



## ICT Register Showcase Awards Scenario

### Clunbury CE (Aided) Primary School (WM)

**School Description and strengths** <http://www.ict-register.net/schooldetails.php?id=614>]

#### **Background**

Clunbury is a small school rurally isolated location in South Shropshire. It was the first school in the county to be awarded the ICT Mark and then went on to win Becta's ICT in Excellence Award for the Best Primary School. ICT has been responsible for transforming the way pupils learn at Clunbury. ICT is now integrated fully into the curriculum. The school has designed its own website, has been nationally recognised for leading the way in the use of Web 2.0 technologies in schools, and has been featured in many publications including the TES, futurelab and Becta. The school has been filmed by Teachers TV, the BBC and Microsoft. The way in which ICT is now used at the school has recently been included in Sir Jim Roses review of Primary School as an example of exemplar practice in schools. Clunbury is also at the forefront of the Online Reporting agenda and has presented nationally on its approach in this area. The school is on the Becta's steering group for online reporting and an advocated school and also involved in the review of the SRF for the ICT Mark. The Headteacher has presented at a wide range of as the keynote speaker. Pupils from the school have presented for several years at Shropshire's ICT conference demonstrating a range of ICT approaches including video conferencing and the use of the Learning Platform to engage both parents and pupils in learning. Clunbury as well as being an ICT Mark consultant school has supported a wide range of school throughout the country in developing their use of ICT. The school has been visited by many Headteachers and coordinators exploring the approaches which are used. The school has particularly supported schools with the use of Web 2.0 technologies in the classroom and how to use learning platforms to engage parents. Clunbury is committed to using technology in a productive and innovative way to enhance teaching and learning and has proved how a small rurally isolated school can achieve this sometimes against all the odds.

#### **Clunbury CE (Aided) Primary School's Learning Gateway**

Over the past year we have strived to develop pupil and parental engagement through the use of Web 2.0 technologies, our website [\[1\]](#), blog [\[2\]](#) podcasting and our Learning Gateway, which is securely accessed through our website. Being a rurally isolated school we have endeavoured to find ways to reach out and to support all of our parents in turn supporting them with to help their own child. Using these strategies we have been able to fully engage not just our parents in school life but also the wider community. The Learning Gateway we have developed has been the key to unlocking many of the barriers we sometimes encounter as a rural school.

## **Our schools innovative use of ICT and how it supports learning and teaching.**

The Learning Gateway has been designed with the view of supporting parents to support their child. There is a range of information on internet safety, family services, general school information, newsletters, free resources to use at home and even our own online shop.

We have produced a range of short video clips which are aimed at supporting parents enabling them to understand some of the strategies we use at school in teaching a range of curriculum areas. This ranges from Letters and Sounds in the Early Years to multiplication strategies in Key Stage 2. Additionally parents can see videos of their children working in school in our developing Virtual Classroom.

The Blog [\[3\]](#) is our portal on the web, which enables us to work collaboratively with other schools outside the authority and through which we also use as our 'Podcast' station. Many podcasts can be accessed from here covering many aspects of school life. From the school website our online Radio Station can be listened to, when we broadcast. [\[4\]](#)

The use of Web 2.0 technologies, podcasting and the Learning Gateway not only supports learning and teaching but is an integral part in the whole process. Pupils fully engage with the Gateway in many aspects of their school work and importantly also at home. Staff use the Gateway as a supportive tool for planning and for the delivery of their lessons. Lessons can now be easily and effectively evaluated, with efficient systems in place to maximise the potential.

Pupils have access to an extensive Learning Platform. They each have their own dedicated sites which they design themselves. They are able to share work with other pupils and importantly have a secure way to share their work with their parents. This is fully integrated with the use of hand held devices including Flip Cams and MP3 recorders. Pupils have access to a wide range of resources through the Gateway, which otherwise they would not have.

## **How the innovation was implemented.**

Blogging and podcasting have been a process of continual development over the past few years. The blog has been a significant tool for collaboration with pupils and schools from all over the world. It has enabled us to develop links with schools, which otherwise would not have been as feasible. Using a Sharepoint Platform as the basis we have developed the Learning Gateway in consultation with staff, pupils, parents and the local authority. The site is continuously developing in content and structure. We are now consulting other schools in the authority to develop their own practice and have shared our practice with many schools in the authority and beyond.

## **The key aspects of the impact on learning and teaching in our school.**

Through the development of the Learning Gateway, pupils from our rural community are able to carry on the learning at home. Pupils are even more engaged in their own learning

and particularly with the fact that they can share their achievements with their parents. There has been an increase in the ways in which pupils see the use of technology and their engagement with it. Confidence has been increased throughout the school in all aspects. Staff use the Gateway as an extensive tool to help them with planning, assessment. There are online diaries and information boards in the 'Staffroom' area. This has also resulted in far greater collaboration between staff when planning. Where classes are shared joint planning grids are now used. This makes the whole process far more effective and productive

### **Next steps – how the innovation and its benefits will be sustained.**

The whole process is very embedded in all of our practice at Clunbury and is based upon a sustainable approach. Both the blog and Learning Gateway are easily maintained, updated and robust. Staff, parents and pupils have identified many benefits with the way in which we have developed it and this is just the start of our journey.

### **How this innovative activity has been shared with other schools, academies and CLC's.**

We have shared our innovative way of using our Learning Gateway at Shropshire's ICT Conference, with many schools from throughout Shropshire attending and additionally with a number of schools through our NPQH Leadership School Role. In addition to this we have been filmed by Microsoft, Teachers TV and the BBC. Our use of the Learning Gateway, Web 2.0 technologies and podcasting have been presented to teachers throughout the country at the NAACE annual conference, Becta's Leading Leaders Network and Online Reporting Events, ICT Register Showcase, Bradford LA Roadshow, and at the ICT for Education annual conference.

### **Links to videos, podcasts, case studies etc.. supporting our innovation and its sharing with others.**

[Edujam Review](#)<sup>[5]</sup>

[IT4L (Shropshire's Blog) - read about our conference performance]<sup>[6]</sup>

BECTA - Our ICT Mark recognition <sup>[7]</sup>

ICT Register - we are an ICT Register School <sup>[8]</sup>

BECTA - Using Web 2.0 technologies - a great report on us <sup>[9]</sup>

Future Lab - read an article on our Headteacher <sup>[10]</sup>

Watch us on Teachers TV <sup>[11]</sup>

A review on Clunbury by the Guardian Newspaper <sup>[12]</sup>

BBC Website - report on use of Nintendo DS [\[13\]](#)

TES - read about how innovative we are [\[14\]](#)

National Computer Centre - an article featuring us [\[15\]](#)

Shropshire Star Newspaper - using the DS [\[16\]](#)

Clunbury is featured in 'The Rose Report' [\[17\]](#)