



**DIGITAL BIRMINGHAM**  
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## **SCHOOLS PUT NEW TECHNOLOGY TO THE TEST**

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Pupils from four Birmingham schools will be trialling the latest digital technology in a new programme launched by Digital Birmingham, the organisation tasked with ensuring the benefits of digital technology are accessible to all within the city.

The children, from Sheldon Heath Community College, Prince Albert JI School in Aston, St John Wall School in Handsworth and Wilson Stuart School in Erdington, gathered at Birmingham East City Learning Centre for the launch of the project with Birmingham City Council deputy leader Paul Tilsley, who heads up the Digital Birmingham partnership.

Pupils from the schools will take a lead in reviewing and evaluating the latest technology developments and applications at school and at home, and asked to feed back their impressions and opinions to Digital Birmingham and its partners, who include companies such as Microsoft, BT and the BBC.

The initiative follows on from Birmingham's award of 'Living Lab' status last year by the European Union in recognition of its efforts and achievements in involving communities in product and service innovation.

"The best people to contribute to the development of new technologies are those who are actually going to be using them," commented Cllr Tilsley.

"The Digital Schools project will provide us and our partner companies with valuable feedback and advice on implementing new technologies, and will help us equip our schoolchildren with the latest learning opportunities."

ENDS (226 words)

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Picture caption:

Children from Birmingham's 'Digital Schools' , left to right: Shafiul Haq (Prince Albert School), James Kitley (Sheldon Heath School), Shabraiz Shabin, Camille Marawa, (Sheldon Heath School), Karima Nabi, (Prince Albert School), Cllr Paul Tilsley, Abdul Waheed.

Notes to editors:

Digital Birmingham is a strategic partnership of private, voluntary and public organisations that aims to establish Birmingham as a leading European digital city by 2010 and to ensure that the benefits of digital technologies are available to all in the city. It is a Birmingham City Council initiative that is being delivered by Service Birmingham. For more information visit: [www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk](http://www.digitalbirmingham.co.uk).

Service Birmingham is a strategic partnership between Birmingham City Council and Capita which will support a transformation in the way the council works; improving services and contributing to its efficiency agenda. The council intends to achieve efficiency savings worth almost £1.5 billion by 2016. This strategic partnership forms part of the council's objective to find better and more innovative ways of delivering services for the benefit of employees and citizens. The principle of this joint venture focuses on the provision of cost effective, sector leading, ICT services and in supporting the council in achieving its business transformation objectives.