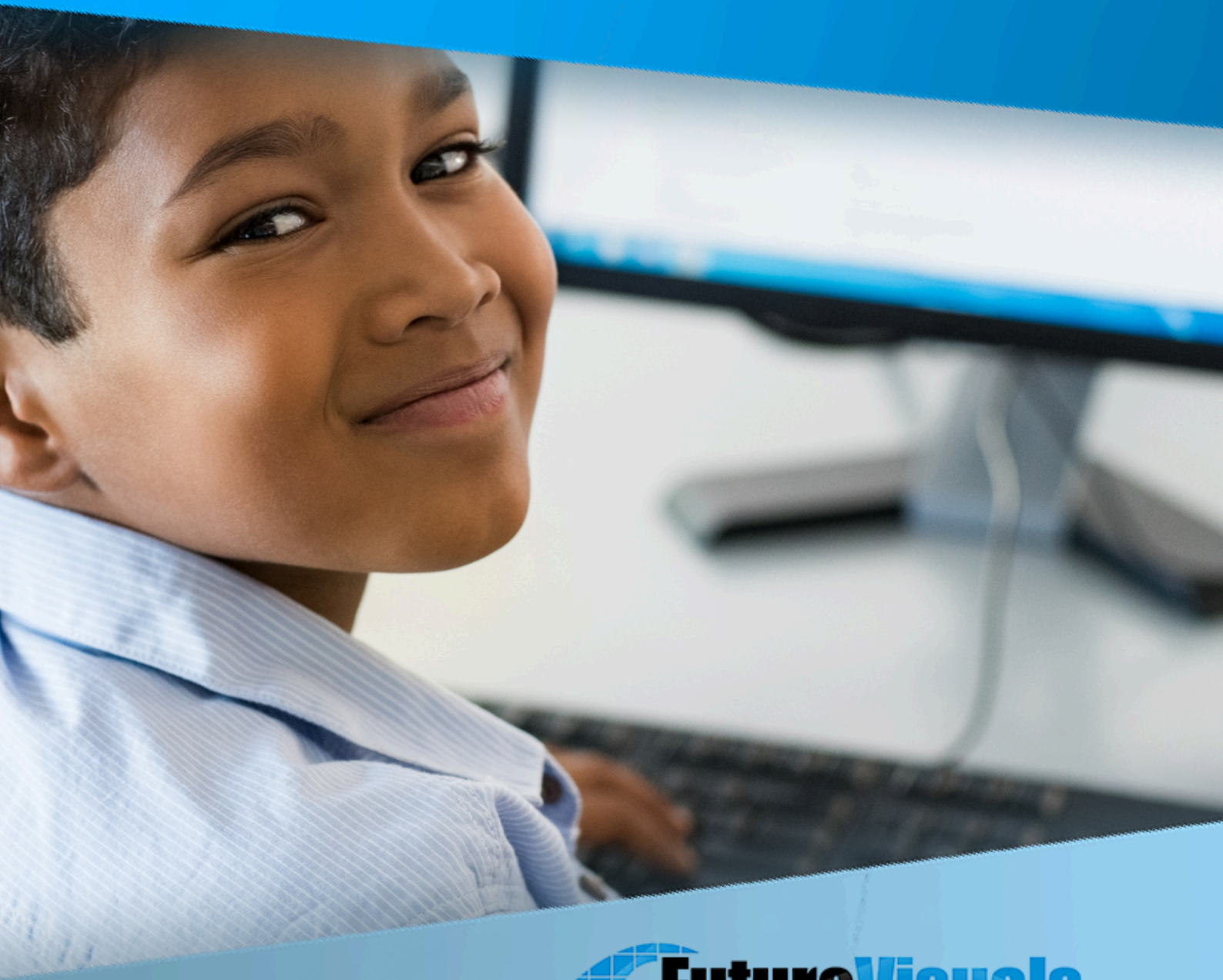


The Ultimate Education Technology Planning Guide for September 2026

How schools, MATs and universities can
prepare future-ready learning environments



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WHY AUGUST MATTERS

For schools, Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) and universities, the weeks leading up to a new academic year are some of the most important for strategic planning. While classrooms may be quieter, this period provides a valuable opportunity to ensure learning environments are ready to support staff and students from the first day of term.

