

e-Learning Foundation Projects Highlighted In List Of Finalists For Handheld Learning 2008 Awards

Primary & Secondary schools show the power of handhelds in education

October 8 2008: Four projects set up with the aid of grants from the e-Learning Foundation, the only national charity working to close the digital divide in the UK, have been short listed as finalists for the inaugural Handheld Learning Awards 2008.

The Awards, held in conjunction with the Handheld Learning Conference 2008 (13-15 October 2008, The Brewery, Barbican, London) have been set up to reward innovative handheld educational projects. In the 'Primary Category', Chris Young, Headteacher at Dean Bank Primary School in Durham has been short listed for the Practitioner Award. Wilsden Primary School on the outskirts of Bradford, West Yorkshire has been short listed for an Innovation Award in the same category along with Learning2Go, Wolverhampton LA. In the 'Secondary Category', Henbury Secondary School in Bristol's e-learning team has been short listed for the Practitioner Award.

Wilsden Primary School and Henbury Secondary School also both use the e-Learning Foundations innovative Donation Management System (DMS) which has been designed to take the burden off schools running their own local charity and parental donation scheme by managing it centrally for them.

"We are delighted to see three projects we have helped to instigate short listed for the prestigious Handheld Learning Awards 2008," commented Valerie Thompson, chief executive of the e-Learning Foundation. "They all spotlight the power of handheld learning in providing children with the technology for their studies, when and where they need it, both at home and in the classroom".

"These projects underline the importance of the Foundation's work in supporting projects in UK schools, providing disadvantaged children with home access to learning technologies and ensuring they do not fall the wrong side of the digital divide", added Thompson.

Overview of projects:

Dean Bank Primary School, Durham: effective use of mobile technology to promote learning for pupils from less affluent backgrounds. The project has been running for three years.

Wilsden Primary School, Bradford: The introduction of EDAs at Wilsden Primary School has been seen as a 'pioneering move' by both senior managers and staff. Children have reported that the devices have helped them significantly in their studies both in school and at home.

Learning2Go, Wolverhampton LA: This initiative is currently the largest collaborative mobile learning project for pupils in the UK. It is co-ordinated by the e-services team at Wolverhampton City Council.

Henbury Secondary School, Bristol: The team have worked to introduce handheld computers into the secondary school curriculum – particularly in the English Department. A Bristol University study has shown that using the devices are highly motivated, with 80% regularly using them in English lessons.

The Handheld Learning Awards 2008 will take place at a glittering evening ceremony on Monday 13 October 2008 in Central London.

Despite living in a digital age, where technology is part of everyday life, an astonishing 1.35 million ** school age children in the UK live in a household with no computer and a staggering 2.77 million do not have Internet access either. Over 30% of these children come from single parent households, many whom live in very deprived communities.

End.

Notes for Editors:

** Figures taken from the National Statistics Family Spending Survey 06-07

About the e-Learning Foundation

The e-Learning Foundation was launched in 2001, to ensure that every schoolchild in the UK should have home access to learning technologies when and where they want to learn.

The Foundation, a registered charity, aims to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all children, irrespective of their background, can have the same access to technology for learning at home as their better off peers. The estimated cost of this runs into £billions, so unlikely to be provided by Government alone.

pressrelease



The Foundation is funded through the public, private and third sector in the form of Government grants, commercial sponsorship, grants and donations.

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