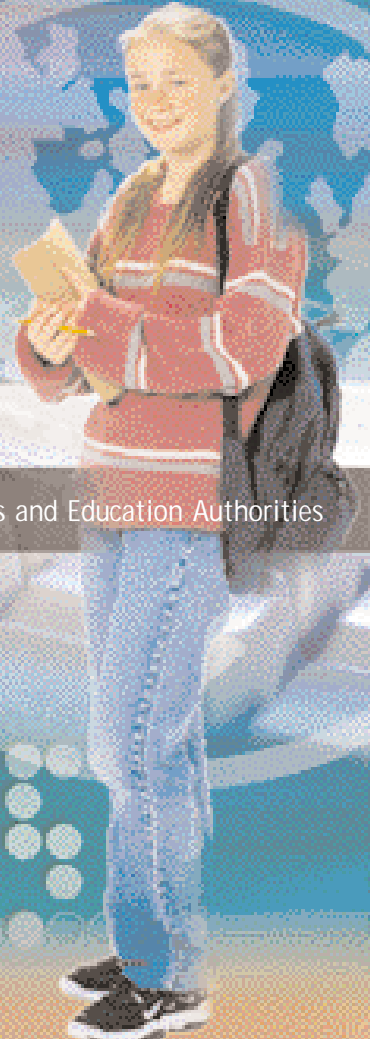


# .sch.uk

## School Names on the Net

Domain Names Rationalisation Project Scotland – Information Leaflet for Schools and Education Authorities



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Making it work together

**Q** What is The Domain Names Rationalisation Project (School Names on the Net)?

**A** *The Domain Names Rationalisation Project (School Names on the Net)* is a one-off programme to provide every school in Scotland with a unique Domain Name on the Internet in a coherent and systematic way using the **.sch.uk** ending. This system should help schools communicate and share information and resources more easily with other schools, local authorities, Scottish Executive departments and agencies, non-departmental public bodies, the wider education community and general Internet users such as parents and pupils.

**Q** What is an Internet Domain Name?

**A** Internet users need unique identities to distinguish them from other users. These identities are called Domain Names. For example, in the e-mail address:

*headmaster@schoolname.area.sch.uk*,  
*schoolname.area.sch.uk* is the Domain Name.

In the web site address:

*http://www.schoolname.area.sch.uk/courses.html*,  
*schoolname.area.sch.uk* is the Domain Name.

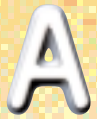
**Q** Why does your school need a Domain Name?

**A** The use of electronic communications is growing rapidly, and a registered Domain Name connected to the Internet is an invaluable tool. It will enable your school to display information on the World Wide Web that can be read by anyone with Internet access (like a school web page), or alternatively it can be used to send and receive personal e-mail correspondence.



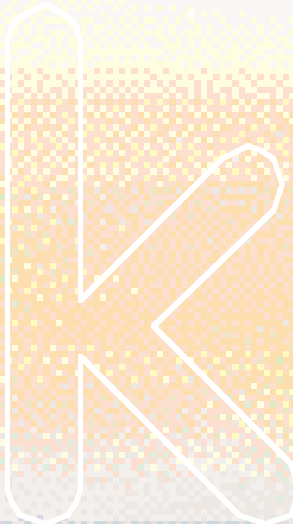
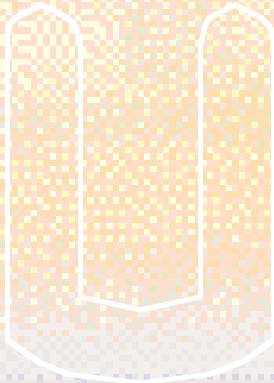


**What do schools in Scotland get from the project?**

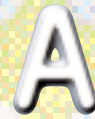


The project has allocated free of charge a unique Domain Name to every school in Scotland, in consultation with the 32 Education Authorities and the Scottish Council for Independent Schools (SCIS). The Domain Names have been registered with Nominet UK, the company responsible for managing the database of UK Domain Names. The following naming structure has been agreed for adoption throughout the UK:

<school name>.<geographical area>.sch.uk  
e.g. abbotswell.aberdeen.sch.uk for  
Abbotswell School in Aberdeen.



**Who manages the project?**



*The Domain Names Rationalisation Project (School Names on the Net)* is managed by the British Educational Communications and Technology agency (BECTa) on behalf of the Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED), acting in conjunction with the Department for Education & Employment (DfEE). The project forms a key element of the Government's programme to deliver the National Grid for Learning in Scotland. BECTa and SEED have commissioned Nominet UK – the not-for-profit company established in 1996 to manage the Register Database for all Internet Domain Names ending in .uk. – to carry out the practical implementation of the programme.



