



Joining iNet: your guide to getting started

Welcome to iNet. As an affiliate you are now part of an international network committed to transforming schools and providing all students with educational experiences that prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century.

As a new affiliate there are a number of ways to get started and make the most of your iNet affiliation.

There are five first steps to joining iNet which we think are the quickest and easiest ways to get involved:

1. Register on the website
2. Form a school partnership
3. Join the ICT register
4. What's going on in your school?
5. Make the most of your website benefits and explore the schools network site – primarily for schools in England, it has a wealth of resources that will benefit your school community

Step 1 – register on the iNet website: www.ssat-inet.net

Registration only takes two minutes and is your gateway to a range of resources and activities.

There are two important notes about registering:

1. Your username is an email address and you define the password. iNet does not provide a password for you.
2. Every member of staff in your organisation can create their own personal account and access the benefits of iNet. This means that benefits can be shared across all of the school community and not just the leadership team.

As a starting point, why not explore the following website highlights ...

- Download the back catalogue of iNet pamphlets by Professors Brian Caldwell, Alma Harris, David Hopkins, David Hargreaves and Yong Zhao
- Read the latest edition of iNet News
- Browse our case study archive
- Explore the online conference archive for both educators and students
- Find out about education systems in other countries and the activities they are involved in
- Explore our useful links section – this will take you to our other websites that you may find useful

Don't forget, you can use the iNet website to make sure you are up to date with all of iNet's key events such as our International Conference, the latest study tour offer or online conference.

Step 2 – form a school partnership

To find out about our work on school partnerships go to the networking pages of the website to download an application form. Here you will find that many of our members are actively looking for international school partnerships. They are a great way to bring an international dimension to your school and can benefit both staff and students.

If you haven't done this kind of project before, our top tip for partnerships is start small, think big. Drawing on the experiences of schools who have set up lots of international partnerships, their advice is that initial projects should:

- Be easy to organise
- Have an end point or evaluation criteria
- Relate to the individual contexts of both schools
- Relate to the curriculum areas of interested colleagues

Initial projects should focus on sharing and some ideas could be based around:

- Simple data exchanges, such as the weather or students' height/weight/age. These exchanges also transfer across curriculum areas, allowing others to join in
- Students could create a tourist guide about their home town and exchange it with a partner school
- Creative writing – the work could be split, with students from one school starting the writing, while the second class finishes it

Step 3 – join the ICT Register

The ICT Register is a unique resource of innovative practice about all aspects of learning with technology and it is freely available for iNet affiliates. There are hundreds of schools and learning centres from all phases highlighting their strengths and offering support and advice. You can ask them any question about ICT and teaching and learning. Alternatively, if ICT is one of your strengths, you can apply to be one of the centres of excellence and help other schools around the world. Go to: www.ict-register.net

Step 4 – what's going on in your school?

At the heart of iNet is the concept of sharing and treating other schools as professional friends rather than competitors. It's about sharing what's worked and what hasn't. Just as your school learns from the work of others, so it has the opportunity to showcase your good practice.

We are not looking for award-winners or the school with the highest exam grades. What we are looking for are schools who are willing to share their experiences – what worked and what didn't, what changed in the classroom and how students responded. Or, structural changes that were made within your school and how it's affected both students and staff. Essentially, anything that you think might be of interest to others.

So, write a case study and share it with others. We have a template to help you structure your report and you can include your email address so that other schools can get in touch and find out more. Once we receive it we can include it on your country page. If there isn't one for your country we can set one up for you. Just email inet@ssatrust.org.uk

Step 5 – make the most of your website benefits and explore the schools network site

If you manage to achieve all of the above you will already be putting a lot in, and hopefully getting a lot out of iNet. However, there is so much more and the above is just a taster. The next step is to explore our schools network website – www.schoolsnetwork.org.uk. It contains a wealth of resources and information that will be relevant to schools around the world, even if the terminology is different from your own. The resources include:

- Subject-based teaching resources
- Discussion forums
- Free teaching resources about China and teaching Mandarin
- Information about personalising learning and leadership

The username and password that you create for the iNet site also works for the schools network site. A lot of these resources have been produced by English schools

Finally - get in touch with the iNet team

The iNet team is based across three offices in Beijing, London and Melbourne. Contact us at inet@ssatrust.org.uk and tell us about your iNet experience and what you'd like to see more of. We would love to hear from you.

As each member joins iNet so our ability to share different experiences and practices grows, so thank you for joining. We look forward to working with you.

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