

LEADING THE HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOL

RESOURCE 8: KEY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT PERFORMANCE

Resource	Significance
Time	Perhaps the most significant resource in schools. As the curriculum becomes more crowded and schools get busier, the lack of time to plan and prepare genuine learning experiences and to collaborate with colleagues is a major area of frustration. Time is not elastic, so it's necessary to stop doing some things and/or to do other things more effectively. This is a generic issue for schools and, in many, an issue of high priority.
Professional support	In some respects, this is another manifestation of time. We all benefit from the advice, mentoring and feedback of a colleague. It's an essential resource, yet it's often the first casualty of time pressures.
Learning and teaching materials	Crucial, and a direct function of the amount of money and time available for teachers to be creative. What's interesting is how schools with broadly the same income have such different amounts of money to spend on learning and teaching resources.
Accommodation	Plays a central role in performance. Partly because everybody is entitled to work in a decent and pleasant environment. But more importantly because many aspects of learning and teaching require appropriate environments – science, sport, music and ICT. Many teachers have to work in unsuitable rooms and there is evidence to relate physical environment to effective learning.
Access to appropriate hardware and software	This has implications for successful learning and teaching. Again, this reflects budget priorities in a school, and the organisation and deployment of scarce resources.
Money	This does make a difference! Not just as the source of the other resources but also as a means of facilitating initiatives and encouraging creativity in the classroom.