

## **BUSINESS SYNOPSIS: SKILL-CAPTURE SYSTEM**

State-funded schools are required to provide evidence of the progress made by each pupil in attaining skills defined in the National Curriculum. The quality of this evidence is a crucial factor in Ofsted inspections and can strongly influence the career prospects of individual teachers. At present such evidence is gathered in paper files for each pupil and is usually incomplete and impossible to search, sort, analyse or classify without laborious effort.

The aim of this project is to make it simple to collect high quality evidence which is stored digitally and to produce reports showing in detail the progress of each individual child which may be viewed and printed as pdf documents, or displayed on a secure web site where they can be viewed by those given credentials for access, for example parents. Summary reports will also be produced showing the progress against objectives for each class or group of pupils.

### **VALUE PROPOSITION:**

Teachers work in a pressured environment and are unlikely to have time to write notes on paper evidence and file this correctly while they are also responsible for teaching and maintaining discipline and safety in a classroom. The SkillCapture product is designed to use evidence that can be captured in a few seconds from mobile devices. Photographs can be taken on an iPhone, iPad, or on a digital camera or android device and are then assigned to individual children and skills and annotated using an application that runs on any recent Apple computer.

The pupils and skills can optionally be identified at the time of capture if an iPhone or iPad is used for the purpose as an App has been written to enable this. The App also allows the teacher to annotate and grade each child's level of achievement. The system can be set up so that the uploading of evidence from a mobile App takes place automatically and without further action by the teacher using the School's wifi network.

Evidence can also be captured as short video sequences or sound recordings. It will also be possible for pupils to upload work they have produced as word processor files (.doc or .pdf) and for online tests and exercises to be carried out by pupils and the results and scores automatically recorded as evidence against prescribed skills.

The Application, which runs on an Apple Mac, can be used to refine and edit the evidence and annotation in order to ensure the reports are correct and to a professional standard of written English.

The National Curriculum is undergoing substantial changes in 2014/15 as are GCSE syllabi. The App will be of great assistance to teachers in helping them become familiar with the new objectives and in indicating the progress of individual children and groups that they teach.

The practice of education has not experienced the enormous efficiency gains that business, banking and commerce has enjoyed from the introduction of IT. Digital whiteboards and PowerPoint presentations have perhaps provided improved clarity in teaching, but the trend has been to greater bureaucracy and administrative burdens on teaching staff with increased demands for information and evidence. This is often done using paper systems or crude, slow and clumsy web-form entry.

This system offers a quantum change in the quality of information gathered by teachers and in its productive use to guide learning and to demonstrate progress to Ofsted and to children and their parents. It offers the possibility of integrating coursework submission and testing with the database of evidence. It could be extended as a basis for a single integrated system which organised material online for teaching and monitored progress using automated marking and testing where appropriate. This would allow some pupils to learn at their own pace and yet provide full details of progress to teaching staff.