



Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP)

Digital Pioneers Group

Terms of Reference (October 2020)

1. Introduction

The Digital Pioneers Group will support the implementation of the Portsmouth Education Strategy 2020-2023, contributing to the vision and overall themes of the strategy, and leading on Priority 2 of the strategy. (Implement a digital learning strategy for the city that supports learning both at school and at home)

Our vision as outlined in the Portsmouth Education Strategy is that through working together we can ensure that: *All children and young people make good progress through education which sets high expectations for them, is infused with restorative high support and high challenge and which is supported through leading edge use of digital technology, empowering them to drive their own learning anywhere.*

A central theme of the PEP strategy is inclusion - *creating an educational environment that is welcoming to all children and young people and not giving up on any child whatever their circumstances.*

The strategy will also have running through it a commitment to engage with schools and partners to develop and share anti-racism training and resources in response to Black Lives Matter.

As the world changes, so does the future of our students. We cannot sit back and let them enter a drastically shifting employment market without transforming the pedagogy, culture and approach to technology that is a legacy of the previous century.

However, there are considerable financial, technical and cultural barriers to implementing technological change in schools (and making devices accessible to all learners). We must find a way through these barriers to address the digital divide and pursue equity for the young people of the city of Portsmouth.

Covid-19 has created a pivotal moment in education – an opportunity to embrace the immense potential technology presents – but it needs leadership to re-imagine education for the long-term.

This group has been formed because collectively we believe in the power of technology to transform children's experience of education and to make sure that they are future ready.

2. Key purpose

The key purpose of the Digital Pioneers Group is to drive forward and support the implementation of specific key actions set out in this focused priority of the Portsmouth Education Strategy (see appendix).

Research tells us that when it comes to technological change, the key relationship is 'educator to educator'. This group can support one another through sharing solutions; finding ways to evaluate and share success; and building a network of expertise that can be called upon. The technology adoption curve shows that 'Innovators' and 'Early Adopters' spearhead the early and late majority; this is the role of this group.

The Portsmouth Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy 2019 - 2035 is based upon a clear vision for the continued growth and development of the city. The potential for technology to radically enhance the educational environment, to boost skills and increase educational outcomes, is a critical part of building a skilled and capable workforce who can drive innovation and sustain the scientific and technological economy going forward.

Additional sub groups / task and finish groups may be established to focus on particular aspects within the actions set out in the Appendix of this document.

3. Key responsibilities

The Digital Pioneers Group will:

- a) **Support schools to effectively exploit the potential of digital learning both in school and at home.** This will include technical support and a series of events and workshops to promote digital learning and showcase local good practice and membership of the Ed Tech Programme.
- b) **Develop and establish support networks** across the city which encourage and support the implementation of digital learning e.g. IT managers in schools.
- c) **Ensure schools have the information they need** to make informed decisions about the most suitable apps to support home learning and the leasing and purchase options to provide additional devices to pupils, including 1 to 1 subscription models.
- d) **Lead the way in terms of showcasing digital learning** and providing opportunities for communicating its impact on teachers and students/pupils to the educational community and beyond.

- e) **Provide opportunities** for digital pioneers to talk about digital change with peers, focusing on the evaluation of impact.
- f) **Seek feedback** on the impact of webinars and of the additional support for schools that the group and any associated networks are able to give.

Evaluation
<p>*Ethics: How will you involve different groups of people who will be impacted by your project? Ensure representation from primary/secondary and special school sector. LA and MAT schools. Educational and technical side of leadership.</p> <p>*Utility: What will the evaluation findings inform? How will you share this information? Communication strategy to be defined by the group</p> <p>*Accuracy: Which data/information sources will you use to assess whether you have achieved your goal? Keeping a tracker of digital development for schools across the city.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expert: Several years into 1:1 journey/central structures/smooth/have their own organisation defined pedagogy/capacity giver/people are certified to higher levels/organisation is certified. 2. Advanced: Devices are integrated into school and home life through a 1:1 approach. They scaffold learning and progress across the curriculum. 3. Competent: A virtual learning platform is in operation which allows the full digital workflow and teachers are moving towards competency in its use to support home / remote learning. Engagement of students is very strong. 4. Basic: Software exists which supports digital interaction between teachers and learners but its range is limited/its use is patchy. 5. A digital learning platform/workflow is not in place.