Rather than reacting to challenges once lessons begin, education leaders can use August to take a proactive approach by:

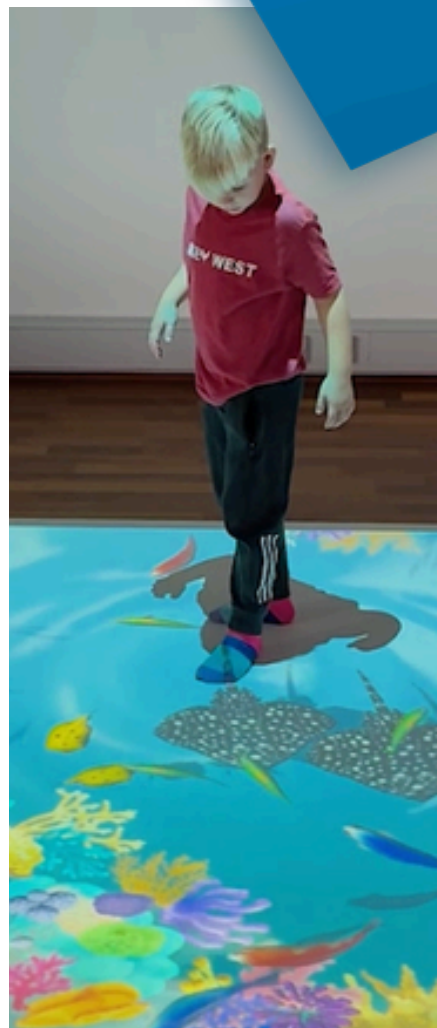
- Reviewing existing classroom technology and identifying what is working well.
- Prioritising learning spaces that would benefit most from investment or improvement.
- Preparing teaching and support staff with the training and confidence they need to use technology effectively.
- Ensuring learning environments are equipped to deliver engaging, collaborative and inclusive teaching experiences.

Successful education technology planning is not about introducing more devices into the classroom. It is about choosing the right solutions to enhance teaching, improve student engagement and create learning experiences that have a lasting impact.

“81% of educators and IT decision-makers measure the success of education technology by its impact on student engagement, and 91% expect interactive technologies to increase classroom participation.”

Source: Logitech Education & THE Journal, reported by Tech & Learning (2025)

By taking the time to plan ahead, schools and institutions can start the new academic year with confidence, knowing their technology is aligned with their educational goals and ready to support both educators and learners.





THE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY PLANNING FRAMEWORK



1. Review

Assess your current environment

Start by understanding where you are today. Evaluate existing classroom technology, identify what's working well and uncover any barriers affecting teaching and learning.



2. Identify

Recognise opportunities for improvement

Consider where technology could make the biggest impact. Focus on improving collaboration, increasing student engagement and supporting curriculum delivery rather than simply replacing ageing equipment.



3. Plan

Align technology with learning objectives

Select solutions that directly support your educational goals. Whether introducing interactive displays, immersive learning or flexible teaching spaces, every investment should have a clear purpose.



4. Implement

Deploy technology with confidence

Successful implementation goes beyond installation. Ensure staff receive the training, support and resources they need to integrate technology effectively into everyday teaching.



5. Measure

Evaluate success and plan ahead

Monitor how technology is being used, gather feedback from teachers and students, and measure its impact on engagement, learning outcomes and operational efficiency. Use these insights to inform future improvements.

**BETTER
LEARNING
EXPERIENCES**



ASSESS YOUR CURRENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Start with your classrooms, not your technology.

Before investing in new technology, take a step back and evaluate how your current learning environments support teaching and learning. The most successful education technology strategies begin with understanding what's already in place, identifying what's working well, and recognising where improvements can make the greatest impact.

An effective audit looks beyond the equipment itself. It considers how classrooms are used, how confident staff feel using technology, and whether learning spaces encourage engagement, collaboration and participation

Classroom Layouts

- ☐ Do classroom layouts support collaboration and active learning?
- ☐ Can learning spaces be adapted for different teaching styles and activities?
- ☐ Is technology positioned so all students can engage comfortably?

