

## Centre for Educational Research, Technology and Engagement

### ICT in Schools Project - September 2012 Report

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#### Introduction

As was the case in 2011, this year financial support from the Hermann Olhthaver Trust enabled the introduction, development and on-going support for ICT activities in historically disadvantaged schools in the Port Elizabeth metropolitan area and surrounds. Work has continued with teachers in the initial group of five schools that were connected via 'line of sight' wireless connection in 2011. This form of Internet access has also been extended to three other schools in the city, viz. Woolhope and Paterson High Schools, and Malabar Primary School. Woolhope High School offers Computer Assisted Training (CAT) to their learners and connection to the internet has greatly assisted them in this regard. Recently, Zanoxolo Primary and Sandisulwazi High School have also been included on the project.

#### Foci and progress to date

This year our foci have been on training teachers in the following:

- Enabling participants to setup GMail accounts
- Enabling the participating teachers to use email to communicate with one another, with the ICT facilitator and/or with any other persons
- Enabling participants to use Microsoft Security Essentials anti-virus software
- Enabling participating teachers to use the Internet: Google
- Enabling participating teachers to use PowerPoint as a possible teaching tool
- Enabling participants to find PowerPoint resources on the internet that can be adapted for classroom usage

Teachers from the participating schools are trained at Lungisa Secondary School (a central venue) on the topics above on a weekly basis. Teachers from Kama Primary School have also been included in the project and also receive training on the aspects mentioned above. We are also working with the grade four to six learners at this school one day a week. These learners are being introduced to Windows, Paint and the Internet. The foundation phase teachers of Kama Primary (Gr 1-3) have also been trained to use Paint, an application that they can use with young children to introduce basic mouse, keyboard, drawing and saving skills.

Zanoxolo Primary, a school which has computer laboratories, approached the project for assistance in terms of teacher training, and has also been included as a member of the ICT in Schools Project. Sandizulwazi High School in Paterson, which participates in the broader umbrella 'Integrated Schools' project offered by the Centre which helps schools identify and meet their most pressing needs and challenges, has also been included in the ICT in Schools project. This school identified ICT, mathematics and science as their most pressing need and challenge. In response South African

Breweries provided funding for the hardware and installation of 20 computers at the school, as well as security, online (ADSL) connection, and software. As from September ICT training is being provided for staff and students by the ICT in Schools Project, particularly in terms of accessing digital and online mathematics and science support activities. The umbrella project finances mentoring and support in mathematics and science. A newspaper report on the assistance provided at Sandisulwazi High School can be found at <http://www.peherald.com/news/article/8574>

Expansion of the project to meet calls for training and assistance has resulted in the appointment of Mr Preston Geswint, an ex-teacher who previously taught mathematics. Mr Geswint serves on the project on a contract basis and assists us with ICT training. Initial indicators are that he is a committed asset to the project.

### **Research and achievements**

The ICT in Schools project was awarded the NMMU Excellence Emerging Engagement Award in August 2012 (the first time this award has been made) has had considerable exposure via academic conferences such as the 'Inspiring Teachers and Student teachers Conference' held at the NMMU (organised by Dr Andre' du Plessis) and through academic publications in national and international journals (three in 2012 by Andre du Plessis and Paul Webb). Papers on the project will also be presented internationally in October 2012 in Tunisia and Oman.

