

Schools

January 2009

# Inspire parental engagement

How are you engaging parents in Next Generation Learning?

**Becta** leading  
next generation  
learning

## Using technology to inspire parental engagement:

- can improve learners' achievement
- provides secure access to the information parents and carers want, when and how they choose to do so
- enables parents to access up-to-date, school-based information about their children's attendance, behaviour, achievement, progress and special educational needs
- encourages parents to have more meaningful conversations about their children's learning, both with the school and with their children
- can save the time of teachers and other school staff, and make their lives easier.



# Inspire parents to play a more active and positive role

Engaging parents through technology can improve learner achievement by helping parents get closer to their children's learning.

The level of parents' engagement in a child's education is a key indicator of a child's performance in future years. Parental interest is the single most powerful predictor of achievement at age 16.

More learners and parents will have access to high speed internet connectivity at home through the Government's scheme to provide computers and internet access to families.

Every school in England is now expected to offer secure online access to information for parents to support their children's progress: all secondary schools by September 2010, and primary schools by 2012.

Providing access for all parents is the first step. Timely and accessible information then needs to stimulate purposeful dialogue and partnership between parents and schools for the benefit of learners.

Inspire parental engagement:

[www.becta.org.uk/inspireparentalengagement](http://www.becta.org.uk/inspireparentalengagement)



# Becta's role in inspiring parental engagement

## Leadership

Becta is driving the parental engagement programme, which aims to make a positive impact on two-way communication between parents and schools and support the home as a place of learning.

## Support

With our partners, we provide schools with a comprehensive range of support, including the parental engagement toolkit, examples of what other schools are doing now to move towards online reporting, and frameworks for assessing their position.

Becta knows from the excellent practice pioneered in schools that online reporting makes a difference for learners, parents and schools, and that the best results are achieved when schools work together and learn from each other.

## Collaboration

We have consulted extensively with school leaders and other primary and secondary school staff to ensure that online reporting is meaningful for parents and that its implementation is manageable for schools.

## Inspiration

We are supporting all schools who want to improve their parental engagement and reporting arrangements by providing best-practice examples.



# Use technology to communicate more efficiently, meaningfully and effectively with parents

## **Start with Becta's framework for online reporting**

You need to consider how you will use your whole-school technology strategy to develop a shared understanding of the online reporting agenda with staff, parents and pupils.

Becta has worked with schools that are moving towards online reporting to create a framework that can be used to review progress and identify actions.

You can use Becta's online reporting framework to ensure that online reporting provides the following clear benefits to all stakeholders:

- more meaningful and timely communication, leading to parents becoming more responsive
- better informed parents being able to work closely with your school to support their children's needs
- the sharing of more easily managed electronically held information, when and where it is convenient.

The online reporting framework is available as part of the parental engagement toolkit.



## Manage your school's approach to inspiring and involving parents

Inspiring parents to get involved means challenging the effectiveness of the technology solutions you already have in place.

You may want to discuss appropriate solutions with your local authority and improvement partners and ask suppliers how they support parental engagement.

Consider using a wider range of technologies to inspire parental interest, including:

- your school's public website
- email
- SMS text and phone messaging
- learning platforms (VLEs, MLEs, etc)
- a secure intranet, extranet or portal with parental access
- podcasting or other ways of broadcasting and sharing content
- handheld and mobile devices, such as PDAs or cameras
- access to your computing facilities
- home access devices for learners and families.

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# Inspire parental engagement – top tips

Start thinking about where you are on the journey towards online reporting.

Identify a member of your leadership team to lead online reporting to parents.

Find out what other schools are doing to move forwards, and work with local authorities and improvement partners to identify good practice and quick wins using existing systems.

Use Becta's online reporting framework to review progress and identify actions.

Ensure that all school staff understand how online reporting can be used to better manage parental engagement and raise achievement.

Look out for Home Access in your area – the programme that encourages parents and carers to get internet access at home to make it easier for them to become involved in their children's learning.

Consider what information you hold about your learners, and what is appropriate to share with parents in a meaningful and timely way.

Make sure you keep data secure, safe and legal in line with Becta's data handling security guidance for schools.

Consult parents about what would be meaningful information, and then support them to understand learning activities and make use of the information available to them.

Think about how to engage hard-to-reach parents and support those who do not have internet access.

