

**ABERDEEN COLLEGE**

**LEARNING RESOURCES STRATEGY**

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## **LEARNING RESOURCES STRATEGY**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Aberdeen College provides a range of learning resources in locations throughout the College, the purpose of which is to make learning and teaching stimulating, motivating and effective.

### **2.0 Definition of Learning Resources**

For the purposes of this strategy, learning resources are defined as all those resources which contribute directly or indirectly to successful learning and teaching. This is taken to include the various learning environments within the College, though not the buildings which contain them (which are covered by the College's estates strategy), nor human resources (although, of course, the skills, knowledge and attitudes of staff will impact on the effectiveness of other learning resources). As such it covers:

- Libraries and resource centres
- IT Centres
- Learning Development Centre
- ICT hardware, software, systems and infrastructure
- Internet connectivity and access
- Media in a variety of formats
- Classroom-based learning resources and facilities
- Resources provided to outreach facilities
- Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and other web based resources
- Virtual Library and automated library catalogue
- Content Management System (Equella)
- Multimedia and off-air recording facilities
- Distance learning facilities including e-learning resources
- Learning materials (in paper or electronic formats)
- Learning facilities and accommodation.

### **3.0 Aim**

In relation to the provision of learning resources, the aim of the College is:

To provide, in a coherent and co-ordinated way, and in a range of flexible formats, the resources which learners need in order to learn effectively, successfully and enjoyably.

### **4.0 Strategy**

In order to achieve this aim, the strategy of the College is to:

- provide a range of high quality learning resources which achieve the best possible match with the real, present and anticipated needs of learners and which take full account of the range of the student body in terms of ability, gender, age, ethnicity, learning style, disability and "fragility".
- provide a range of media which take account of the variety of learning styles and preferences and give access to those who find more traditional learning media (such as books) inaccessible.
- make full and appropriate use of ICT, and other learning technologies, as they develop.
- deploy resources and equipment in such a way as to optimise access and flexibility and make efficient use of College resources and to manage learning resources and to make these accessible for sharing and reuse throughout the College.
- provide learning environments, both physical and virtual, which are conducive to effective and enjoyable learning and which support individual and group work as well as quiet study and computer-based learning.

- ensure that facilities are appropriately staffed and supported and can provide expert assistance, support and advice to those who need it, and to provide advice and support, as appropriate, to those learning at a distance through facilities such as email, the VLE and StudentNet.
- provide and maintain a robust network infrastructure capable of supporting the developing use of technology based media throughout the College, and to provide technical support for all College systems at almost all times that they are available to learners; to utilise this infrastructure to bring digital learning and information resources directly to the classroom or learner's desktop or laptop; and to integrate, where appropriate, learning systems with other College systems so as to bring benefits to users.
- provide appropriate learning resources to learners on a 24 hour a day 7 days a week basis, regardless of location, through the provision of ICT based services such as the VLE.
- support widening participation by ensuring, wherever possible, that learning resources are accessible to learners, regardless of geographical location, mode of study, or disability; and to overcome barriers to learning wherever possible by meeting established standards of accessibility and through the use of assistive and enabling technologies.
- educate learners in the effective use of learning resources through specific induction programmes and the integration of resource-based approaches to learning across the curriculum; and to develop learner confidence in the effective use of information and learning resources.
- allow learners to make appropriate use of their own equipment (such as laptops and other portable devices) within the College as far as is consistent with the requirements of safety and security.
- find appropriate ways of integrating social media technologies into the learning experience as far as is consistent with requirements of safety, security and the avoidance of risk.
- ensure through the Validation and Approval process that programmes do not run unless the appropriate resources are available.
- audit the learning resources used to ensure they meet requirements.
- spread good practice in the use of learning resources within and between teams.

This strategy will be promoted through effective staff development, and learner views will be sought on the level and quality of service provision.

The implementation of this strategy is dependent on the financial constraints under which the College operates.

## **5.0 Responsibilities**

### *5.1 Senior Management Team:*

- ensure that appropriate levels of financial resources are made available to acquire and develop to the learning resources required.

### *5.2 Vice Principal (Director of HR Management and Development):*

- ensure an effective process of audit of learning resources.

### *5.3 Director (Curriculum and Learning) and Associate Principal (Student Support Services)*

- ensure that all teaching teams deploy appropriate resources and share and exchange good practice
- ensure that the Validation and Approval processes are effective in preventing courses from running without adequate resources.