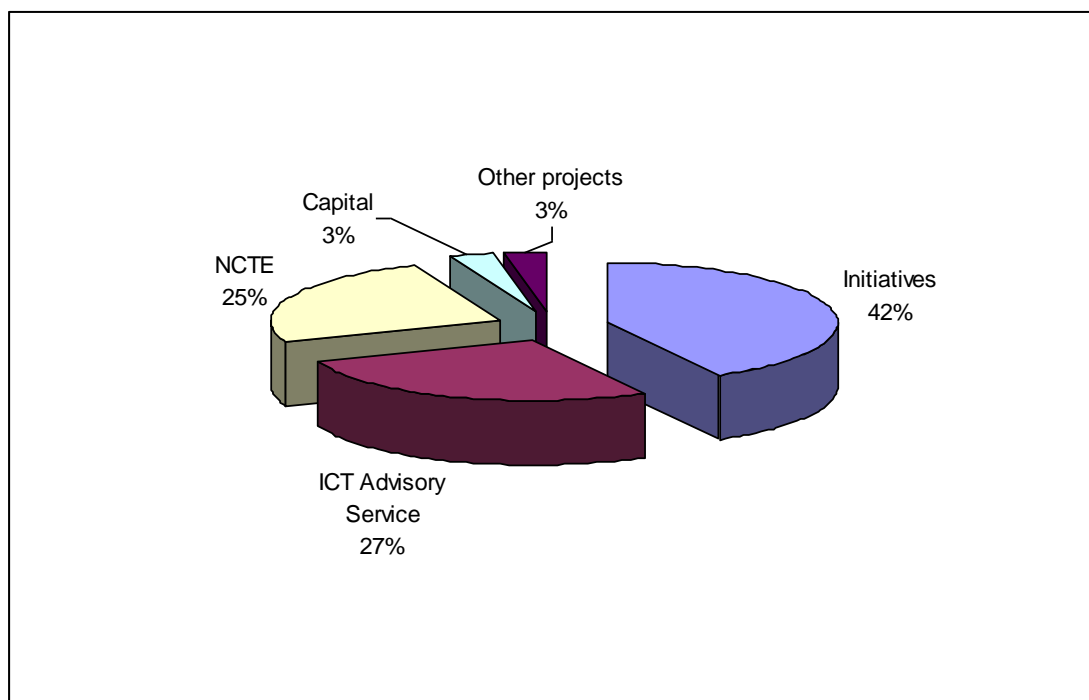
The NCTE's core services are fully funded by the Department of Education & Science (DES). Dublin City University provides NCTE with financial services and includes the NCTE's income and expenditure in the financial statements of university.

A total of €8,060,646.00 was received in 2007 from DES in current and capital funding in order to fund the various initiatives of the ICT in Schools programme, the Advisory Service and the pay and non-pay costs for NCTE (centre costs). In addition the NCTE also received income/reimbursements of €243,128.27 from other sources (including European Union funding for projects).

A summary of total income/reimbursements is as follows:

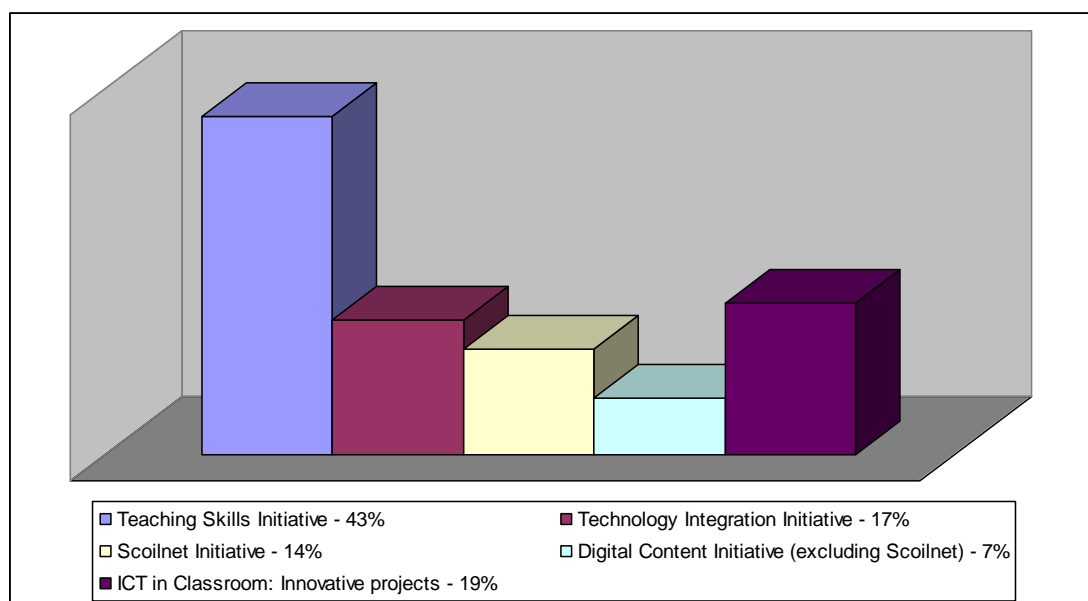
| NCTE INCOME/ REIMBURSEMENTS | Current €'000 | Capital €'000 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Income from DES | 7,800 | 261 |
| Other income/reimbursements | 237 | 6 |
| Total | 8,061 | 267 |

