



Department
for Education

Consultation on the Order for replacing the subject of ICT with computing

Government response

June 2013

Introduction

1. This report summarises the responses received to our consultation on a draft Order, to be laid under Sections 84 and 85 of the Education Act 2002, that will give force to the Government's decision to replace the current national curriculum subject of information and communication technology (ICT) with computing from September 2014.

Background

2. On 7 February 2013 the Department for Education published proposals for the reform of the national curriculum for consultation. These proposals included one to replace the existing, outdated ICT curriculum with a new computing curriculum with a greater emphasis on computational thinking and practical programming skills, to help England retain a competitive edge in the global digital economy. Following the close of the consultation on the proposal (which ran from 7 February to 16 April), Ministers confirmed their intention to proceed. A consultation on the draft Order was conducted between 3 May and 3 June 2013.

Findings

3. There were 42 responses to the consultation. Only a minority, however, commented on the appropriateness of the draft Order itself. These respondents agreed that the proposed Order appeared to implement the name change correctly.
4. Most respondents used the consultation exercise as an opportunity to set out, or reiterate, their views on the advantages and disadvantages of changing the subject name. Many respondents supported the policy to change the subject name of ICT, but amongst these there were a number who called for the draft computing programmes of study to feature greater emphasis on digital skills and information technology to meet the needs of all pupils.

Next Steps

5. Having carefully considered the responses to this consultation, as well as a range of other relevant factors, the Government has decided to proceed to make the Order to replace ICT with computing under section 84 and 85 of the Education Act 2002. The Government, supported by a wide range of industry stakeholders and experts, believes that ICT as a subject name carries strong negative connotations of a dated and unchallenging curriculum that does not properly serve the needs and ambitions of pupils. Changing the subject name of ICT to computing will not only improve the status of the subject but also more accurately reflect the breadth of content included in the draft programmes of study.

6. Under the legislation which underpins the national curriculum, the Order will be laid before Parliament and will be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure. It will, therefore, need to be debated in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords before the subject of ICT can be changed to computing.

Overview of responses

7. The organisational breakdown of respondents was as follows:

Secondary School	10
Primary School	8
Other ¹	5
Local Authority	5
Academy/Free school	5
Organisation Representing School Teachers	7
Special School	1
Subject Association	1

¹ Those which fell into the 'other' category included ICT professionals, school governors, and those respondents who did not specify a type.



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