Student Engagement

- ☐ Does technology encourage students to participate rather than simply observe?
- ☐ Are learners collaborating, creating and exploring through digital experiences?
- ☐ Are there opportunities to introduce more immersive or interactive learning?

Existing Technology

- ☐ Is your current hardware reliable and fit for purpose?
- ☐ Are displays, devices and software meeting the needs of teachers and learners?
- ☐ Is existing technology being used to its full potential?

Connectivity & Infrastructure

- ☐ Is your network capable of supporting modern classroom technology?
- ☐ Is Wi-Fi reliable across all learning spaces?
- ☐ Can your infrastructure support future technology investments?



THE BENEFITS OF INTERACTIVE LEARNING

IMPROVE COLLABORATION

Encourage students to work together, share ideas and contribute confidently during lessons.

MAKE IDEAS EASY TO SHARE

Display documents, videos, websites and student work instantly, creating a more connected learning experience.

INCREASE PARTICIPATION

MOVING FROM TRADITIONAL CLASSROOMS TO CONNECTED LEARNING SPACES

Today's classrooms are evolving beyond rows of desks and static presentations. Modern learning environments are designed to encourage collaboration, discussion and active participation, giving every student more opportunities to engage with lesson content.

Rather than replacing great teaching, interactive technology enhances it, providing teachers with the flexibility to adapt lessons, encourage participation and make learning more

Enable students to interact directly with lesson content, answer questions and contribute to classroom discussions.

SUPPORT FLEXIBLE TEACHING

Adapt lessons in real time to suit different learning styles, classroom activities and curriculum needs.

CLASSROOM TRANSFORMATION



Traditional Classroom

- Teacher-led presentations
- Limited student interaction
- Static lesson resources
- One-way communication



Connected Learning Space

- Collaborative learning
- Interactive lesson delivery
- Multimedia-rich content
- Active student participation
- Flexible teaching approaches

Interactive displays don't just change what's at the front of the classroom, they change how learning happens within it, creating environments where students can participate, collaborate and explore ideas together.



IMMERSIVE LEARNING: BRINGING EXPERIENCES INTO THE CLASSROOM

LEARNING BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CLASSROOM

The most memorable learning experiences are often those that allow students to explore, discover and experience concepts for themselves. While traditional teaching methods remain essential, immersive technology provides educators with new ways to bring learning to life.

By creating environments that encourage exploration and interaction, immersive learning helps students move beyond simply reading about a subject, they can experience it in ways that deepen understanding, improve knowledge retention and increase engagement.

Whether through virtual reality or immersive learning spaces, these technologies enable learners to connect with curriculum content in meaningful and memorable ways.

WHY IMMERSIVE LEARNING MATTERS

Immersive technology transforms abstract ideas into tangible experiences, helping students visualise concepts that may otherwise be difficult to understand.

It can support learning by:

Taking students beyond the classroom

Explore locations, landmarks and environments from anywhere in the world without leaving school.

Making complex concepts easier to understand

Visualise scientific processes, historical events and geographical landscapes in ways that traditional resources cannot always achieve.

Encouraging active participation

Students become participants in their learning rather than passive observers, promoting curiosity, discussion and critical thinking.

Supporting a range of learning styles

Immersive experiences combine visual, auditory and interactive elements to create more inclusive learning opportunities.



BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE

Imagine your students:

- Walking through the streets of Ancient Rome while studying history.
- Exploring the surface of Mars during a science lesson.
- Examining the human heart in three dimensions.
- Diving beneath the ocean to investigate marine ecosystems.
- Visiting world-famous landmarks without leaving the classroom.

These experiences help learners make stronger connections between classroom teaching and the world around them, turning knowledge into understanding.

IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY IN PRACTICE

Solutions such as ClassVR and dedicated Immersion Rooms provide schools, MATs and universities with flexible ways to deliver immersive learning across a wide range of curriculum areas.

From individual virtual reality experiences to shared, room-scale environments, immersive technology enables educators to create engaging lessons that encourage collaboration, exploration and active participation, all while supporting existing teaching practices rather than replacing them.

