Information Card for:

Bednet: real-time distance education

Context:

Bednet is intended for youngsters (aged 6 – 18) with long-term or chronic illness, who are registered in Dutch-speaking schools in Flanders or Brussels, and is a free service for participating schools. Eligible children usually have suffered from a serious illness or have had an accident necessitating an absence from school for at least six weeks.

The Bednet system facilitates a live, real-time connection with lessons in the classroom. The pupil sees their teacher and classmates on a laptop screen and can follow everything that happens in the classroom. They can ask questions and communicate with everyone in the class. The camera can be focused on any part of the classroom and the pupil can zoom in on the board at the front of the class. The child can even take snapshots of what the teacher writes on the blackboard or projects on the smartboard. They can also call for the teacher's attention.

The systems allows for the use of reading materials, homework and tests, and it transmits messages and audiovisual materials. There is a dual print/scan option allowing the pupil at home to take part in tests and exams at the same time as their classmates. The teacher can set up reading materials, timetables and homework tasks so that the pupil has access to all the necessary items outside of school hours.

All the technical equipment required is supplied by Bednet free of charge. It is installed at home and in the classroom through a network of volunteers.

Each Bednet project is supported by an IT helpdesk to avoid technical issues interrupting class time. The child and the school are also allocated a regional support person to ensure swift communication, introduction to the system and counselling during the entire process.

Possible use in the HHE context

NB. This system is only available in Dutch-speaking schools in Flanders or Brussels. For similar solutions elsewhere, please see the Real-time Distance Education Information Card

To use the Bednet system, teachers will need the following:

1. Bednet-hardware:
   - In the schools: computer with moveable camera, speakers, wireless microphone, printer-scanner
   - At the pupils homes: laptop with webcam, headset with speaker, printer-scanner
2. Bednet-software:
   This has been developed by Bednet for use in schools in Belgium and is already a tried and tested system. They rights belong to Bednet and as such are not available for other schools to use free of charge.
3. Good wireless internet connection
4. Bednet- consultant: to explain how to use the Bednet-system
5. Bednet-helpdesk: to provide distance help with any technical problems
6. Lesson plans that can be adapted to work remotely
7. Willing teachers and students
8. Interactive whiteboards can also be used if the school already has these

What do teachers need to do?

If you are interested in using the Bednet system and have a pupil who will qualify for this service, please contact Bednet directly.

Homepage:

http://www.bednet.be/

Additional Notes

Teachers may choose to share any films they make during their project on the LeHo YouTube channel:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMD5zSd3x4VqoBwDUVK7n4w

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Evaluation of the activity

If you are a teacher in Flanders and have used the Bednet system with a child at your school, we would value your feedback.

Evaluation of how this activity worked for you in the field (Fieldwork Experience) is via a short questionnaire on Survey Monkey.

The questionnaire can be found via the link below:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LeHoFieldwork

Many thanks.