



improving learning
through technology



Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. The aim is to rebuild or renew every secondary school in England over a 10-15 year period, bringing together major investment in buildings and in ICT.

To support this major investment, Becta has developed a range of tools, activities and guidance to support leaders who are engaging in the programme, and to help them prepare for the changes that BSF will bring.

ICT and building schools for the future
an essential guide

what is BSF?



BSF aims to ensure that secondary pupils experience education in an environment fit for the 21st century. Funding will be made available in 15 waves, subject to future public spending decisions.

- By 2011, every local authority (LA) in England will have received funding to renew at least the school in greatest need – many will have major rebuilding and remodelling projects (at least three schools) under way through BSF and the remainder will have received resources through the Academies programme or Targeted Capital Fund.
- By 2016, major rebuilding and remodelling projects in at least three schools will have started in every LA.
- ‘One school pathfinders’ are BSF projects aimed at local authorities which are not due to start the full BSF programme until waves 10 to 15. One school pathfinder funding gives these local authorities the chance to test how they will approach educational transformation in their area.

BSF investment also supports other initiatives such as Academies, new options at 14-19 and extended schools. Innovation in delivery will bring greater value for money and help to ensure that implementation is effective. Becta is working closely with the ICT team at Partnerships for Schools (the body created to deliver BSF) and with LAs already engaged in BSF projects.

BSF is usually delivered at the local level by a Local Education Partnership (LEP). This is a public-private partnership between a local authority, Partnerships for Schools and a private sector partner. An underlying principle of the BSF programme is that the burden of managing the technology is removed from the school and is instead provided through the LEP as an area-wide service. This will allow schools to focus their efforts on the application of ICT to improve learning and teaching.

The first principle of a successful BSF strategy is for LAs to develop a vision for education in their area that offers real innovation and enables transformation of teaching and learning.

how Becta is supporting BSF

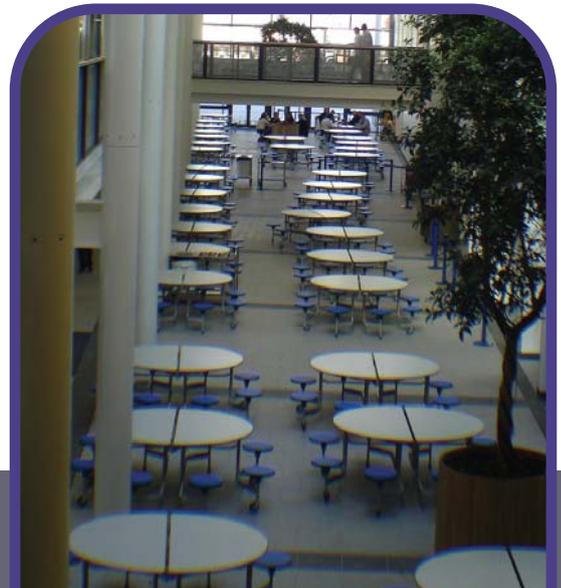
Becta is supporting the BSF programme by providing tools, information and guidance:

- Becta's self-review framework is a tool that helps schools evaluate their current ICT use, and to plan future improvements to learning, teaching and management. New and refurbished schools will find it invaluable in planning their ICT provision and achieving value for money.
- Each year, the ICT Excellence Awards identify and celebrate the best practice in ICT in schools. The award winners can be an inspiration to BSF schools and LAs, helping them to formulate a future vision for ICT.
- Becta has established expertise in reviewing new and emerging technologies. Through a combination of desk-based research, technical

investigations, liaison with industrial and academic research labs and exploration of innovative practice in educational institutions, Becta is able to develop a sound knowledge base and provide advice for policy makers, institutions and practitioners.

- Becta has set out its vision for school ICT infrastructure and learning platforms in its functional specifications. These provide a detailed breakdown of the features which learners, educators and administrators should expect from a school's ICT infrastructure.

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- To support schools in meeting these expectations Becta has established a set of 'Best Value Purchasing' framework agreements. The [Consultancy Services Framework Agreement](#) provides a straightforward method of engaging ICT consultants, which schools and LAs can use to help them develop and achieve their vision for ICT. The [Infrastructure Services Framework Agreement](#) assists the procurement of a full 'managed service', or a range of new services which can be integrated with existing ones. Similarly, the [Learning Platform Services Framework](#) provides support for schools and colleges in purchasing a learning platform for their needs from suppliers approved by Becta. Although the ICT procurement model is different when a LEP is in place, the use of Becta's procurement frameworks is recommended in other situations such as Academies and One school pathfinders.
- Together with Partnerships for Schools and The Construction Industry Council, Becta has developed an



ICT Quality Indicator tool. This helps to challenge and develop a school's vision for ICT as well as its implications for the design and effectiveness of future learning environments.

- Becta is also working with its partner NCSL to develop a Leadership programme for BSF. Becta encourages leaders from BSF schools to sign up for the programme in partnership with their LA.
- Becta has a dedicated team providing support for ICT visioning and procurement to Academies, including those in BSF. We are developing our support to other schools and LAs involved in the BSF programme including One school pathfinders.

your opportunity

BSF provides the opportunity to conceive, design and build virtual environments at the same time as creating future physical learning environments. Through BSF, you have the potential to contribute to the future educational direction of your school, including the use of ICT.

As a school leader you should:

- find out what your Local Authority's plans for BSF are
- use Becta's self-review framework to develop your vision for future learning and how ICT can support it in your school, engaging teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and students and the wider community
- be ready to engage in discussions with your LA, to ensure that your vision for ICT is embedded in the building plans
- begin to plan how you will introduce a service-based approach to ICT purchasing, maintenance and support.

The Primary Capital Programme is set to transform 8,000 run-down and aging primary and primary special schools across England. The 15-year, £7 billion programme commences in April 2009. Twenty-three pathfinder authorities will pilot the programme, with funding being provided from 2008.



further information

More details about the BSF programme are available on the BSF website.

<http://www.bsf.gov.uk>

The Partnerships for Schools website provides information on BSF including the delivery of Academies and One school pathfinders.

<http://www.p4s.org.uk>

Information about Becta's best value purchasing frameworks.

<http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/procurement>

Details on the leadership programme for BSF.

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/programmes/bsf/index.cfm>

Futher information on the self-review framework can be found at

<http://www.becta.org.uk/schools/selfreviewframework>

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