

How to organise the teaching of IT?

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Pre-session

To prepare for this session, you should read the National Curriculum for IT. You can download either [.pdf](#) or [Word](#) versions of this, or access it [on-line](#).

(<http://www.nc.uk.net/servlets/Subjects?Subject=ICT#>)

Introduction

IT is organised in schools in what can appear a bewildering variety of ways, however the main distinction is whether IT is taught through distinct (discrete) lessons or whether it is taught through the context of other curriculum subjects. In this session you will do two things: think through the relative merits of each of the main modes of organisation; and, in order to help you understand the cross-curriculum mode better, map elements of the IT National Curriculum on to other curriculum areas.

Learning objectives

The learning objectives for this session are that by the end you should:

1. know the variety of ways in which I(C) T is organised in secondary schools
2. understand the advantages and disadvantages of each method of organisation
3. be able to use the National Curriculum web site
4. know better the contents of the IT National Curriculum
5. be able to map one strand of the National Curriculum for I(C)T against other curriculum areas

Task

Each group has two tasks, each of which has an associated worksheet:

In [task 1](#), (which should last about 20 min.) you compare the different ways of organising the teaching of IT. There will then be a plenary discussion of your ideas.

In [task 2](#), (which should last about 40 min.) you 'map' one strand of the IT National Curriculum on to other curriculum area. Following a brief discussion of this task, your maps will be made available for others to see.

Resources

The [IT National Curriculum site](#), including the 'Links across other subjects' sections.

(<http://www.nc.uk.net/servlets/Subjects?Subject=ICT#>)

I wrote a short paper for the UK Teacher Zone on how IT is organised in some London secondary schools, which you can [download](#).

You might also find the QCA booklet '[ICT in other subjects](#)' and the report on research at Swansea into 'Developing whole school approaches to IT' useful.

(<http://www.swan.ac.uk/education/research/itcd/index.htm>)