



TransforMATIVE

Designing, Building & Sustaining an Inclusive Digital Strategy



A TransforMATIVE Roundtable Networking Dinner
Sponsored by Texthelp 29.02.24, The Ivy Asia, Leeds

Executive Summary

In the rapidly evolving educational landscape, the importance of an inclusive digital strategy is paramount. This exclusive roundtable dinner, tailored for leaders and decision-makers within Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs), offers a platform to discuss, share, and learn about the nuances of creating a digital strategy that is not only technologically advanced but also inclusive and equitable for all stakeholders.



Themes of Learning



Digital Inclusion and Accessibility: There was a consensus that digital inclusion is not just about providing technology to students with special educational needs (SEN) but ensuring that every student benefits from digital tools. The discussion highlighted the importance of empowering students, regardless of their abilities, to leverage technology for learning. This includes using technology to support speech, language, and communication needs and allowing creative expressions through digital means, thereby levelling the playing field for all students.



Teacher Training and Support: A significant barrier to digital inclusion identified was the need for teacher training and support in integrating technology into their teaching practices. It was noted that while infrastructure and access to devices are essential, equally important is ensuring that teachers are equipped and confident to use technology effectively in the classroom. This involves changing the culture around technology use in education and addressing the concerns of teachers who may be resistant or sceptical about digital tools.



Role of Leadership and Strategy: The conversation emphasised the importance of having a clear digital strategy led by school and trust leaders. This strategy should not only focus on the pedagogical aspects of technology use but also consider operational efficiencies and support all stakeholders, including staff and the wider community. Leadership commitment was identified as crucial for driving change and fostering an environment where digital inclusion is prioritised.



The Future of Assessment: The discussion touched on the evolving landscape of assessments and the potential challenges and opportunities presented by digital assessments. Concerns were raised about ensuring that students with various needs are adequately supported in an increasingly digital assessment environment. The conversation also pointed to the need for rethinking assessment practices to align with the technological advancements and the skills students will need in the future.

Themes of Learning



Community and Network Support: Participants highlighted the value of networking and sharing best practices among trusts and schools. There was a call for more collaboration and professional generosity within the education sector to address common challenges and leverage technology for the benefit of all students.



DFE Technology Standards: The roundtable discussed the recently launched DFE Technology Standards, focusing on digital inclusion and accessibility. The standards were seen as a step in the right direction, emphasising the need for accessible and inclusive digital resources and communication strategies. There was an acknowledgment of the work needed to comply with these standards, particularly in making educational resources and communications accessible to all.