

# Continuing Professional Development



With an exclusive focus on education, RM is keenly aware of the challenges and opportunities facing teachers and school leaders today, and is committed to delivering outstanding services that help teachers to teach and learners to learn. Our CPD experience includes the development and implementation of online training, the management of large-scale national programmes, and face-to-face delivery of support to help teachers embed ICT in the classroom.

## Background

The Government is committed to enhancing the effective use of ICT in teaching, as demonstrated by the New Opportunities Fund (NOF), Enhancing Subject Teaching using ICT (ESTU ICT) and Hands On Support (HOS) initiatives. RM's expertise in education, multi-media and ICT has made the company a vital partner in the Government's dedication to the continuing professional development of teachers.

## Learning Schools Programme (LSP)



### The need

The NOF ICT Training Initiative ran for 3 years from April 1999. NOF made available £230 million to fund the training of serving teachers and school librarians in all maintained schools in the UK. Key outcomes for the initiative, defined by the Teacher Training Agency (TTA), were that teachers and school librarians would be able to:

- Use ICT to improve the planning and teaching of subjects.
- Use ICT to improve professional skills.

### The solution

LSP, from RM and the Open University, was the largest UK-wide trainer under the NOF lottery-funded ICT training initiative, providing online and face-to-face training.

RM worked in partnership with LEAs and other educational organisations to provide teachers and school librarians with professional development to improve, extend and transform teaching.

162,441 teachers and over 10,000 schools were trained through LSP.

## INDIGO VISIONS for teaching and learning™ (INDIGO)



### The need

The Government's ongoing commitment to supporting the professional development of teachers continued with the launch of ESTU ICT in 2002, and HOS in 2003. Both initiatives are about giving teachers the skills, knowledge and confidence to embed ICT in subject-teaching and pupils' learning.

### The solution

Developed in partnership with 3T for the ESTU ICT initiative, INDIGO offered a personalised CPD programme that recognised each teacher's different training needs. INDIGO included face-to-face sessions with online mentor support, and curriculum-focused modules with all the resources needed for lesson delivery. After a successful pilot which offered CPD in Primary Literacy & Numeracy (Key Stages 1 and 2) and Science KS3, INDIGO was awarded the contract to develop CPD in a further 7 subjects in January 2004.

*"The best training we've had in 20 years."*

*INDIGO pilot school*

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## RM's strengths

### Learning Schools Programme

LSP's partnership between RM and the Open University combined RM's technical capability with the OU's unequalled experience in supported open and distance learning. All materials were designed and written by the Open University, ensuring that the training was educationally rigorous and content was the best available.

Using RM's resources and expertise, LSP ran dedicated operational, support and customer management teams, and a robust quality assurance system which continually assessed the quality and effectiveness of the training.

Drawing on RM's experience and long-term relationships with educational organisations, LSP worked in partnership with over 100 local Education Authorities across the UK, including Learning and Teaching Scotland, providing local support, training and expertise to schools. Educational managers were also based in the regions to support LEA advisers and schools.

LSP developed a UK-wide online learning environment so that ideas could be shared and communicated between the 162,441 teachers, over 10,000 schools and 2,284 advisers involved in the Programme, using e-mail and electronic conferences.

Close liaison with the TTA, NOF, NAACE, Becta and the DfES, facilitated by RM's existing contacts and relationships, ensured that the NOF ICT training initiative met its objectives.

### INDIGO VISIONS for teaching and learning™

3T, one of the UK's leading specialists in the use of ICT in education, developed the content for INDIGO. Subject experts, educationalists, subject organisations and leading practitioners worked in close collaboration with 3T, and all the content was approved by the National Strategies.

Using RM's network of educational specialists, a nationwide structure of INDIGO Experts and online tutors was set up, to support teachers and schools throughout the CPD programme.

Lessons were learned from previous initiatives, and these were reflected in the development, operation and content of INDIGO. INDIGO recognised and built on skills that had already been developed through earlier initiatives, and was individualised to suit each teacher's subject and experience. INDIGO is about the appropriate use of ICT by the individual teacher and what he or she could personally achieve with ICT in the classroom.

An independent evaluation found that:

- 98% of the pilot teachers agreed they had learned ideas for classroom approaches that will be useful in the future.
- 71% felt that learning more about teaching with ICT was important.
- Many felt that the impact of the pilot project would change their teaching practice.

RM has a team of 40 Educational Consultants who are qualified teachers with recent relevant classroom experience. Their sole aim is to help teachers embed ICT in teaching and learning, using RM and other third party products.

## Contact

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