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Keys to improving the use of Technology: A workshop for school leaders

4th Annual Education Conference
1st & 2nd of November 2009



Introduction: Why am I here?

- Tipperary Institute: Broadband, Schools
- ICT in Education conference in May
- **Thesis:** Technical Support for ICT in Irish Post-primary Schools: *In search of a national approach*
- CESI Feb 2009 “7 Keys for improving the use of technology in your school”.
- Invitation from CEIST

Introduction: Why are you here?

I'm assuming...

- You are school leaders
 - (Principals, Deputy principals, board of management)
- You have an interest in improving the use of technology in your school

Keys to Improving the use of Technology In Your School

It doesn't matter how or why
you are where you are, what's
important is that you know
where you **want to go** and what
the first step is.

Keys to improving the use of technology in schools

Any suggestions?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Here's some I prepared earlier

1. Establish an IT Budget
2. Develop and publish an IT Strategy
3. Setup a Support Framework
4. Begin to Improve your Infrastructure
5. Identify & Share Online Resources
6. Integrate IT into teaching & learning
7. Get Started

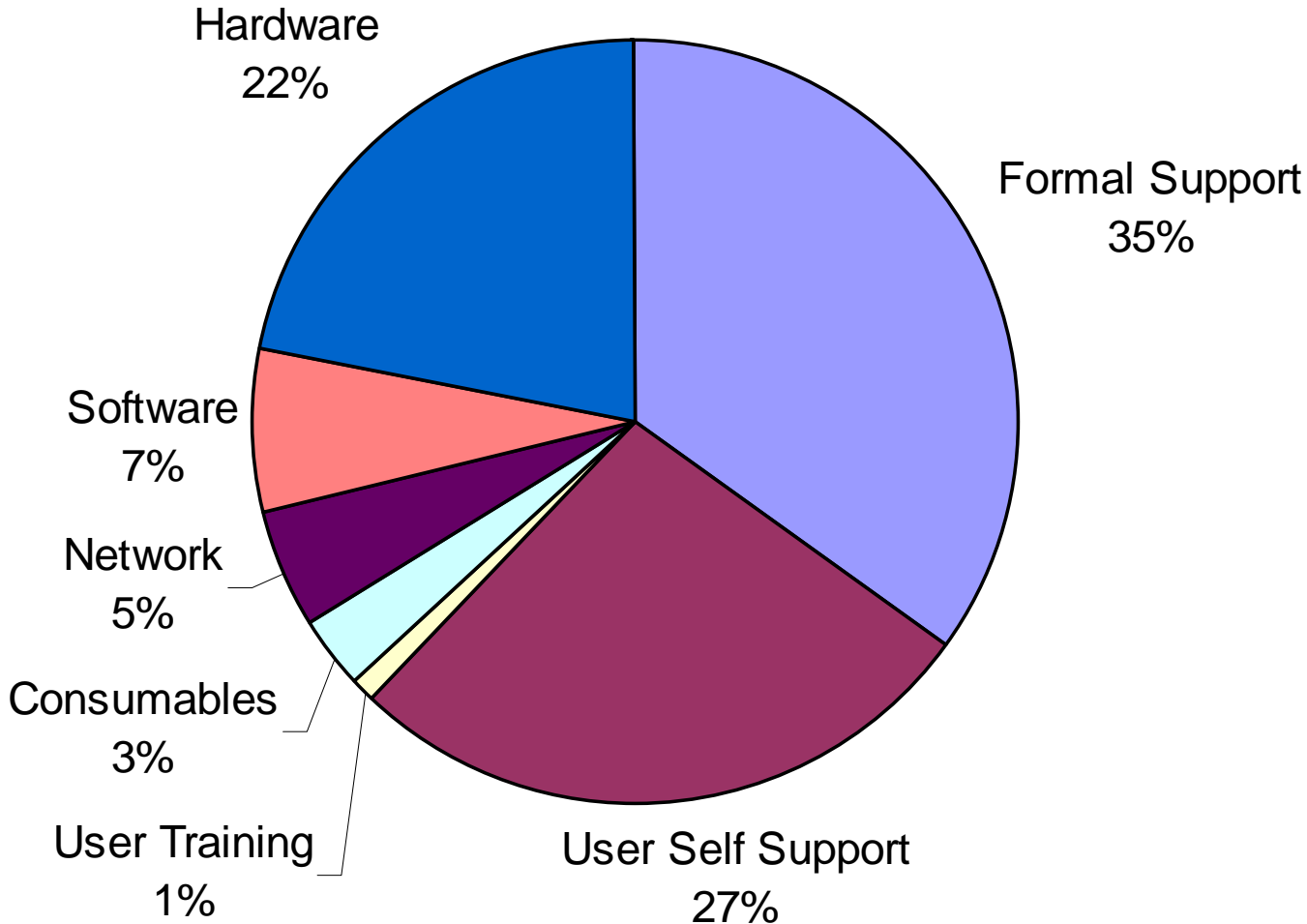
Key 1: Establish an IT Budget

- A budget is simply a plan for spending
- It shouldn't be mistaken for funding
- How much did you spend last year?
- If you know the total in advance, would you have spent it the same way?
- Would you spend 40% of the total on printing?



