

## DfES Proposal – April 2002

### Domain Names Rationalisation Project England - School Names on the Net

Following the PAB's rejection of Becta's proposal that the choice of the proposed generic 4LD *.sch.uk* domain names provided to LEAs in England should be decided by the authority on an individual basis, the proposal has been reviewed. The DfES appreciates the PAB's concerns, and those of the School Names on the Net team, that an 'open' system of generic 4LD domains for LEAs may lead to confusion within the *.sch.uk* SLD.

DfES would now like to propose that one generic *.sch.uk* domain name of a standard format be made available to LEAs throughout England and Wales. The planned model would follow that which has already been introduced in Scotland where Education Authorities can now use a generic *.sch.uk* domain of the format *ea.area.sch.uk*. This will result in a standard system of generic *.sch.uk* domain names being made available for LEAs in England and Wales and EAs in Scotland.

The 4LDs will take the following format.

- England - *<lea>.<area>.sch.uk*
- Wales - *<lea>.<area>.sch.uk*
- Scotland - *<ea>.<area>.sch.uk*

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### Draft Guidelines on the use of an additional 4LD for Local Education Authorities (LEAs) in England

1. At a meeting of the School Names on the Net project team (*.sch.uk*) held at Nominet UK on 9 November 2001, it was agreed in principle to support a proposal to create an additional 4LD for use by LEAs in England.
2. It is envisaged that use of this additional 4LD would be covered by specific guidelines, which would define acceptable use of this 4LD. Broadly, we propose that this 4LD could be used in two ways. Firstly, as a method of ensuring continuity of email accounts under *.sch.uk* across the LEA for staff employed by the LEA who work in and with schools on a regular basis, but are not based in any particular school. This would avoid the difficulties of having LEA staff based in schools being potentially segregated on their Intranet from colleagues who are not attached to one particular school.
3. We envisage that this could include the following personnel:
  - peripatetic teaching staff e.g. SEN, Music Instructors, English as an Second / Additional Language;
  - home and hospital teachers;
  - education centre staff, including curriculum and ICT support staff;
  - assessment centre staff;

- outdoor centre staff;
- New Community School staff;
- educational psychologists; and
- any other appropriate groups of personnel employed directly by the LEA who work regularly in and with schools.

It is not envisaged that this additional 4LD would be available for staff employed principally in other education sectors within the authority e.g. adult / community education and lifelong learning, the pre-school, further and informal education sectors etc. This demarcation could be emphasised in the name chosen for the 4LD. DfES propose that this domain name takes the format *<lea>.<area>.sch.uk*.

4. Secondly, the additional 4LD could be used as a window on other *.sch.uk* web sites within the authority e.g. as a directory page of LEA school web sites. As many LEAs currently list school web sites on other (perhaps less appropriate) web pages, we would envisage some LEAs choosing to use the *.sch.uk* SLD for this purpose.
5. If approved, DfES and Becta would undertake to monitor the use of the additional 4LD in England and Wales to ensure that it was being used for its intended purpose.
6. We believe that the additional 4LD could also benefit further standardisation of the system by facilitating the setting up of useful generic mailboxes under *.sch.uk* e.g.

*senstaff/enquiries/curriculumsupport/ictsupportetc@<lea>.<area>.sch.uk*.

We feel this would be consistent with the concept of improving communication and information sharing between all concerned within schools education.

DfES hereby invite Nominet UK's Policy Advice Board to consider this proposal. We would be happy to provide further information if required.