

Embracing Transformation

Today's schools must embrace the technological future and engage with technology to change and adapt. In a world that is increasingly digital, our schools have a responsibility to empower young people with technology so they can realize its many benefits, not just for learning, but for participation in the global digital society they will inherit.

But schools shouldn't feel compelled to embrace all technological trends. Instead, they must take an education-first approach to digital innovation that focuses on improved educational outcomes.

For schools to make sense of digital technologies, they must understand what makes learning happen best in their particular context. Empowering teachers and instructors with the freedom to explore and take risks with technology is key to fostering a culture of innovation in schools.

For schools, the challenge is balancing educational needs with other priorities. Change management is therefore of critical importance in successful digital transformation. Firstly, in making sure that technology projects and programs deliver value to teachers, students and other stakeholders using the technology; and to the school, by making sure that resource and time invested into projects and programs can be measured against strategic aims and objectives.

Educational technology is changing the educational experience by extending learning beyond the walls of the classroom so that school time can be spent on assessment, discussion and consolidation of what has been learnt. This has led many schools to reorganize classrooms into open, informal spaces with Wi-Fi where students can access a range of online and individualized learning resources.

This type of digital freedom, though, comes not without its consequences. A prohibitory approach is often taken in many schools, with decisions about what is appropriate or not appropriate made by the school, therefore failing students in helping them

to make their own judgments about the risks and benefits of technology used outside of school. A better strategy is teaching students about the risks of online technologies and appropriate online behavior, and allowing them to use online technologies and learn from their mistakes.

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Modern educational technologies are also enabling students to follow learning pathways that are highly differentiated, where learning is continually adapted to suit the individual learning needs of the student. These adaptive learning algorithms give us a glimpse of how machine learning and AI (Artificial Intelligence)



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might transform education and learning in the future. AI could provide students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders more objectivity about a student's learning needs and the interventions required.

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