

Working in Partnership

Demonstrating support for the FE communities



This leaflet is taken from the JISC publication Working in Partnership: Demonstrating JISC services' support for the FE communities. The full document can be found in pdf format at www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/generalpublications/2009/workinginpartnership

JISC Legal

Keeping it legal

JISC Legal is an advisory service funded to prevent legal issues becoming a barrier to the development and use of ICT in UK HE and FE. The JISC Legal team offers high-quality, relevant and up-to-date information designed to dispel myths, instil confidence and promote good practice in legal compliance.

Guidance comes in the form of:

- Regional and national staff development events
- Webcasts and newsletters on topical issues
- Online advice and model documents
- A helpdesk service available online, via email and by telephone


Background

South East Essex College in Southend operates on six campuses and enrolls over 12,500 young people and adult learners annually on a wide range of programmes. College policies promote equality and diversity and many learners are supported by assistive technologies.

Challenge

The information systems team at the college has responsibility for ensuring legal compliance with internet access, data handling and email protocols as well as IT-related issues under the Disability Discrimination Act. However, the high number of enrolments and the wide range of tools and technologies the college supports can present real challenges. Now the growth in interest in Web 2.0 technologies has introduced a further range of questions that the information systems team must answer.





JISC Legal removes the uncertainty surrounding ICT and the law, allowing learning providers to make informed decisions about issues relating to technology.

Making the most of JISC Legal

Craig Willcocks, Information Systems Manager at South East Essex College, has found JISC Legal an effective source of legal advice and support. Queries have been successfully resolved with advice from the helpdesk and from webcasts, and college policies and procedures amended accordingly. For example, logs of email traffic are archived for seven years following guidance from JISC Legal on the relevant legislation – advice which Craig describes as ‘invaluable’.

As a result, the college can offer its IT provision with confidence. Learners value well-managed access to IT systems and, with appropriate acceptable use policies enforced, use their student ID and individual password to sign in to the VLE, from college or home. The information gained from JISC Legal has also fed into training sessions for staff on IT legislation, and all rights and obligations under new regulations are regularly monitored and reviewed as the latest JISC Legal guidance is published.

New challenges continue to emerge – for example, the legal and ethical issues raised by Web 2.0 technologies and the emerging use of the Unique Learner Number scheme. However, the college is confident that, with the help of JISC Legal, any emerging issues will also be resolved in time.

Benefits achieved

- *South East Essex College is achieving a balance between policies and procedures that is in line with current legislation, yet fair and encouraging to practitioners and learners*
- *Learners have benefited from JISC Legal’s guidance on technology and inclusion*

‘JISC Legal definitely caters for the needs of FE colleges and we will certainly be going back to them for more advice, as and when we need it.’

Craig Willcocks
Information Systems Manager
South East Essex College
www.southend.ac.uk

Further information

www.jisclegal.ac.uk

JISC Legal is a **JISC Advance** service.

You can find a more detailed version of this case study online at www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/services/about/casestudies

JISClegal
information

JISC advance
● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Working in Partnership

Further information on JISC Legal

Web: www.jisclegal.ac.uk

Email: info@jisclegal.ac.uk



JISC

Further information on
JISC services

Web: www.jisc.ac.uk

Email: info@jisc.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)117 3310789

JISC receives funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Scottish Funding Council, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Wales) and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland.

JISC works in partnership with the Learning and Skills Council and the Research Councils.