

Benefits of ICT use in education for people with SEN

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Benefits of information and communications technologies (ICT) use in education for people with special educational needs*

General ICT benefits

ICT benefits for students

ICT benefits for teachers, non-teaching staff

ICT benefits for parents and carers

* *ICTs In Education for Peoples with Special Needs: Specialized Training Course / Ed. Edwards, AI. // UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education/. — Moscow, 2006*

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According to the research of British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA, 2003), ICT usage in schools to support students with SEN can enable learners to communicate, participate in lessons, and learn more effectively. Key evidence is outlined below

General ICT benefits

- Enables greater learner autonomy;
- Unlocks hidden potential for those with communication difficulties;
- Enables students to demonstrate achievement in ways which might not be possible with traditional methods;
- Enables tasks to be tailored to suit individual skills and abilities

ICT benefits for students (1)

- Computers can improve independent access for students to education;
- Students with special educational needs are able to accomplish tasks working at their own pace;
- Visually impaired students using the internet can access information alongside their sighted peers;

ICT benefits for students (2)

- Students with profound and multiple learning difficulties can communicate more easily;
- Students using voice communication aids gain confidence and social credibility at school and in their communities;
- Increased ICT confidence amongst students motivates them to use the Internet at home for schoolwork and leisure interests

ICT benefits for teachers, non-teaching staff (1)

- Reduces isolation for teachers working in special educational needs by enabling them to communicate electronically with colleagues;
- Supports reflection on professional practice via online communication;
- Improved skills for staff and a greater understanding of access technology used by students;

ICT benefits for teachers, non-teaching staff (2)

- Enhances professional development and the effectiveness of the use of ICTs with students through collaboration with peers;
- Materials already in electronic form (for example, from the Internet) are more easily adapted into accessible resources such as large print or Braille

ICT benefits for parents and carers

- Use of voice communication aids encourages parents and carers to have higher expectations of children's sociability and potential level of participation

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