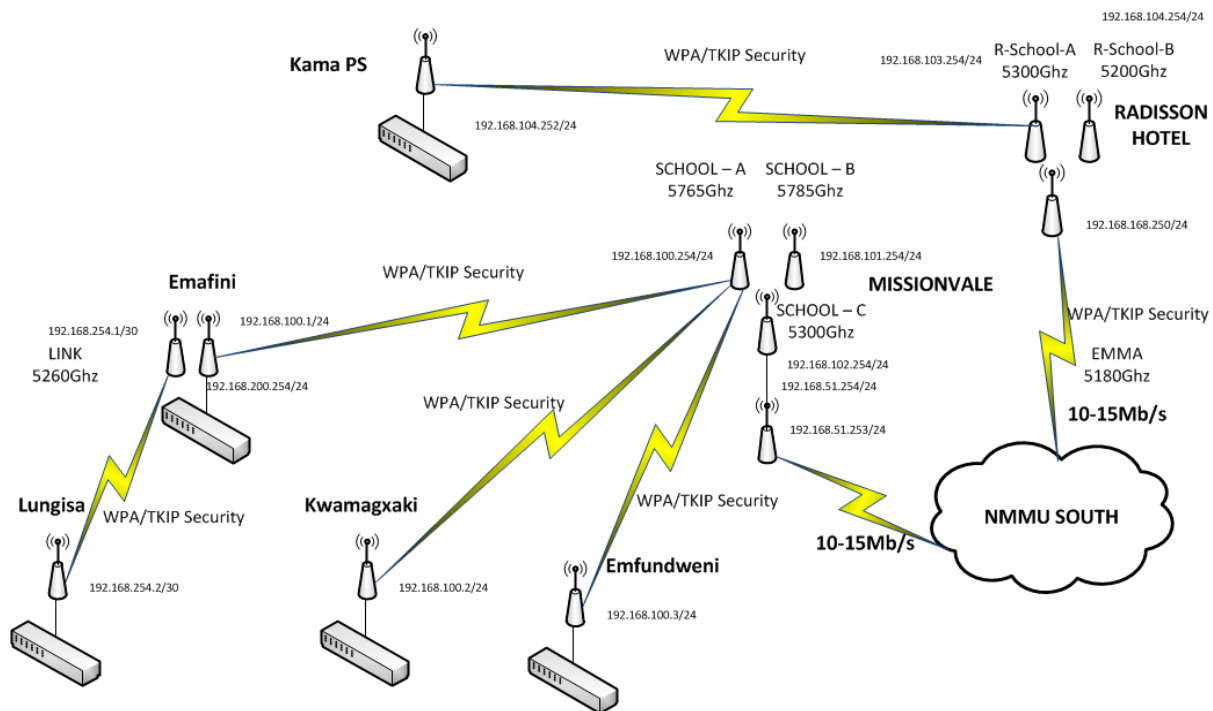
A website has been set up at [www.nmmu.ac.za/helpingteachers/individualprojectduplessis](http://www.nmmu.ac.za/helpingteachers/individualprojectduplessis) which provides an overview of the project.

### **List of participating schools**

- Emafini Primary School
- Emfundweni Primary School
- Kama Primary School
- Kwamagxaki High School
- Lungisa High School
- Malabar Primary School
- Paterson High School
- Sandisulwazi High School
- Woolhope High School
- Zanoxolo Primary School

## Wireless connections to schools

### MISSIONVALE – SCHOOLS INTERNET PROJECT



(Now extended to Malabar Primary and Paterson and Woolhope High Schools)

### Future plans

Planning for 2013 include on-going support for our current project schools, meeting the needs of other schools which identify ICT as a priority challenge and where staff members are willing to contribute meaningfully to the process (time and energy), a focus on mathematics, science and literacy education via ICT, teacher training and learner support as per the Teacher Professional Development and Implementation frameworks represented in figures 1 and 2).

In the past the Hermann Ohlthaver Trust has been instrumental in adding value to projects which received donor funding for equipment and infrastructure, but did not cater for the vital teaching component. This funding is integral to our teaching interventions and enhances the experience by all. As such, a continuation of this commitment in 2013 will be highly appreciated.

