



**innovation**

# Networking for Learning

A learning tool to support primary school collaboration



*their future*

*their education*



*your network*

# What is Networking for Learning?

The Networking for Learning simulation is an interactive tool which has been created to help primary schools develop learning networks. It aims to engage groups of school leaders, teachers and other professionals in an interactive, educational and fun introduction to the potential and the challenges involved. The simulation is anchored firmly in research and has been developed with support and guidance from a number of primary educators and international experts in the field of networking.

Simulations allow you to try out possible responses when there are no real-time consequences, and to think through issues with your colleagues in a risk-free environment. And, dare we say it, simulations are fun! We hope you enjoy it.

## What is a Learning Network?

A network focused on learning is one in which a group of schools join together to plan, implement and monitor a range of activities that will enhance learning and teaching within and across their schools. The schools in the network achieve more than if they work alone. Learning networks focus on learning of pupils, all staff, leaders and other stakeholders, as well as building capacity for learning and sharing knowledge between schools.

# Who is Networking for Learning for?

This simulation is suitable for those already engaged in a learning network, as a tool for refreshing and refining your work, and for those embarking on a new venture, as a collaborative planning tool. It will help you to consider the extent to which your network is focused on learning and what approaches are likely to have the best chance of success.

*“It creates debate and builds understanding in a very engaging way”*

Headteacher

## Your task

- Work with your colleagues to help five fictional schools create a sustainable learning network over a simulated three year period.
- Select activities for staff to undertake that will move them through the five stages of network development.
- Identify which activities have the highest payoff and lead to pupil learning benefits and increased staff, school and network capacity.

The simulation will help you to reflect on your progress and the decisions you have made as you progress through the three years.

## Get Networked!

The Innovation Unit has worked closely with the creators, David Crandall and Louise Stoll, and the Networked Learning Group of the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) to develop this resource. It is available for free to groups of primary schools interested in developing a learning network.

To try out a short online demonstration, visit [www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/innovation-unit](http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/innovation-unit)

To order your copy:

Write to        DfES Publications  
                    PO Box 5050  
                    Sherwood Park  
                    Annesley  
                    Nottingham NG15 0DJ

Tel                0845 6022260  
Fax                0845 6033360  
Textphone      0845 6055560  
Email             [dfes@prolog.uk.com](mailto:dfes@prolog.uk.com)

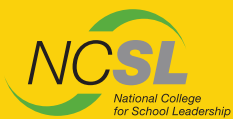
Please quote ref: DfES/0912/2004

*"It gives you confidence  
and shows how networks  
can really benefit pupils"*

Teacher



In partnership with



Created by David Crandall and Louise Stoll