“**A systematic review of 33 classroom studies found that virtual reality can improve students' cognitive, behavioural and emotional engagement while also supporting learning outcomes.**

Source: Frontiers in Psychology (2024), "The effectiveness of virtual reality in enhancing student engagement and learning outcomes."



Immersive technology doesn't replace great teaching, it expands what's possible, giving educators new ways to inspire curiosity, deepen understanding and create learning experiences that students remember long after the lesson has ended.

DESIGNING AN IMMERSION ROOM

CREATING SPACES DESIGNED FOR CURIOSITY AND EXPLORATION

Designing an Immersion Room

Immersion rooms are transforming how schools engage learners. By surrounding students with interactive visuals, sound and digital experiences, these flexible spaces can bring lessons to life across every subject, from exploring Ancient Egypt and diving beneath the ocean to travelling through the solar system or stepping inside a rainforest. The most successful immersion rooms aren't simply technology installations—they're learning environments designed around curriculum outcomes, accessibility and ease of use for teachers.

Key Considerations

Room Size & Layout

Choose a space that allows students to move comfortably while maintaining clear sightlines to projected or displayed content. Existing classrooms, libraries, unused ICT suites and breakout spaces can all be successfully transformed.

Content Selection

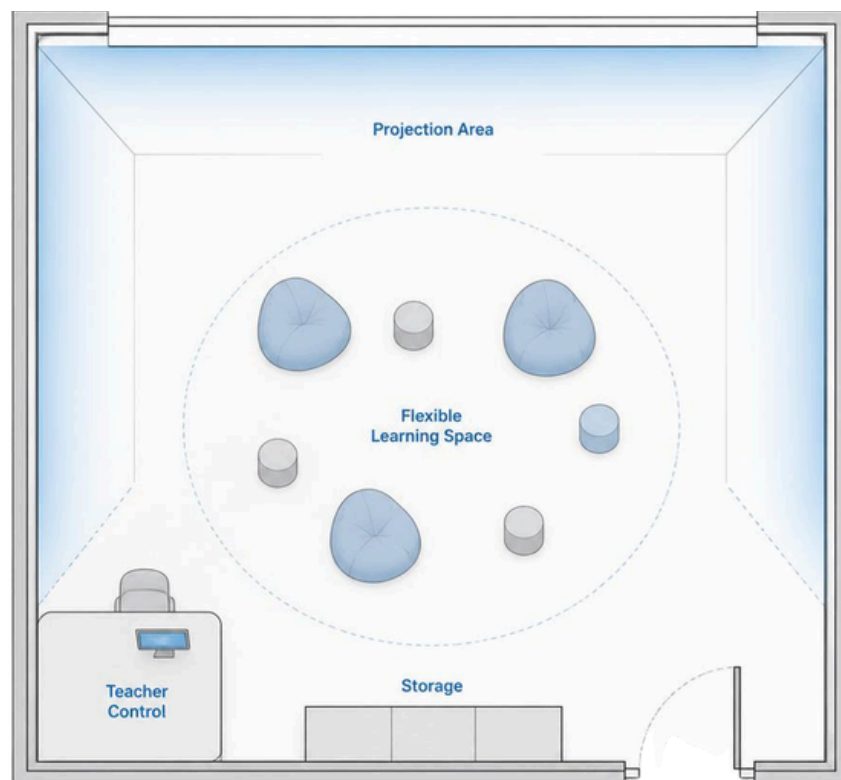
Consider how the room will support multiple curriculum areas throughout the school year. Look for content that can be used across:

- History
- Geography
- Science
- English
- Art & Design
- PSHE
- Languages
- Early Years

A flexible content library ensures the space delivers value every day—not just for special events.



DESIGNING AN IMMERSION ROOM



A well-designed immersion room becomes far more than a technology investment, it becomes a shared learning space that inspires curiosity, supports memorable teaching experiences and encourages students to actively explore the world around them.



MAKING TECHNOLOGY BUDGETS WORK HARDER

PLANNING YOUR INVESTMENT

Investing in education technology is about more than choosing the latest devices. The most successful schools look beyond the initial purchase and consider how technology will continue to support teaching, learning and school improvement over the years ahead.

When evaluating any technology investment, focus on the total value it delivers throughout its lifecycle, not just the upfront cost.