The total expenditure in 2007 was €8,224,965.07. The pie chart shows the structure of expenditure between the main categories:



The major part of the expenditure went on the programme's initiatives which have been detailed in the preceding pages of this report. The breakdown of the expenditure on these initiatives is also provided below:

| BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE ON ICT IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVES | €' 000 |
|---|---------------|
| Teaching Skills Initiative | 1,485 |
| Technology Integration Initiative | 593 |
| Scoilnet Initiative | 465 |
| Digital Content Initiative (excluding Scoilnet) | 249 |
| ICT in Classroom: Innovative projects | 668 |
| Total | 3,460 |



*Special Education Needs and ICT Initiative expenditure is included in that of the other initiatives.
This report is prepared on the basis of Cash Accounting principles.*

APPENDIX

NCTE Publications and Evaluations 2007

NCTE Website: Broadband Information

Provided information and advice to schools on the Schools Broadband Programme
www.ncte.ie/broadband

New NCTE Course Materials 2007

Integrating Internet Safety into Teaching & Learning - Training Manual with accompanying CD, May 2007

Parametric CAD Module 1 and 2 – Training manual and exercises, October 2007

Creating Presentations & Worksheets Using ICT, training folder insert, April 2007

Introduction to Digital Media, training folder insert, April 2007

Introduction to Internet & Email, training folder insert, April 2007

Introduction to PCs and File Management, training folder insert, April 2007

Webwise

Webwise worked with and advised The Internet Advisory Board and The Department of Justice in its creation of a new social networking advice booklet for parents: *Get with IT- Advice on social networking*. The 3 booklets in the series were distributed to parents who attend the Parents' Internet Safety Presentations which Webwise created and organised in collaboration with The National Parents Council (NPC) of Ireland.

Scoilnet Newsletter

Electronic newsletter produced weekly and distributed to subscribers and schools.

Tutor Newsletter

Electronic newsletter produced each school term for almost 400 tutors.

NCTE Articles 2007

InTouch magazine articles by Anne White, National Coordinator, Digital Content

Out & About with ICT - June 2007

Practical uses for ICT in mathematics – June 2007

New Beginnings – Develop your School Website – September 2007

Working with Digital Images – October 2007

Tá an Nollaig ag teacht – December 2007

InTouch magazine article by Simon Grehan, Project Officer, Internet Safety

Teaching Internet Safety – December 2007

NCTE Presentations 2007

NCTE staff members participated actively in a range of dissemination activities, including presentations to representative groups, conferences and other agencies. A number of presentations on ICT were also made to visiting delegations to Ireland at the request of the Department of Education and Science. The following is a summary of presentations given in 2007.

CPD initiative

Presentation by Denise Brennan, Acting National Coordinator, Continuing Professional Development to the National Centre for Guidance in Education training committee, NCGE offices, Dublin - September 2007

NCTE overview

Presentation to Google, Dublin offices, by Jerome Morrissey, Director of NCTE, Anne White, National Coordinator, Digital Content, Mike O'Byrne, National Coordinator, Scoilnet, Tom Lonergan, National Coordinator, Technology Integration Initiative and Denise Brennan, Acting National Coordinator, CPD, November 2007.

