

Medway Grid for Learning



School Domain Name changes 2003 (Version 1.10 - 09/04/2003)

Further to the discussions at the recent launch for ICT in schools 2003-4 the details below are provided to support schools in their selection of school domain name. Note this changes only affect domain names in the parent domain medway.sch.uk. (i.e. the form is schname.medway.gov.uk)

Online reply form

<http://www.nominet.org.uk/schools/dn-confirmation.html>

You will need the school DfES number in order to administer the changes.

This selection needs to be completed before 31 May 2003. After this date the default identified by Nominet will be the only domain name that remains. Any services associated with a domain name other than the one selected will cease.

The most significant point is that the option to have a hyphenated domain and retain a non-hyphenated name for @schoolname.lea.sch.uk has now been removed. Schools are now required to confirm their choice. Clearly in allowing only one choice the opportunity to have standardised addressing for schools across the county has been removed. It should also be noted that this only applies to domains that follow this structure. Any domain that follows an alternative structure such as: **.org; **.co; **.com is unaffected by this restriction.

Schools retain the option to change their domain name at a later date.

The guidelines for: .sch.uk registrations can be found at:

<http://www.nominet.org.uk/schools/guidelines.html>

Impact of this initiative

Schools will need to liaise with their Internet provider to ensure that services are maintained. Where Medway Council holds the tags for a school domain this will be completed for them however schools should contact noc@medway.gov.uk once they have confirmed their decisions so that this work may be carried out before the deadline date.

Any change in domain will affect both websites and any public facing email accounts set up using Becta domain structure e.g. office@ and headteacher@ addresses. Please use the appropriate form on the support site (<http://support.medway.org.uk/>).

In addition to the loss of standardised addressing for schools there are implications for costs to schools with regard to headed notepaper, signs etc. It is worth considering, in the light of this, and the increase in time limited awards such as Basic Skill Quality Mark, NAACEmark and IIP are held, that schools consider limiting the pre-printing of stationary to only include a school logo.

Discussions will need to be held across Medway schools as to whether a standardised addressing system is something that we should work towards. Recognition must also be given to the fact that such a migration will take time as many schools have only just taken delivery of a considerable stock of headed paper.

If you have any questions regarding this then please do not hesitate to contact the Schools Support Team at nominet: tel 01865 332289, email: schoolnames@nominet.org.uk