When planning your technology budget, consider the long-term value, not just the purchase price. The right solution should be **built to last**, grow with your school's needs, require minimal maintenance, integrate with existing systems, and include the training and support staff need to use it confidently. Taking a whole-life approach helps maximise both your investment and its impact on teaching and learning.

Investment Area	Questions to Ask
Hardware	Will it meet our needs today and remain effective as our school evolves?
Software & Content	Is the platform regularly updated with high-quality, curriculum-relevant content?
Training	Will all staff receive the support and confidence they need to use it effectively?
Support	What level of technical support, maintenance and aftercare is included after installation?

The strongest technology investments are those that continue to deliver value year after year. By considering scalability, support and staff confidence alongside the hardware itself, schools can build sustainable digital learning environments that enhance teaching while making the most of available budgets.



SUPPORTING STAFF ADOPTION

STAFF TRAINING

Provide practical, hands-on training that helps staff feel confident using new technology in real classroom situations. Tailored sessions can encourage quicker adoption and long-term success.

ONGOING SUPPORT

Learning doesn't stop after installation. Access to responsive technical support, refresher training and expert guidance helps keep technology running smoothly and staff feeling supported.

SHARING BEST PRACTICE

TECHNOLOGY ONLY WORKS WHEN PEOPLE FEEL CONFIDENT USING IT

The success of any education technology investment depends on the people using it every day. Even the most innovative solutions deliver the greatest impact when staff feel supported, confident and empowered to integrate them into teaching.

Successful adoption starts with practical training, continues with ongoing support, and grows through collaboration. Encouraging staff to share ideas, celebrate success and learn from one another helps build confidence across the whole school.

Create opportunities for teachers to exchange ideas, showcase successful lessons and learn from one another. A collaborative approach encourages innovation and builds confidence across the school.

TECHNOLOGY CHAMPIONS

Identify enthusiastic staff members who can support colleagues, share expertise and promote the effective use of technology.

PLANNING TIMELINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

A successful September starts with careful planning. Use this timeline to keep your technology projects on track and ensure staff and students are ready for the new academic year.



Prepare & Plan

- Audit your current technology
- Identify priorities and budget
- Finalise purchasing decisions
- Schedule installation and training



Launch & Support

- Roll out new technology
- Deliver staff training
- Support classroom adoption
- Gather early feedback

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

Review & Improve

- Measure impact on teaching and learning
- Optimise usage across the school
- Share best practice
- Plan future improvements



Top Tip: Technology planning doesn't end at installation. Regular reviews, staff feedback and ongoing training help ensure your investment continues to deliver value throughout the school year.



YOUR BACK-TO-SCHOOL PLANNING CHECKLIST



BEFORE SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Review your existing classroom technology
- ☐ Identify priority classrooms and learning spaces
- ☐ Define your technology objectives and budget
- ☐ Finalise hardware and software requirements
- ☐ Schedule installation and testing
- ☐ Confirm staff training requirements
- ☐ Prepare teachers with resources and guidance
- ☐ Ensure students are ready for new technology
- ☐ Check network infrastructure and connectivity
- ☐ Communicate implementation plans with staff

DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

- ☐ Gather feedback from teachers and students
- ☐ Monitor technology usage across the school
- ☐ Measure engagement and learning outcomes
- ☐ Share best practice between staff
- ☐ Schedule refresher training where needed
- ☐ Review impact against your original objectives
- ☐ Identify opportunities for future improvements

READY TO CREATE FUTURE-READY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS?

The right technology strategy helps schools, Multi-Academy Trusts and universities create learning environments where students can collaborate, explore and achieve more.

Whether you're upgrading classrooms, introducing immersive learning, or planning a wider digital transformation, choosing solutions that align with your educational goals can make a lasting impact for both staff and learners.

Our education technology specialists work with schools across the UK to design, deliver and support technology solutions that enhance teaching and inspire learning.

LET'S START THE CONVERSATION

Whether you're planning for the next academic year or exploring future opportunities, we're here to help you build the right technology strategy for your learning environment.

Explore our solutions:

- Interactive Displays
- ClassVR
- Immersion Rooms
- Digital Signage
- Education Technology Consultancy

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