

Scottish Virtual Teachers' Centre

Nick Morgan, SVTC Manager, SCET, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.
n.morgan@scet.com

Scottish Virtual Teachers' Centre is part of UK government education policy "National Grid for Learning" (NGfL), stimulating effective use of Internet technologies in Scottish education, to raise attainment standards and quality of learning experience.

Target audiences are teachers and school librarians. NGfL funding is rapidly equipping, cabling and connecting these practitioners. Separate policies fund training programmes and digital content.

SVTC Funding comes from the Scottish Office, co-directed by two agencies: SCET and Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum. An Advisory Group gives strategic direction, and practitioner Focus Groups feedback on operations and developments.

SVTC publishes information and curricular weblinks, sources content (soliciting contributions), and encourages interactivity in forums, email and chat.

Take-up has been constrained by infrastructure deficiencies, time availability, limited ICT skill-sets, and perceived/actual shortages of relevant content. Professional "shyness" and copyright concerns are also inhibitors.

SVTC is helping to build an online community. Current priorities are website appeal, ease of use, interactivity, and content creation to fill curricular gaps.