

Domain Names Rationalisation Project England - School Names on the Net

As a result of recent education policy changes in England, made by the DfES following the election, Becta would like to propose that the choice of the 4LD provided to LEAs in England should be decided by the authority on an individual basis, to suit their own needs and purposes.

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:
 - o peripatetic teaching staff e.g. SEN, Music Instructors, English as an Second / Additional Language;
 - o home and hospital teachers;
 - o education centre staff, including curriculum and ICT support staff;
 - o assessment centre staff;
 - o outdoor centre staff;
 - o New Community School staff;
 - o educational psychologists; and
 - o 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, which would be determined by the LEA. However we might suggest something along the lines of <edu>, <educ>, <schooleduc>, <educschools>, <leaschools> or just <schools>.

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, the DfES and Becta would undertake to monitor the use of the additional 4LD in England to ensure that it was being used for its intended purpos.
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@LEA4LD...* . We feel this would be consistent with the concept of improving communication and information sharing between all concerned within schools education.

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