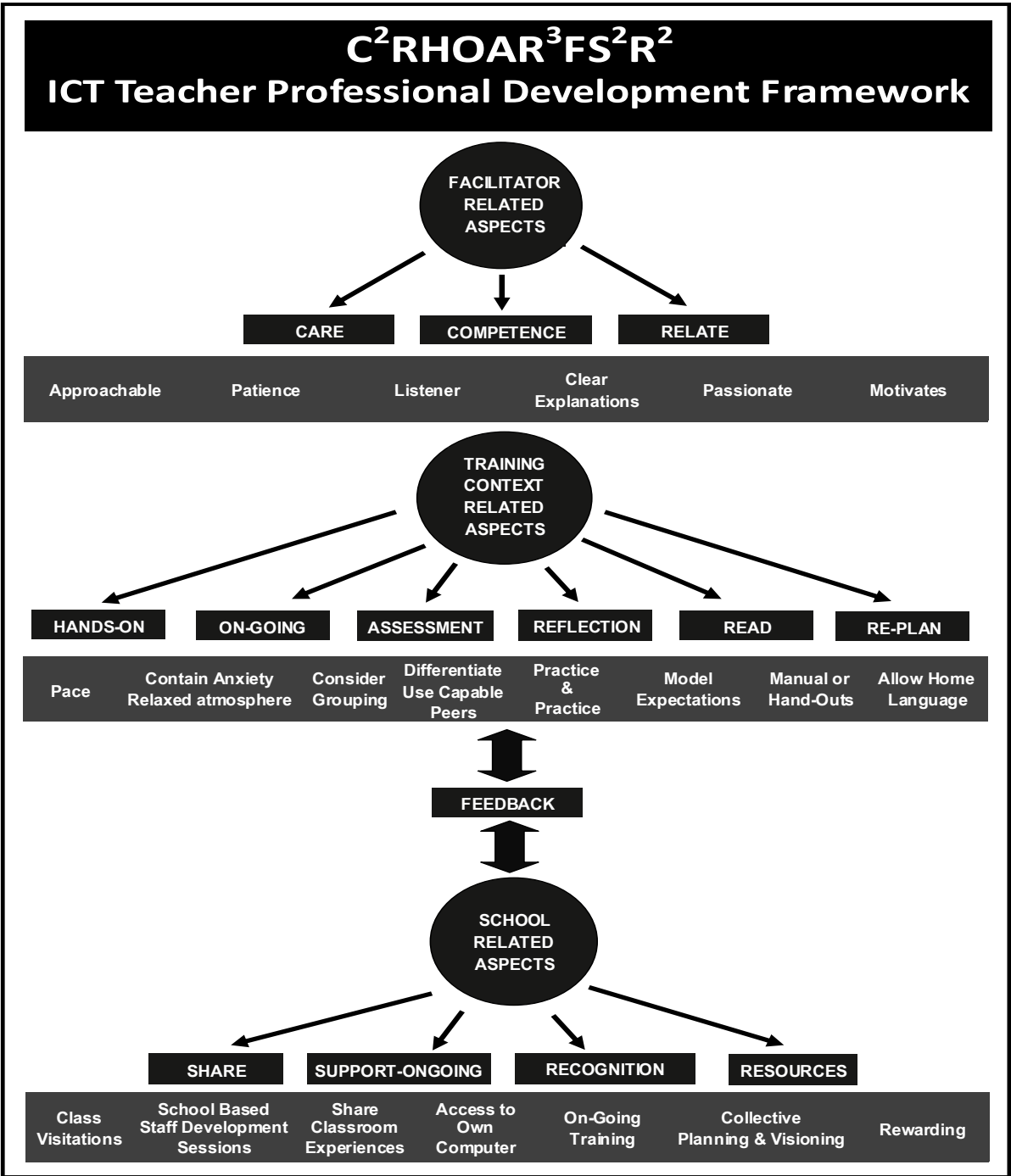


Figure 1: A proposed heuristic for ICT Professional Teacher Development