Key 1: Establish an IT Budget

Total cost of ownership of ICT in UK Secondary Schools (BECTA)



Key 1: Establish an IT Budget

IT Spend	Amount	% of total
Hardware		
- PCs		
- Printers		
- Peripherals		
- Network		
Software		
Connectivity		
Support		
Consumables		
Training		
Total		



Key 2: Publish an IT Strategy

“Begin with the end in mind”

– *Stephen Covey*

- If you had an unlimited budget to put in the perfect IT solution for your school, what would it look like?
- PCs, Laptops, Printers, Networks, computer rooms, projectors, interactive whiteboards, teacher training, support arrangements.

Key 2: Publish an IT Strategy

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- 6.

Key 2: Publish an IT Strategy

Table of Contents

1. Mission / Vision Statement
(Supporting any school strategy)
2. Values / Principles
3. Key Aims / Objectives (max 7)
4. Annual Action plan

Key 3: Setup Support Framework

IT Support Roles

- Administrative
- Technical
- Managerial
- Strategic



Key 3: Setup Support Framework

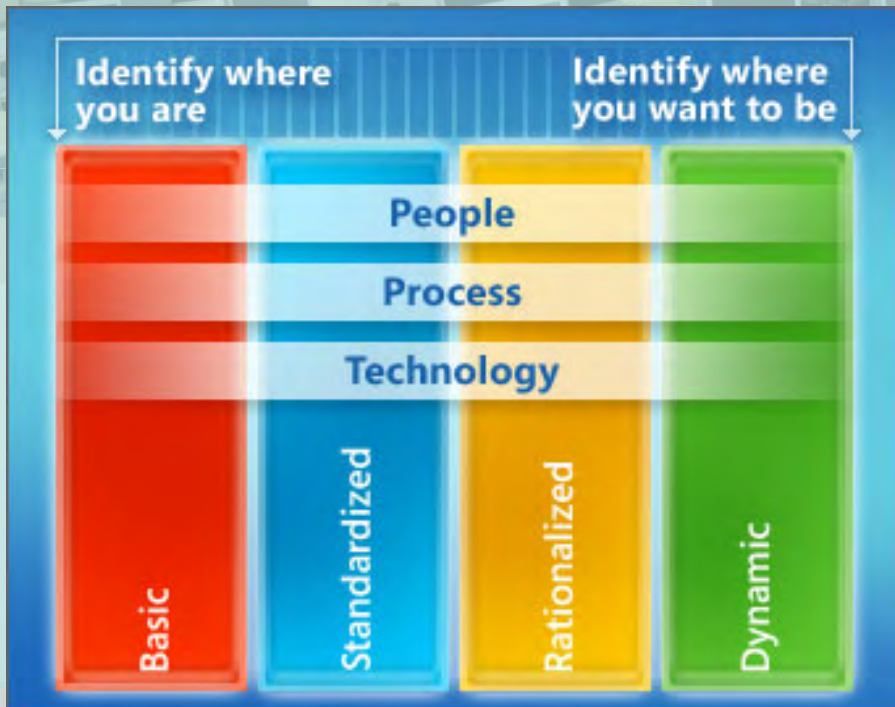
IT Support Resources



Internal	Role	External	Role
ICT Coordinating Teacher		Local IT Company	
Principal		Volunteers / Parents	
Teachers		NCTE	
Office Administrator		Local Third level	
Technical Staff		Ex Students	
Students		Clustered support arrangement	

Key 4: Improve Infrastructure

There is a direct link between the quality of the IT Infrastructure in a school and the amount of support required.



*The more complex
the technology
the more support
required.
Keep it simple*

Key 4: Improve Infrastructure

Where are we now?		Where do we want to be?	
How many PCs?		Double the quantity. Make them laptops.	
In computer room		In every Classroom	
Data Projectors		Interactive white boards	
Teacher confidence		Mushroom cloud layers	

Key 5: Identify Online resources

Find...



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



...and share



...CEIST Members area



Key 6: Integrate IT into teaching & learning

- How? I don't know, I'm not a teacher.
- Ask your peers: CESI mailing list.
- Ask the teachers in your school: Talk about what works and what doesn't
- Ask your pupils?
- *“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a **fire**”* - William Butler Yeats
- Googling information regarding countries is geography class not computer class.
- Teacher training is paramount



Key 7: Get Started

- There are many paths to the top of the mountain, but the view is always the same. Start anywhere.
- A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. - *Lao-tzu*. A phone call, a meeting, an email.
- What's your first step? What are you going to do?
- What are the stories you tell yourself that prevents you from taking this step?

Keys for improvement

- Establish an IT Budget
- Develop and publish an IT Strategy
- Setup a Support Framework
- Begin to Improve your Infrastructure
- Identify & Share Online Resources
- Integrate IT into teaching & learning
- Get Started

Thanks for listening



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