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للتعلم الذكي
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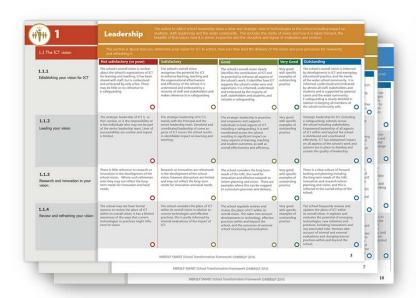# Introduction

SMART School Transformation Framework

INTRODUCING THE SMART SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK

Introduction

The MRBSLP SMART School Transformation Framework is designed to help schools get the very best from the technology available to them now and in the future. It assists leadership teams to support school improvement by evaluating and improving their use of ICT. Schools can then plan for the better use of ICT and as a result make further improvements to learning and teaching and therefore student outcomes.

The SMART School Transformation Framework is specifically for schools in the UAE and is aligned to and supportive of the new Ministry of Education Evaluation and Accreditation Framework 2015. Based on educational research as well as tried and tested methods for supporting school improvement, it has been developed by educationalists and experts in the use of technology for learning and school improvement. The SMART School Transformation Framework offers leadership teams a straightforward route for improving their effective use of ICT.

This document explains the design and structure of the SMART School Transformation Framework and answers some initial questions you may have to encourage you to adopt the framework principles in planning for the future of your school.

1 WHAT IS THE SMART SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK?

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It is important that school leaders demonstrate good strategic leadership, adopt innovative practices and sound procedures in school to get the most out the significant investment in ICT in schools across UAE.

The SMART School Transformation Framework highlights the 6 key areas to focus upon that will help you get the most out of ICT. It gives you a structured and straightforward process to take a strategic view of your current ICT deployment and use, identify strengths and weaknesses and help you plan improvement and determine key priorities.

If you are confident in the use of ICT across your school it will help you assess against a robust model and extend your good practice. If you are less confident it will help guide you on how to move forward with your technology.

Most schools recognise the impact effective use of ICT can have on enhancing and extending learning and to support school activities. The broader use of ICT extends further to support and improve links between the school, home and community as well as preparing students for their changing world.

2 WHY USE THE SMART SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK?

The SMART School Transformation Framework is designed to help you consider key questions to form a strategic view on how well you are doing with ICT and what you can do better. If you undertake a review and plan for improvement using the framework, your use of ICT will be better connected, more efficient and focused on supporting learners.

If the school leadership team does not have a clear understanding and consistent view of the role of technologies across the school and does not effectively lead technology, time and energy will be wasted and student learning will be reduced.

The SMART School Transformation Framework will help your leadership team and your school understand the key areas, identify how you can improve effective use and adoption and improve outcomes for your learners

3 WHAT DOES THE SMART SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK LOOK AT?

The MBRSLP SMART School Transformation Framework sets out the **Strategic Components** that you need to address to make the best use of technologies. Designed as a self-review tool it supports benchmarking and action planning in these six areas:

- Leadership
- Curriculum and resourcing learning
- Learning, teachers and teaching
- Student and family context

- Assessment and student progress
- Operational provision and management

By looking in detail at these areas you will be able to take a broad view of your school and plan to make the best and most efficient use of technologies

4   HOW IS THE SMART SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION FRAMEWORK STRUCTURED?

The SMART School Transformation Framework is designed to support the process of self-review and improvement, taking a top-down view and then focusing on areas of detail. In this way the SMART School Transformation Framework helps school leaders and staff at all levels and supports whole-school working.

The SMART School Transformation Framework is structured in 3 tiers:

Tier 1 is made up of the 6 **Strategic Components of** Leadership; Curriculum and resourcing learning; Learning, teachers and teaching; Student and family context; Assessment and student progress and Operational provision and management

Tier 2 breaks down each of the 6 Strategic Components into clear sections for you to review and are referred to as **Leadership Elements**. For example, the Strategic Component for Leadership guides you to review how you are developing an ICT vision; the Quality and focus of that vision; how it is managed and how you evaluate the impact.

Tier 3 has an **Operational Focus** and provides brief statements that help you to review and consider ICT in your school. These descriptors are written at 5 levels, from 5 – unsatisfactory to 1 – outstanding. Assessing where your school is against the descriptors will help you identify areas for improvement, make progress and celebrate your successes.

5   HOW CAN I START TO USE THE FRAMEWORK?

Adopting and getting the best from technology requires a whole-school view and strong strategic leadership. The most important factor is to take a strategic view and involve the leadership team – working together.

Firstly, familiarise yourself with the structure of the SMART School Transformation Framework and the language that is used. Think about your school as you are reading the framework.

Secondly, consider each of the 6 strategic components and their leadership elements and take a broad view of your school and how well you feel you are using and leading technology across each of those 6 areas. Use the scale of 5 (low) to 1 (high) and ask colleagues in your

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leadership team to do the same - share your views and understanding.

Thirdly, select one component and together with your leadership team look in detail at the descriptors. By reading the descriptors (Tier 3), you and your colleague in school can identify which most accurately describes the situation in your school. Each descriptor suggests a level from 5 (low) to 1 (high) with the next descriptor indicating to you what differences you should be looking to make, therefore guiding your action plan.

The SMART School Transformation Framework has already been used by over 60 schools in UAE who have advised on different approaches they have taken to use the framework. You will be able to access examples and different approaches from those schools and learn from their experiences and successes.

6   HOW DO I ASSESS WHERE MY SCHOOL IS AND THEN PRIORITISE?

As you look at each component of the SMART School Transformation Framework, you will start to build a profile for your school. It may be that in some areas you are doing very well (levels 2 or 1) in others you may not be doing well (levels 5 or 4). It is not unusual to have a mix of levels in the same area. Included with the framework is a summary sheet. As you decide on your review, you can record your assessment and build your profile. That will help give you a clear view and with your leadership team determine priorities and areas for attention.

As you determine your priorities and develop your actions, you can reassess your school and update your profile.

Involving members of your leadership team as well as other staff in school will help you raise their awareness and understanding of the role of technology. By taking this approach you are more likely to increase the rate of progress and improvement and have a balanced view across the school.

The main purpose of the review is to offer you a route to improvement, and each descriptor helps you identify your current position based on an informed review.

School leaders have found this process extremely helpful. To obtain full value however, it is also important that schools draw on a range of appropriate evidence to support your assessment: this will enable them to arrive at an accurate evaluation and thus to target their action planning appropriately.

Whichever way you choose to work with the SMART School Transformation Framework, it is important to recognise that to get a full picture for your school, you do need to look at each of the Strategic Components of the framework. You will need to do this over a period of time, and to re-visit your assessments and review progress at regular intervals to continue your progress

7   IS THIS SELF-REVIEW OR EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT?

The SMART School Transformation Framework is designed to support the process of self-review. By seeing where your school sits in relationship to a series of levels, you can establish a profile of your school's ICT development.

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By setting out a clear picture of what 'good' and 'outstanding schools' look like, the framework also enables schools to aim to improve and celebrate successes – we will shortly be announcing how progress and improvement will be recognised and celebrated and how your good practice can be shared.

8 WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE TO ME?

To help you consider the descriptors and determine where your school is and how you can improve, MBRSLP is providing a range of professional development and specific support materials for you:

- Information – including key sources, contacts and references you can look up for more detail on specific areas
- Advice – where MBRSLP will give examples of what other schools are doing, good practice that may work for you and share the experiences of others
- Guidance – where MBRSLP will be offer explicit and clear guidance on key areas, for example e-safety, technology standards and legal requirements.