How are school Domain Names allocated?



The *Domain Names Rationalisation Project (School Names on the Net)* has rationalised the *.sch.uk* structure of school Domain Names, which has existed for 5 years. A new national naming scheme has been created and all schools in Scotland now have a corresponding Domain Name.

Because many of the approximately 3,000 schools in Scotland have similar, if not identical names, it was necessary to devise a system which would avoid duplication of school Domain Names. After consultation with appropriate bodies all schools have been allocated a Domain Name ending in *.sch.uk* that has been further linked with a relevant geographical area. The geographical area appears in the Domain Name, making it easier for Internet users to distinguish between different schools and find the details that they are trying to locate.



How is a *.sch.uk* Domain Name constructed?

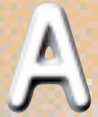


As you will see from the Domain Name you have been allocated, each one is made up of a string of words that starts with either the full or an abbreviated version of *<your school name>*, followed by the designated *<geographical area>*, followed by *.sch.uk*. Each segment is punctuated by a full stop. The school name and geographical area are governed by Naming Guidelines agreed by the project team in order to ensure national consistency.





**Q** How will the Domain Name work?



Having a registered Domain Name will not automatically put your school on the Internet. In the case of publicly funded schools, your Education Authority will have to contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP) in order to use the Domain Names. Independent schools will have to make their own arrangements with an ISP, who will probably make a charge for providing this service.

If you would like to receive the **BECTa Guide to choosing an ISP** please contact BECTa (details below). This guide is taken from BECTa's free publication **Connecting Schools, Networking People 2000**.



**Q** What if your school has registered a Domain Name already?



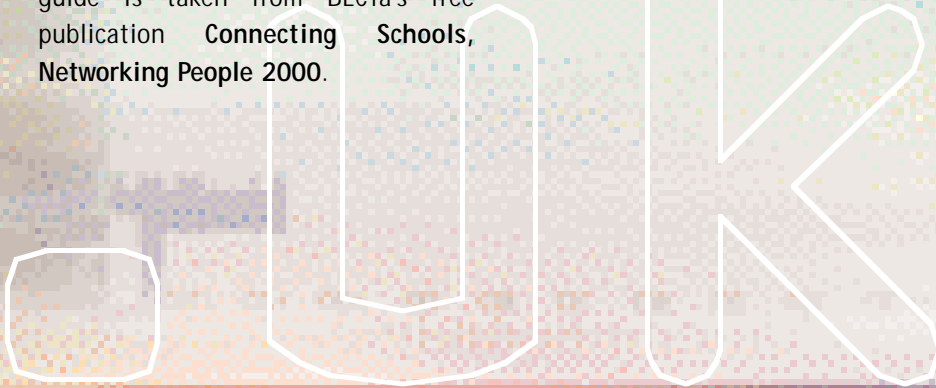
If your school has an existing Domain Name, it may or may not correspond to the new national naming scheme. In the long-term you are strongly advised to switch your existing Domain Name to the one allocated within the new scheme, in order to secure the benefits of being part of a nationally consistent system. All existing .sch.uk Domain Names which do not conform to Naming Guidelines will be unavailable for further use from the beginning of 2003. Education Authorities or Independent schools should contact their ISP about any changes to Domain Names.



**Q** What is the Internet?



The Internet is a network of inter-linked computers that makes it possible to exchange information between computers throughout the world. The Internet originated in America in the early 1980s, and UK Academic establishments developed their own network connections soon afterwards. Commercial use of the Internet took off in the early 1990s and has now become an everyday method of communication.





**Why should schools use the Internet?**



The Internet is a powerful resource for learning as well as an efficient means of communication. A computer connected to the Internet provides access to a vast amount of educational and learning materials and can complement existing teaching resources.

The National Grid for Learning (NGfL) is currently being built in Scotland to secure the benefits of advanced networked information and communications technologies (ICTs), such as the Internet, for education and lifelong learning. The NGfL will also be the driving force behind the integration of the new ICTs into the process of teaching, learning and raising pupil attainment. The Grid and its associated technology will provide teachers with, amongst other things, space for discussion and exchange of ideas, a wider range of teaching materials and a means of streamlining administration.

