

Results

Over the last 3 years, hundreds of teachers have undertaken training with the team, either at the Professional Development Centre at Wedgnoek House or within their own school.

Based on teacher feedback from the sessions, 100% of those interviewed were confident that the training course would act as a driving force to inspire young creative minds. They also believe it will help them to teach the core curriculum subjects more effectively. As a result of training days with the ICT Development Service, teachers see the value of using products to create a rich, engaging and motivating learning environment for their pupils.

John Pinkney added: "Teacher feedback is the most important factor in what we do. We often get invited to see how teachers incorporate what they were taught in the training sessions. One of the most inspiring comments was to hear a teacher say: "I finally realised why I became a teacher."

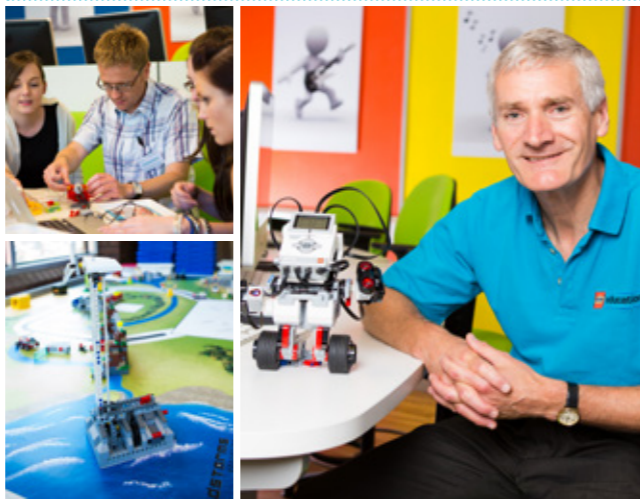
Students have an affinity for LEGO® bricks as they are easy-to-use and LEGO® Education is in constant demand by teachers. There are now ten studios situated around the county, providing a focal point for innovation and creativity.

Colin Talbot, an E-learning Advisor for the ICT Development Service said:

"We are looking to expand our LEGO® Education Innovation Studios. Teachers often report lessons with the use of LEGO® Education resources to be motivating, exciting and capable of engaging all students - the exact thing we want to hear. If teachers enjoy teaching, pupils will enjoy learning."

The ICT Development Service has gained national recognition for its innovative approach to teaching; another ten LEGO® Education Innovation Studios will be added to the programme over the coming year.

Innovation Studios are a total solution comprising of equipment, training, teaching resources and technical services. Specifically designed for open-ended challenges, LEGO® Education promotes problem solving through a hands-on approach. LEGO® Education's resources and services are constantly updated, as they build on the feedback they receive from user panels, and the qualitative research they do into the impact of their work.

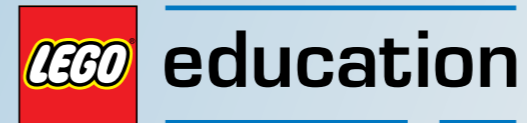


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INNOVATION STUDIO CASE STUDY

ICT Development Service,
Warwickshire County Council,
Wedgnoek House



Background

The Professional Development Centre at Wedgnoek House is a training venue, set-up by the local authority in Warwick. Managed by the ICT Development Service, which is part of Warwickshire County Council, it offers a range of courses that reflect the best of creative ICT, utilising technologies that will enhance the learning process in schools. Over the last three years, the ICT Development Service has been supporting the implementation of LEGO® Education Innovation Studios for primary and secondary schools. Their highly qualified staff offers schools bespoke, practical training and advice on how best to incorporate technology within the curriculum.

The E-learning advisors at the ICT Development Service strongly support the principal that creativity and education go hand in hand. They also appreciate that this kind of thinking can be an overlooked area within the existing curriculum. On review, the advisors identified embedding creative learning into everyday practices of a school as one of the greatest challenges for teachers. Therefore the ICT Development Service set-up a provision that would help inspire creativity in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) teaching and promote hands-on learning, with the ultimate goal of enabling pupils to develop their own, successful learning style.

“If teachers enjoy teaching, pupils will enjoy learning”

John Pinkney, an E-learning advisor for the ICT Development Service said:
“Our overall aim is to develop creativity in the curriculum, and we have been working closely with teachers across the county to bring this to life. I was introduced to the LEGO® Education Innovation Studio concept at BETT in 2010 and was inspired to see how we could develop this creative proposition, with learning at its very core.”

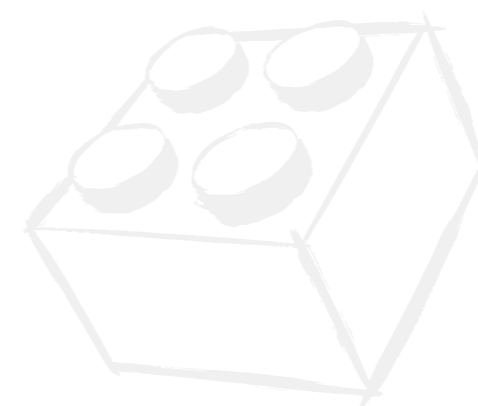


The Implementation

The ICT Development Service established its first ‘on-premises’ LEGO® Education Innovation Studio to showcase the concept to teachers. Having seen the studio in action, a number of schools came forward to develop the idea in their own schools and to work closely with LEGO® Education and the local authority in implementing it. Each LEGO® Education Innovation Studio is a complete room, fully kitted out with LEGO® Education resources and supported by comprehensive training.

Tailored to the individual needs of a school, the main focus for the studios is to provide a hands-on, experimental learning environment, helping teachers to adopt alternative, more creative methods of teaching and learning. In this way they address the kinds of skills that students need for the future; skills that enable them to become creative problem-solvers.

A typical training programme is held at the Innovation Studio at Wedgnoek House and will see about ten teachers for a full day of hands-on and theory. The programme is led by one of the E-Learning advisors for the ICT Development Service and underpinned by the LEGO® Education System for Learning. Teachers are introduced to specific resources such as the LEGO® Education WeDo construction set and programming interface, which is designed for primary use (years 1-5) as an introduction to control technology using robotics.



Trainees collaborate in pairs or groups to build and programme simple LEGO® models. They're challenged to actively engage in creative thinking, teamwork and problem-solving skills to produce their own models. The learning promotes experimentation and creativity and most importantly, the concept of failing in a safe environment and building skills through that experience.

Mathew Hardman from Hurley Primary School attended a recent session and commented:
“It's so great to become a student again. Being a teacher you often forget the difficulties and frustration pupils face. Teaching and learning in a hands-on environment is the way forward as it increases enthusiasm and motivation. I can definitely see my students benefitting from LEGO® Education WeDo, especially as it can be used across all the subjects.”

