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REPOSITORY RECORD

Allum, John. 2019. “Technology in Context: A National Support Service for Schools”. figshare. https://hdl.handle.net/2134/1636.

DATER 90

TECHNOLOGY IN CONTEXT: A NATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE FOR SCHOOLS

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SCSST

SCSST =The Standing Conference on Schools' Science and Technology
SATRO =Science and Technology Regional Organisation

The broad aim of the TECHNOLOGY IN CONTEXT programme is to provide a national support service to help schools prepare for and deliver the business & industry contexts of the Technology National Curriculum, and relate this work to EIU (Economic & Industrial Understanding.)

HOW WILL THE TECHNOLOGY IN CONTEXT (TIC) PROGRAMME HELP SCHOOLS DELIVER TECHNOLOGY AND EIU?

The Programmes of Study of the Technology National Curriculum call for pupils to display progressive ability to apply business concepts and knowledge to the process of designing and making.

For many schools, the new curriculum will represent a major departure from existing practice.

SCSST & SATROs have many years' experience of engaging business and industry in support for technology education, and will be increasingly looked to by schools and LEAs to help them meet these particular challenges.

SCHOOLS' MAIN NEEDS IN RELATION TO THE INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS ASPECTS OF THE TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM ARE LIKELY TO BE:

i. teaching/learning materials related to the Attainment Targets & Programmes of Study, exploring business and industrial contexts

ii. help with organising activities which give pupils first-hand experience

iii. links with companies to provide real-world contexts

iv. training for teachers (understanding of business concepts, development of relevant skills)

v. ongoing support and advice within easy local reach

vi. helping teachers to choose, plan and manage 'open ended' project work with a business and industrial dimension.

HELP IS NEEDED TO ASSIST TEACHERS WITH THE DELIVERY OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL CONTEXTS IN ALL KEY STAGES.

SCSST and SATROs can deploy expertise to meet this objective by:

i. promoting technological project work in schools

ii. developing industry-related curriculum materials

iii. engaging employers in curriculum support activities

iv. organising enterprise activities with pupils and teachers

v. devising and managing industry-related training for teachers

vi. commissioning, publishing and disseminating teaching materials nationally.

Technology in Context will be a coherent service with three related parts:

1) Development of contextual materials focussed upon Business and Industry contexts to support the Attainment Targets and Programmes of Study

2) Development and delivery of in-service training for teachers

3) Local consultancy and support services for schools.

CONTEXTUAL MATERIALS

LOCAL TIC GROUPS

LOCAL IN-SERVICE TRAINING

CONSULTANCY & SUPPORT

Central to the effectiveness of the whole service will be the establishment of Technology In Context (TIC) Curriculum Groups in every SATRO area.

1. MATERIALS TO SUPPORT THE TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM AND ECONOMIC & INDUSRIAL UNDERSTANDING (EIU)

Because of the nature of the Technology National Curriculum, material which provides business & industry contexts and project starting points, rather than knowledge-based materials, is most appropriate.

SCSST/SATRO aim to develop a catalogue of curriculum material related to Technology and EIU.

All materials produced will be trialled in schools before publication, and available to all schools both nationally and through SATROs locally.

SCSST/SATRO wish to develop and publish, for all Key Stages a range of new materials matched to Attainment Targets and Programmes of Study. A pack of materials would consist of:

i. an account of a particular business & industry context on video, slides, audiotape or in words

ii. suggestions for projects at different attainment levels which could be developed from the context

iii. guidance on the processes of Technology, and on managing industry-related project work (common to all packs)

iv. knowledge-based resources appropriate to the context

v. sources of further contacts, resources etc.

Teachers will have the opportunity to work with industry, to prepare curriculum material under the SATRO Learning From Industry scheme.

The total range of material will be produced within an overall plan and specification agreed with DTI and NCC.

2. IN SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

To prepare themselves for delivering aspects of the Technology National Curriculum, teachers will require in-service training in such matters as:

i. understanding of business concepts

ii. management of open-ended project work

iii. how to get the best out of a link with industry

iv. some specific skills (technological and business and industry related)

v. workshops on use of appropriate curriculum resources,

vi support in delivering aspects of Economic and Industrial understanding.

3. LOCAL CONSULTANCY AND SUPPORT SERVICE

A local consultancy and support service will be delivered professionally in human rather than paper form.

Services provided to schools will include:

i. links with appropriate local companies to support technology projects

ii. advice on making effective curricular use of such links

iii. expert inputs to projects by adults from business and the community

iv. access to first-hand experiences of business situations for pupils

v. advice on relevant teaching materials, hardware, training etc.

vi. advice to industry on managing technology links with schools

BUSINESS-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR PUPILS

The emphasis in the Technology National Curriculum is on active learning. The Non-Statutory Guidance calls for pupils to have “understanding of the significance of technology to the economy”.

Over the next three years, as part of the consultancy service we will help schools to organise work-related experiences for pupils.
WHAT WILL THE PROGRAMME GENERATE?

TECHNOLOGY IN CONTEXT TEACHERS‘ CURRICULUM GROUPS:

i. aim to provide a supportive environment for teachers facing change

ii. are to be a powerful medium for innovation, an effective focus for generating curriculum materials & industry related activities

iii. defining in-service training needs.

Teachers would be brought together to help with the development of the curriculum packs, local consultancy and support service, and will form the core of a growing network.

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

The task of preparing schools for the Technology National Curriculum is a substantial one. It will require the active support of all who have relevant expertise and the will to help. SCSST/SATRO are working closely with other organisations including SCIP and NCC to ensure coherence and continuity in the range of support offered to schools.

WE NEED YOUR HELP !

To develop quality in all three aspects of the programme SCSST and SATRO must work closely with:

- the business & industry community
- other schools industry link organisations
- LEA Advisory / Inspectorial teams
- Schools

If you can help or need further information about this programme contact:

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