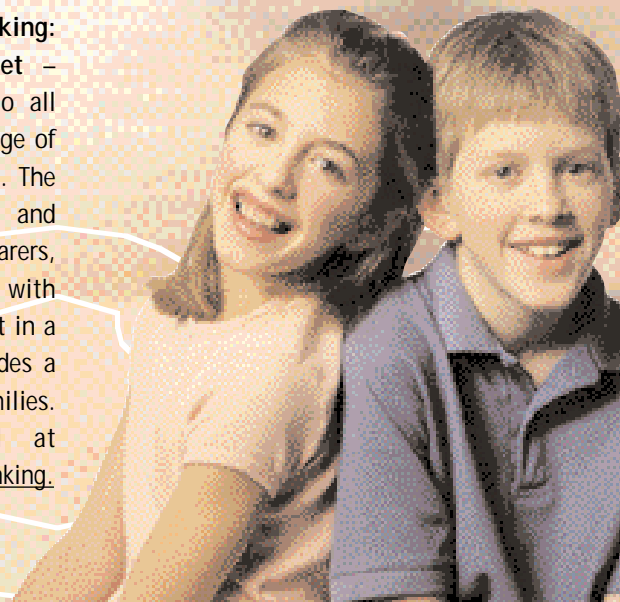


**Is use of the Internet safe for pupils?**



Both teachers and parents need to exercise caution in allowing children access to the Internet. However, the potential risk from offensive material should not deter your pupils from using the technology. The educational benefits of learning through the Internet outweigh any possible dangers that it may present. The Scottish Executive Education Department has produced a pack on Internet safety – **Clickthinking: Personal Safety on the Internet** – which was distributed in 1999 to all Scottish schools and to a wide range of other bodies dealing with children. The pack gives guidance to children and young people, their parents or carers, teachers and others who work with young people on using the Internet in a safe and informed way; and includes a set of resources for schools and families. The pack can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/clickthinking>.

Additionally, a free copy of the DfEE information pack **Superhighway Safety – Children's Safe Use of the Internet**, can be obtained from <http://www.safety.ngfl.gov.uk> or by telephoning 0845 602 2260.



## Further Information on the Project Team

*NB. Local Authority schools should contact their Education Authority ICT contact through the usual channels in the first instance with any questions about their own Domain Name or the project in general.*

### Scottish Executive Education Department

Scottish Executive Education Department (SEED)

Victoria Quay

Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

Telephone 0131 244 0635

Email [schools.ict@scotland.gov.uk](mailto:schools.ict@scotland.gov.uk)

Fax 0131 244 7001

**Web site address:** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

### Nominet UK

Nominet UK manages the Register Database for all Internet Domain Names ending.uk. It is a not-for-profit company that was established in 1996.

Address: Sandford Gate, Sandy Lane West,  
Oxford OX4 6LB

Telephone: Switchboard: 01865 332211

Schools Support Team: 01865 332289

Fax 01865 332299

Email [nominet@nominet.org.uk](mailto:nominet@nominet.org.uk)

**Web site address:** <http://www.nominet.org.uk>

### British Educational Communications and Technology agency (BECTa)

The remit of the British Educational Communications and Technology agency (BECTa) is to ensure that technology supports the DfEE's drive to raise educational standards. BECTa aims to provide the professional expertise to support the future development of the National Grid for Learning. BECTa is a UK-wide body and as such works closely with appropriate Government departments in all UK countries.

Telephone 024 76 416994

Email [becta@becta.org.uk](mailto:becta@becta.org.uk)

Fax 024 76 411418

**Web site address:** <http://www.becta.org.uk>

### NGfL Scotland Team

Learning & Teaching Scotland

74 Victoria Crescent Road

Glasgow G12 9JN

Telephone (0141) 337 5117

Email [ngfl@ltscotland.com](mailto:ngfl@ltscotland.com)

Fax 0141 337 5070

**Web site address:** <http://www.ngflscotland.gov.uk>

# .sch.uk



*The Domain Names Rationalisation Project Scotland (School Names on the Net) is an initiative jointly-sponsored by SEED and the DfEE.*

#### **NGfL targets for increased electronic correspondence**

We hope that the creation of a consistent national structure for school Domain Names will complement the roll out of the National Grid for Learning (NGfL) in Scotland, and contribute towards better information and communication transfer via networked resources between schools and other schools, the wider education community, local authorities, Scottish Executive departments and agencies, non-departmental public bodies and general Internet users such as parents and pupils. The project should also facilitate the specific NGfL target of reducing the amount of paper-based administrative correspondence between Government departments / agencies / non-departmental public bodies and schools.

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