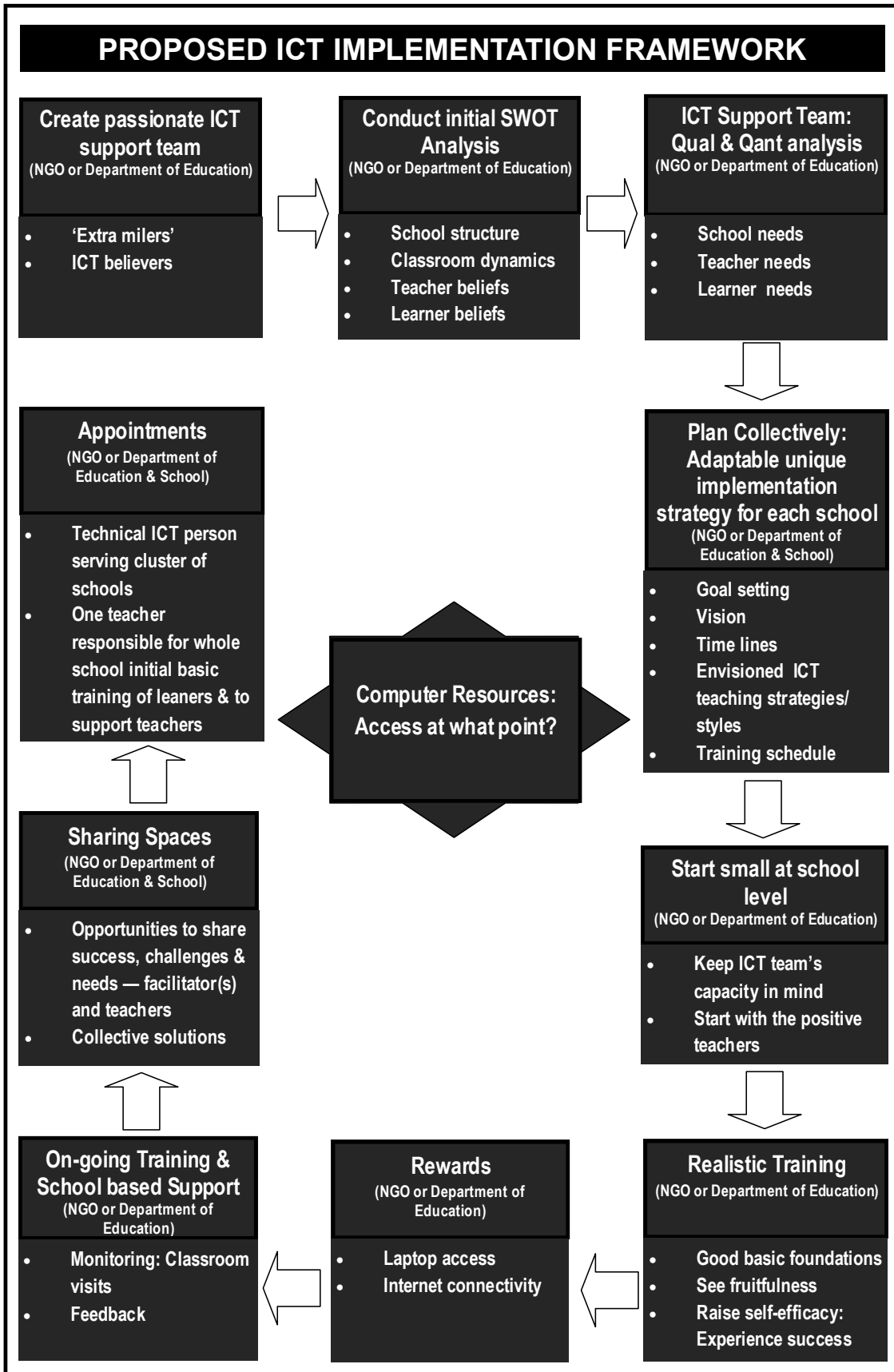


Figure 1: Proposed ICT implementation heuristic for schools in disadvantaged contexts