

Home Access: information for teachers



"Home Access aims to provide practical and financial support to low-income families who may not be able to afford a computer or the internet. We will support these families to ensure that the educational and social benefits of 21st century technology are available to them." Diana Johnson, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools

What is home access and why is it important?

'Home access' means access to technology and connectivity at home. Evidence produced by the Institute of Fiscal Studies shows that children with home access to a computer are more confident and capable technology users and more independent learners overall. This research also suggested that learners using a computer at home for schoolwork are more likely to gain over five GCSEs and one A-level and improve the grades attained.

Home access can also help to increase parental awareness, interest and involvement in their child's learning with schools able to update them on their child's progress more easily via online reporting.

What is the Home Access programme?

The Home Access programme is the government scheme to reduce the technology gap between varying income groups that leaves some children at a disadvantage in their education.

Families across England can now apply for grant funding to buy a computer and internet package and the programme aims to benefit more than 270,000 households who currently lack access by March 2011.

Recognising that some learners require additional support, assistive technology is also available.

How can teachers and teaching assistants get involved in the Home Access programme?

- Get more families online:
 - Become an advocate for the Home Access programme in your school and

make sure that eligible families know how to apply for grants. You can download posters, letters to send to parents and more information on the eligibility criteria from www.homeaccess.org.uk

- Make the most of more pupils having access to technology at home:
 - Make the most of the wealth of information and learning resources available online to set homework that is more engaging, interactive, inclusive and relevant to pupil's interests.
 - Use the school learning platform to set assignments, collect homework and send letters to parents without using any paper that can get lost in school bags!
 - Move towards online reporting that enables parents to have secure online access to information on their child's progress, achievement, attendance and behaviour helping them get closer to and support their child's learning.
- Provide learners with the tools and skills they need to make effective and safe use of technology:
 - Make sure pupils can access a range of different services at home such as learning materials, tools to organise, store and share work and secure spaces for live discussions with other pupils and teachers.
 - Embed the development of digital literacy skills across the curriculum in order to equip learners with the skills to apply ICT effectively and safely to their learning and everyday life.

Get more information

Becta is the government agency for

technology in learning. Becta's schools website offers advice and guidance on how technology can be utilised to create a more exciting, rewarding and successful experience for learners. Get more information on the following topics by visiting <http://schools.becta.org.uk/> or by following the links below

- Teaching with technology:
 - Click [here](#) and [here](#) for examples showing how teachers have embedded technology into the curriculum
- Learning Platforms:
 - Click [here](#) for video case studies of schools who are experiencing the benefits of using their learning platform.
- Parental engagement and online reporting:
 - Click [here](#) for guidance on engaging parents and preparing for online reporting.
- Digital Literacy:
 - Click [here](#) for a short guide which explains what digital literacy is and highlights why it should be taught in all subjects, at all levels and a planning tool to make the development of digital literacy easier to incorporate in everyday teaching.
- Safety:
 - Click [here](#) for basic good practice for keeping learners safer.

 Home Access Grant helpline

Call: 0333 200 1004*

 Minicom: 0121 748 1471

 Support the programme
www.homeaccess.org.uk

 Realise the benefits
www.becta.org.uk/homeaccess

*Calls may be monitored or recorded to maintain high levels of security and quality of service. Calls to this number cost no more than a call to a 01 or 02 number and count towards inclusive minutes in the same way as 01 and 02 calls. These rules apply to calls from any type of line including mobile, BT, other fixed line or payphone.