The C2k Education Network

Welcome to your new ICT service for schools in Northern Ireland

The C2k Education Network is the new ICT service for schools across Northern Ireland.

"With the arrival and deployment of the new education network, schools will experience a step change in the services available to them. Northgate Managed Services has been contracted by C2k to deliver a flexible end-to-end ICT service that will provide schools across Northern Ireland with all the facilities of Europe's first Education Cloud environment. Northgate will provide secure access to the service, 24 x 7, from a wide range of devices. Also as part of the service Eircom will deliver superfast connectivity to this Education Cloud, dynamically providing schools with significant increases in bandwidth. The application and use of this solution will continue to be promoted and supported by staff within C2k."

Jimmy Stewart, C2k Director, March 2012

C2K
DELIVERING TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING

making **IT** work **for teachers and learners**
www.northgatemanagedservices.com

MY-SCHOOL

At the centre of the new solution is a web based personalised learning and working environment called MY-SCHOOL, which will provide access to all aspects of the service. MY-SCHOOL is ground breaking and unique, as it can be accessed from a range of devices, with any operating system using any supported browser.

MY-SCHOOL *Widgets*

Virtual Learning Environment

LearningNI will be replaced by Fronter, an e-learning platform which is being used by schools globally. After school consultation visits further information regarding VLE choices will be made available.

Content

The new service will provide a fully searchable content repository called Equella which can be used to house new content and migrated content from LearningNI. This will be made available via Fronter.

MY-SCHOOL *Themes*

Applications

Applications will no longer need to be deployed to individual laptops or desktops. Through MY-SCHOOL, licensed applications can be automatically launched or streamed. This allows resources to be used throughout the school, between schools and, most importantly, outside school (licences permitting).
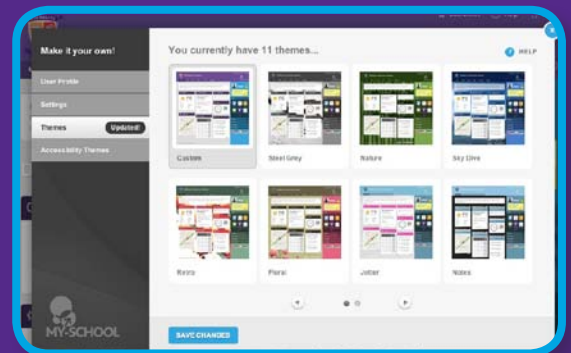
Learning Exchange

Learning Exchange will be the place to find all training materials. These will include learning nuggets to help users get to grips with new applications and services, as well as *how to* guides on key applications. The materials will be multimedia, interactive and available whenever and wherever they are needed.
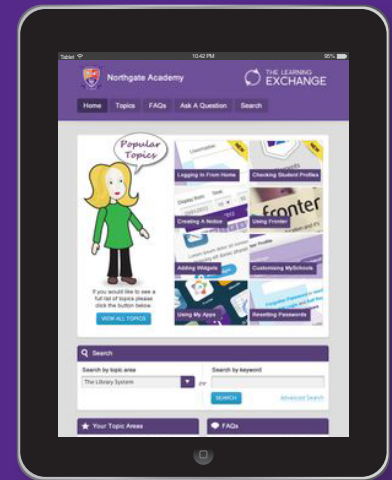

Learning Exchange tablet landing page

Email

Students will have access to their Microsoft 365 email via MY-SCHOOL on any device connected to the internet.

E-safety and Security

Web filtering

The new service will allow a more individualised approach to web filtering. Sites classed as *red* or *unsuitable* will continue to be blocked across all schools. However, schools will have the flexibility to allow access to specific *amber* sites to individual users or groups of users as required.

Securus

As users will be provided with more access to online environments, security becomes more important. An application called Securus will be introduced which logs key strokes on managed and users own devices (with Windows and OSX operating systems) connected to the managed network. On detection of inappropriate words or phrases, an alert is sent to nominated individuals to allow immediate intervention and action. This is an additional measure to protect teachers and students and to support a more open approach to web access.

Email filtering

Email filtering will continue and will either block filtered mail or create an alert to a nominated individual in the school.

School Bandwidth

Under the new solution, schools will benefit from substantial increases in bandwidth by moving away from the traditional contended broadband provision. This new service has been designed to give all schools a direct connection to the network giving better performance across the whole service. In addition, the new service will also have increased capacity based on how much schools need to use. This will grow dynamically and post-primary schools will be able to access up to 200Mb and the largest primary schools up to 100Mb of bandwidth

Wireless Network

The trend to use more mobile devices to support personalised and flexible learning drives the need for robust wireless access. A new wireless solution which provides faster access and greater range will be deployed across all schools. There will be a substantial increase in the number of wireless access points. This facilitates the school management and control of the use of pupil owned devices as well as offering access for guest devices.

Storage, archiving and backup

The new service offers the possibility of virtually unlimited data storage space. This is achieved through making better use of the existing storage capacity provided in schools. Archiving of files is carried out centrally before storage capacity has been reached. Old or unused files will be automatically archived to the data centre, freeing up space for current work.

Archived files will remain visible to the user and can still be accessed and retrieved if required. Storage space will no longer be restricted on a user basis.

Backup will be provided as a central service. Files will be automatically backed up to the data centre on a regular basis removing the need for schools to carry out this task and ensuring that files can be recovered if required.

Management Information System

Capita SIMS will continue to be the MIS platform across all schools. In addition to the existing modules, the new service will bring the introduction of SIMS Partnership Xchange and SIMS Discover.

SIMS Partnership Xchange supports learning across the Area Learning Communities (ALCs) by providing teachers with secure access to vital student information. Attendance and assessment marks are added from wherever the learner is studying and will combine to form a single report of the learner's progress.

SIMS Discover is a powerful tool that enables the teacher to analyse and present SIMS data in a variety of ways, including Venn diagrams, bar charts, pie charts and line graphs.

Service and Support

In addition to the C2k telephone helpdesk, in order to improve service flexibility and transparency, the new service will introduce a web-based helpdesk service to allow schools to log calls online and to view the progress of the call.

The core helpdesk hours are being extended from 7am to 7pm.

Contact the C2k Helpdesk on: 0870 6011 666

Next Steps

- Roadshows and Overviews will be held locally after Easter for representatives from all schools.
- A new catalogue will be made available.
- More information will be published on C2k Exchange as and when it becomes available.

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