
**SCHOOLCENTRE.NET HELPS SCHOOLS BE OFSTED-READY
IN ADVANCE OF NEW INSPECTION FRAMEWORK**

9 September 2009 – *schoolcentre.net*, Granada Learning's online tool for helping schools to drive self-evaluation and improvement, has been fully updated to support the new Ofsted Framework for the Inspection of Maintained Schools in England, which will come into force in October 2009. The updated version of *schoolcentre.net* allows schools to complete the new Self-Evaluation Form, add relevant supporting evidence and upload it directly to the Ofsted website prior to an inspection, enabling them to be Ofsted-ready at all times. The portal now also benefits from a redesigned Performance Management area that offers a more efficient approach to performance management.

Easy to implement and simple-to-use, *schoolcentre.net* is helping thousands of schools to implement their Self-Evaluation Forms (SEF) and School Development Plans (SDP). Accessible from any PC with an internet browser, *schoolcentre.net* brings together the school's main and Departmental SEFs, SDP and performance management documentation, and allows all the necessary information and evidence to be added or accessed at the click of a mouse. As such, it eliminates the need for paper-based systems and frees teachers to focus on pupil attainment.

One of the key differences in the new Ofsted Framework is the requirement for schools to complete an updated version of the SEF. The new document focuses on three key areas – outcomes for pupils, the quality of teaching and the effectiveness of a school's leadership – rather than the seven areas set out in the previous SEF. Schools will also be required to grade themselves on the statements in the SEF and give reasons for the grades they have chosen. As such, Mike Boyce, *schoolcentre.net* manager, believes it will be increasingly important for schools to give Ofsted inspectors easy access to accurate and meaningful data alongside the SEF.

"The evidence schools provide will be scrutinised even more closely to ensure that the school is meeting the needs of every child. Using an online system such as *schoolcentre.net* can reduce the pressure on schools prior to the arrival of Ofsted, and managing the school improvement process in this way can be an effective way of completing the SEF and collating the wealth of information schools need to ensure their inspection runs smoothly," Mike explains.

“*schoolcentre.net* adapts readily to the needs of primary, secondary, special and independent schools, and supports a team-based approach to improvement and self-evaluation. Throughout the school, staff can attach all the necessary documents and evidence directly to their online Departmental SEF. Schools find that communication within the school is enhanced and the latest achievements and best practices are shared easily. *schoolcentre.net* also ensures that all stakeholders and external agencies are kept fully up-to-date, without the need to collate, print and distribute paper-based reports that quickly become obsolete,” he continues.

The new Performance Management component offers an additional benefit to schools. As it incorporates the TDA’s job specification criteria, it offers teachers comprehensive support throughout staff objective setting, progress monitoring and review stages. At the outset, objectives can be agreed and entered directly into *schoolcentre.net*. Subsequent progress can be added easily, ensuring the performance management document is always up-to-date. Monitoring is equally straightforward for reviewers or mentors, allowing much more rapid intervention and helping to ensure that career development stays on track.

Granada Learning has today launched a new website to show how *schoolcentre.net* can support the needs of primary, secondary, special and independent schools. Teachers can see more at www.schoolcentre.net.

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About The Skills Factory

The Skills Factory has created a range of school management tools and lesson planning and record keeping software. The company’s aim is to reduce the time teachers spend on school administration and management, and our innovative tools can be used to aid school improvement, plan lessons, set targets, assess pupil attainment and create reports.

www.skillsfactory.co.uk

About Granada Learning

Granada Learning is the UK's leading provider of educational assessments, online school improvement resources and training. It publishes an extensive portfolio of online and print-based tests for schools and education specialists, which assess children’s progress in literacy, ability and numeracy and identify a broad spectrum of special educational needs.

www.granada-learning.com

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