Inspire parental engagement:

[www.becta.org.uk/inspireparentalengagement](http://www.becta.org.uk/inspireparentalengagement)



NEXT  
GENERATION  
LEARNING



Experience the  
**future of  
learning  
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[nextgenerationlearning.org.uk](http://nextgenerationlearning.org.uk)

$2a + b = 21$

Guten tag

$a + b = 15$

$5p + q = 100$

$2p - q = -30$

$2(x + 3) = 10 - 2 \times 11$

Buenos dias

Buongiorno

Bonjour

Ronald Dahl A.A. Milne J.K. Rowling Beatrix Potter Enid Blyton  
Philip Pullman David Pilkey  
Jacqueline Wilson

# What is Next Generation Learning?

**We know that technology offers enormous opportunities for education. In fact, research shows that learners with access to technology for learning have a far greater chance of achieving their potential.**

The Next Generation Learning campaign is aimed at parents or carers, employers and learners. It is intended to raise their awareness of the benefits of the use of technology in education and to drive greater demand for it.

The campaign currently focuses on:

- greater engagement by parents or carers – with schools and at home
- effective use of technology in schools and colleges
- ensuring children are safe online.



Becta is also talking to schools to ensure that they are aware of how to use technology to its full potential to meet these demands.

See what we are saying to parents

**[www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk](http://www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk)**

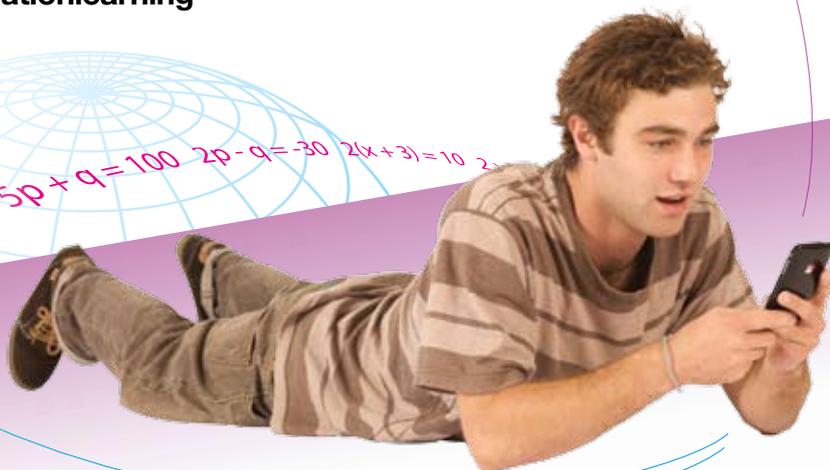
Find out how you can become Next Generation Learning ready

**[www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearning](http://www.becta.org.uk/nextgenerationlearning)**

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Guten tag Buenos dias Buongiorno Bonjour

Rowling Beatrix Potter Enid Blyton  
Gullman Dahl  
Wilson



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# Be prepared for more demand for Next Generation Learning

## Improve your school

Develop and follow a strategy that uses technology to achieve better outcomes for learners

[www.becta.org.uk/  
improveyourschool](http://www.becta.org.uk/improveyourschool)

## Plan sustainable success

Balance the economic, social and environmental aspects of technology for learning

[www.becta.org.uk/  
plansustainableuccess](http://www.becta.org.uk/plansustainableuccess)

## Achieve best value

Secure quality, fit-for-purpose technology, with the right support, at the right price

[www.becta.org.uk/  
achievebestvalue](http://www.becta.org.uk/achievebestvalue)

## Safeguard learners online

Protect, educate and empower everyone to keep safe and secure online

[www.becta.org.uk/  
safeguardlearnersonline](http://www.becta.org.uk/safeguardlearnersonline)

## Inspire parental engagement

Enable parents to access and use technology for a positive impact on their children's learning

[www.becta.org.uk/  
inspireparentalengagement](http://www.becta.org.uk/inspireparentalengagement)

## Make learning personal

Support learners to make effective, discriminating use of technology that meets their needs

[www.becta.org.uk/  
makelearningpersonal](http://www.becta.org.uk/makelearningpersonal)

**Becta** leading  
next generation  
learning

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 [nextgenerationlearning.org.uk](http://nextgenerationlearning.org.uk)

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