MAGELLAN
from CSE

Being trained in new technology and digital skills is uniquely motivational for school leadership teams but teaching staff are at risk of being overtaken by their pupils in digital skills, according to new research commissioned by Computer Systems in Education (CSE) the makers of Magellan.

- **59% of teachers would be motivated by being given training on how to use cloud computing to increase student engagement.**

- **25% of teachers feel the children or students they teach are more adept at accessing online resources and devices than they are.**

- **49% imagine that the majority of the students and children they teach have better laptops, tablets or smart phones than the school has.**

- **47% of teachers say they would appreciate more training on digital skills.**

- **33% say they would use the internet in their teaching more but lack the equipment to give each child fair access.**

The majority of teaching staff, 59 per cent, would be motivated by being given training on how to use cloud computing to increase student engagement, rising to 63 per cent of all deputy heads and 78 per cent of all head teachers.

Figures are even higher for training which would help save time on the many administrative tasks that are a routine part of teachers lives, where 64 per cent of all teachers, 75 per cent of deputy heads and 87 per cent of all head teachers say they would be motivated by being given training on how to use cloud computing to save time on administrative tasks.

However a quarter, 25 per cent of all teachers feel the pupils they teach are more adept at accessing online resources and devices than they are; and half, 49 per cent, imagine that the majority have better laptops, tablets or smart phones than the school.

Gordon Derham, MD of Computer Systems in Education (CSE), the makers of Magellan, a new programme which is set to revolutionise the way schools access ICT resources, said:

"Teachers shouldn't feel at a disadvantage like this. They of all people should feel confident of their skills and able to bring on the next generation".

Magellan is a web desktop developed by CSE which provides secure access to apps, cloud based learning tools, locally hosted programmes and files hosted on a school's or university's server, delivered to any type of device including iPads, laptops or smart phones, wherever the teacher or student is working.

Almost half, 47 per cent, of teachers say they would appreciate more training on digital skills, a feeling which runs especially high in primary schools where 55 per cent of teachers feel this way; a worrying result in light of the curriculum changes which must be introduced from September 2014 when ICT will become a compulsory part of Key Stage 1 teaching.

Gordon continued: "Schools are the one place where every positive aspect of the digital world can be channelled for good, but until now it has been difficult for teachers to make the most of it. The so-called device wars have diverted time, money and attention in schools and unnecessarily sapped confidence. All this can change now with the Magellan universal education portal we have created".

The research entitled "Internet, equality and education" was commissioned by CSE to celebrate the launch of Magellan and the end of the device wars in the education market which Magellan signifies because it is a low cost (around £1 per student) solution which can help any teacher, and enhance any existing school computer network.

Over two fifths, 43 per cent of teachers say they would save hours of their time if they could quickly and securely access school files from home, and over a third, 38 per cent, claim they regularly waste time having to log in and out of systems to access the information they need for work.

"Given the government's desperation to cut teacher workloads I'm amazed it has fallen to the private sector to find a solution to the time which IT issues can waste in schools. With Magellan teachers can make much better use of all their existing networks without 'reinventing the wheel.'

We can't expect schools to keep buying the latest device or gadget on the market, but Magellan now allows schools to use any combination of devices, so that they can direct resources to those who need it most and manage existing internet, cloud and network resources much more constructively. It will certainly liberate schools which had, rightly, been worrying about the idea of a 'Bring Your Own Device' policy."

The internet is seen as an aid to good teaching and a third of teachers, 33 per cent say they would use the internet in their teaching more but lack the equipment to give each child fair access; thirty per cent of teachers in the independent sector report the same too, so it is a widespread phenomenon with 31 per cent of all teachers saying they would be able to deliver more engaging lessons if everyone could access the internet in class.

"The internet is a huge source of rich, free teaching resources but until now it has been difficult to give equal access and answer teacher's e-safety concerns. With the Magellan universal education portal teachers can feel in command rather than cowed by the latest digital developments, and can happily channel internet, network and cloud resources for good use in their schools. Magellan is another quiet, useful and practical British invention" said Derham.

– ENDS –

Contacts

Nicky Smith
E nicky@twelvepr.co.uk
T 01608 495014
M 07771 785228

Jess Friend
E jessica@twelvepr.co.uk
T 01608 495016
M 07791 741725

Notes

Research

The research report 'Internet, equality and education' commissioned by Computer Systems in Education (CSE) is available to download from www.cse-magellan.co.uk

Conducted by YouGov among a sample of 846 teachers in the UK, research field work was carried out between 12th and 16th May 2014.

Computer Systems in Education (CSE)

CSE is a specialist supplier of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to the UK education sector, and is an approved supplier under the DfE ICT Services Framework Agreement. Founded in 1995, CSE has a turnover of £10M per annum and is one of the leading suppliers of IT systems to education in the UK. Based in North Leigh in Oxfordshire, CSE also has offices in Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Magellan

Magellan, the universal education portal, was developed by CSE and announced at the BETT conference in January 2014. Summary of functions:

- Remote HTML based desktop protocol system delivers files and apps to any web-enabled device.

- Responsive interface allows the web desktop to be used on mobile phones as well as tablets and computers.

- Secure connection, through reverse proxy and Active Directory credentials, for teachers and students to download and upload files directly to and from a school or university's server.

- Common interface for simultaneous user groups.