4. Membership

The membership of the Digital Pioneers Group is as follows:

Chair: Emily Pountney	Portsmouth College
Vice-Chair: Natalie Sheppard	TSAT – DoE. PCC/TsFE Digital lead.
James Doherty	UTC - HT
Christian Down	Castle View - HT
Caroline Corcoran	Salterns Academy Trust - COO
Andrew Olive	St Swithun's Primary - HT
Cat Walker	Harbour medical school lead
Pat Denham	VP Learning & Quality – Highbury College
Andrew Coates	Southsea Cluster - Network Mgr
Neil Stevenson	Attendance, Admissions and Inclusion Manager - PCC
Richard Denham	PCC/TsFE - Dev & Support Officer

The membership of the Group will be continually reviewed and monitored.

In the spirit of openness and transparency, any headteacher within the city is at liberty to request to attend meetings of this group/board in the capacity of an observer.

5. Chairing, frequency of meetings and administration

The Digital Pioneers Group will be chaired or vice-chaired by a local education leader from an education setting or Multi Academy Trust. The length of service will be for at least one year and will be reviewed at the end of each academic year.

The Group will meet at least termly.

Minutes of the meetings will be circulated to all members as soon as available and shared on the PEP website. The agenda and supporting papers will be sent out in advance of each meeting.

6. Accountability and governance arrangements

The Digital Pioneers Group will report and be accountable to the Digital (Drivers) Learning Group and then to the PEP Strategic Board (see Appendix 2).

Appendices

Appendix 1

Key actions for 2020/21 from the Portsmouth Education Strategy 2020-2023 Priority 2 :
Implement a digital learning strategy for the city that supports learning both at school and at home

1. **Establish a strategy group of school leaders / pioneers** who can agree and drive forward a digital learning strategy for the city under the 'Imagine Portsmouth' banner and begin to showcase digital delivery. This will be a continuation of the curriculum, digital and home learning work stream but with an expanded membership to include more pioneer schools.
2. **Develop, in consultation with schools, MATs, and other partners a three year digital learning strategy for Portsmouth** with clear expectations about the way in which secondary, primary, infant, junior and special schools will increase their use of technology to enhance learning over the three years.
3. **Support schools to effectively exploit the potential of digital learning both in school and at home.** This will include a high quality CPD offer (incorporating safeguarding and a focus on assessment and feedback) technical support and a series of events and workshops to promote digital learning and showcase local good practice and membership of the Ed Tech Programme.
4. **Ensure all schools have in place by the end of September 2020 contingency arrangements for remote education** which meet the expectations set out in the DFE guidance in the event of a local outbreak in a school or a local lockdown in a community.
5. **Significantly reduce the number of children with no access to either appropriate devices or to the internet.** In the short to medium term this will include the distribution of devices through a number of avenues including nationally funded government schemes and local schemes through Shaping Portsmouth, LA Emergency Grant and the HIVE.
6. **Upskill parents and pupils** in order to support home learning and a blended offer of digital and non-digital and support schools to build and develop better relationships with parents about their child's learning.
7. Ensure schools have the information they need to make informed decisions about the most **suitable apps to support home learning** and the **leasing and purchase options to provide additional devices to pupils**, including 1:1 subscription models.
8. Develop and establish **support networks** across the city which encourage and support the implementation of digital learning e.g. IT managers in schools.
9. Promote to schools the **digital apprenticeship programme** that is available through Portsmouth College.

Appendix 2

Organisation structure of PEP Digital groups