NCTE overview

Presentation by Mike O'Byrne, National Coordinator, Scoilnet, to the Subject Association Representative Group (SARG) Executive, November 2007.

Scoilnet Email

Presentation by Tom Lonergan, National Coordinator, Technology Integration Initiative to the CESI Conference, Coláiste de h-Íde, Tallaght, Dublin – February 2007

Presentation by Anne White, National Coordinator, Digital Content to Malaysian visiting group in DES - April 2007

Presentation by Jerome Morrissey, Director, NCTE, to UNESCO/UNICEF, at a conference in Buenos Aires, South America – May 2007

Presentation by Jerome Morrissey, Director, NCTE & Anne White, National Coordinator, Digital Content to Science Inspectors in Kilkenny - June 2007

Presentation on Digital schools in Tipperary, by Neil O'Sullivan, Project Officer, Special Needs & Digital Schools, June 2007

Presentation by Jerome Morrissey, Director, NCTE, at the Teaching Council national conference, on the integration of ICT in learning and teaching – October 2007

Presentation at INTO tutor seminar by Mike O'Byrne, National Coordinator, Scoilnet, & Anne White, National Coordinator, Digital Content, November 2007

Presentations to the Ministers strategy group –
5/03/07 Tom Lonergan, National Coordinator, NCTE
28/03/07 Anne White & Mike O'Byrne, National Coordinators, NCTE
12/04/07 Anne White & Tom Lonergan, National Coordinators, NCTE

The two Webwise Project Officers Simon Grehan and/or Gráinne Walsh presented and participated at the following events:

- An exhibition stand at the Young Social Innovators - May 2007
- Internet Safety presentation to Home Liaison Co-ordinators, Dublin Cluster - October 2007
- The Rio de Janeiro 'Internet Governance Forum', on behalf of the European Commission – November 2007
- Webwise jointly presented with SPHE, at the Eminent Conference, outlining why eSafety should be part of the school curriculum and how we had worked to achieve this goal – December 2007
- Insafe meeting in Brussels – December 2007
- RTE's Afternoon Show – December 2007

NCTE External Representation 2007

As the DES agency for ICT in Education, the NCTE is represented on and contributes to the following bodies, networks and forums.

Schools Broadband Steering Group
Schools Broadband Working Group
Connect School Steering Committee
Connect School Evaluation Steering Committee
Discover Sensors Project Steering Committee
Dublin Inner City Schools Computerisation (DISC) Management Committee
CSPE – ERAP project Steering Committee
INTEL Teach Advanced Online project team

NCTE Courses 2007

Online Courses

The Internet – A Teaching & Learning Resource
Developing an eLearning Culture in your School (with INTO)

Introductory ICT Courses

ICT Introductory Course for Primary Teachers
Using ICT as a Teaching & Learning Resource
ICT Introductory Course for Post Primary Teachers
Creating Presentations & Worksheets Using ICT
Introduction to Digital Media
Introduction to Internet & Email
Introduction to PCs and File Management

Technical Courses

Solving Basic Computer & Software Problems
Computer Networking – Basic & Client-Server

Digital Media & New Technology

Introduction to Digital Media
Digital Video for Education
Empowering Minds – using Programmable Bricks

Internet & Web Design

Internet & Email for Learning
Website Design & Development for Learning
Creating a School Website Using Website X5
Advanced Web Authoring for Learning
Integrating Internet Safety into Teaching & Learning
Bebo: What's Going On?

General

Intel Teach to the Future 1
Intel Teach to the Future II

ICT & Special Needs

ICT & Special Needs : The Basics
ICT & Special Needs : Learning Support
ICT & Special Needs : Mild
ICT & Special Needs : Moderate/Severe/Profound
ICT & Special Needs : Deaf/Hard of Hearing
ICT & Special Needs : Visual Impairments
ICT & Special Needs : Autistic Spectrum Disorders

Subject-Related

ICT & Geography
Using Handheld Technology in the Teaching of Mathematics
ICT & Geography 2: Interactive Maps and Photographs
ICT & History
Parametric CAD Module 1
Parametric CAD Module 2

Project-Related

Kidsmart Early Learning programme