Western and Northern Europe
Case Study 5: Ale Municipality, Gothenburg, Sweden

Success factors

- Dedicated team providing connectivity, access points and centralised support for distribution and maintenance of devices within and outside all the schools in the municipality
- IT department works closely with the education department
- 1-1 device policy with all devices working
- Common use of Office 365 across schools and keeping it regularly updates
- Shortcut to apps on devices
- Centrally provided access points in schools and across the municipality

About the municipality

The municipality has between 25 and 30 schools with around 4500 students. The area is mainly working class with mixed ethnicity.

Municipality achievement

Some schools are excelling compared to others in the county. One school, with an excellent principal who works very closely with his staff and the municipality's education development has students who achieved 100% in national tests at grades 3 and 6

The youngest students (7- 8 years of age) are learning to read six months earlier than before the devices were introduced through a speech synthesiser program. The impact of this software on boys has been particularly high.

Use of digital technologies

Students are given free reign of their device and can add any apps they like. Cybersecurity is maintained through a scanning program that sends information about any criminal or inappropriate actions

Technology infrastructure and devices

All students and teachers have PCs with touchscreens. They are mainly Asus devices but some are HP. Special needs students have iPads. The IT department preload the devices with software and maintain the computers. Spares are available so that a student always has a working device

Touchscreens Promethean boards have been placed in every school which they connect their devices and has been successful as it is easy to move them and students can use them not just teachers.

Smartphones are not yet used as a tool in education but the plans are to move to a cloud solution with Office 365 which means students will soon be able to use their phones.

Digital pedagogy

Students have home learning assignments which are often family oriented. The child's device may be the only device in the home, so through these activities families are gaining digital literacy skills with and from their children.

Many of the teachers are already skilful. There are teachers who do not use the technology but there are cases where improvement in these teachers' confidence and ability is noticeable.

The devices were first introduced to the youngest children as it was thought that would be better than older children. It was important to find the right software for impact as in the language learning speech to text synthesiser described above.

Digital books are seldom used because the majority are in English. Some schools are teaching robotics and programming is taught from grade 3

Teacher professional development

Successful schools like the one that got excellent test results are encouraged to share this experience with other schools. Each school has an ICT coordinator whose job is to share technology enhanced learning practices with teachers in their school. With the education department there is a development unit set up to work with teachers in their classrooms.

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