

## CREATIVE USE OF TABLETS IN SCHOOLS: MODULE 1

### SECTION 1.3 – WHOLE SCHOOL ISSUES (PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

One of the greatest challenges for schools using tablets is getting the right kind of professional development for teachers. It is important that you have a programme in place providing both a technical induction to how the tablet works and ongoing pedagogical support addressing how to implement the use of the devices into teaching and learning. Unfortunately, some schools buy a few devices, give them to one teacher and expect that the students will just know what to do – this adhoc approach will eventually create chaos because the whole school issues need to be addressed before you scale up the number of devices. The earlier you address these issues the better.

Schools should first of all ensure that teachers themselves have access to a tablet 24/7, so that they can use it as a personal device and begin to identify with some of the issues the student will face. It's a good idea to get teachers to communicate with each other using the tablet and provide training on a defined list of applications. As the teachers in the CCL project realised, it might be tempting to send out links to the 100 best apps, but this does not encourage others to use them – they simply ignore the list. The CCL teachers discovered it is a good idea to have a refined list of tools for different phases of the scenario. You really should not be worried about only using a few apps and tools to begin with. It requires a step by step approach and should include both formal and informal learning opportunities. Some staff will feel more confident than others and the more opportunities you can create to exchange best practice and share new ideas, the more successful you will be. School leaders need to create opportunities for staff to collaborate. In the CCL project, we've had some great ideas. I know that one of our schools created a treasure hunt to train staff and at each station of the treasure hunt there was a QR code which gave them a link to a video, where they had to learn to use a new app. Another school encourages one subject department to demonstrate an app at each staff meeting for 5 to 10 minutes. One of the best forms of professional development is observation – and if you can give staff the opportunity to visit each other or even another school that is already implementing tablets – you will find this really helps. If you would like more information about experiences in the CCL project, make sure to have a look at my blog on the CCL website.