

Abid Patel

Founder & CEO - #ITjustworks • Education IT & IT Consultant

Digital Transformation • AI • Cyber Security • Google Workspace •
Canva • International Speaker

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EdTech consultant and former trust IT Director with over 20 years of experience in education IT. I believe school technology should do exactly what it says on the tin: it should just work. My approach is grounded in sustainable, cloud-first strategy, long-term budgeting, and practical cyber security aligned with DfE Digital Standards and NCSC guidance. I focus on building reliable systems, training people with empathy, bridging the digital divide, and helping school leaders build direct, meaningful partnerships with major IT providers and vendors.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#ITjustworks

August 2025 to Present

Founder & CEO

Specialist IT and EdTech consultancy helping schools, trusts, and education organisations align technology with long-term strategy, DfE compliance, and practical staff development.

- **Strategic advisory.** Trusted critical-friend consultancy to senior school leaders, governors, and trustees, building systems aligned with DfE Digital Standards.
- **Risk & cyber security audit.** Independent IT and cyber security audits with NCSC-aligned remediation planning, giving leadership teams clear, non-jargon advice on real operational risks.
- **Lifecycle budgeting.** Multi-year IT budgeting and hardware refresh planning, helping schools stop wasting funding on short-term fixes and move toward sustainable procurement.
- **Bespoke training.** Practical CPD across Google Workspace and ChromeOS (Google Certified Trainer & Innovator), Canva for Education (Canva Certified Education Trainer), generative AI (Gemini, NotebookLM, ChatGPT, Claude), and wider EdTech tools.

Edpuzzle

November 2025 to February 2026 · Contract

School Success & Community Consultant

Contracted to establish and accelerate interactive video learning adoption across the UK and Ireland through community building, training, content creation, and strategic advisory to the global team.

- **Community building.** Built the UK and Ireland educator community from the ground up, with content planning and social media to raise Edpuzzle's profile across UK educator networks.
- **Webinars & training.** Delivered webinars, training sessions, and demonstrations covering interactive video, flipped learning, formative assessment, and student engagement.
- **Onboarding & customer success.** Worked with school leaders and trust EdTech leads to ensure confident adoption, while briefing the global team on UK school priorities and safeguarding expectations.

CORE SPECIALISMS

Google Workspace Expert

Certified Innovator, Certified Trainer, and Workspace and ChromeOS administrator. Enterprise migration, configuration, and governance at trust scale.

Cyber Security & Safeguarding

NCSC framework, DfE Digital Standards, GDPR. Authoring of incident response and disaster recovery plans for multi-academy trusts.

AI in Education

Curriculum integration and staff training on Gemini, NotebookLM, ChatGPT, Claude, and Canva AI, with attention to governance and safeguarding.

Training & CPD Delivery

1,500+ teachers, leaders, and support staff personally trained at Newham alone. Google Workspace, Canva, generative AI, cyber awareness.

Cloud Strategy & Migration

Among the first London trusts to go fully cloud-based and serverless. Sustainable architecture across mixed-platform academy estates.

Digital Transformation

Multi-million pound budgets, five-year hardware refresh cycles, vendor partnerships across Apple, Dell, HP, Lenovo, and Cisco.

Newham Community Learning

April 2014 to July 2025

IT Director

Formerly Leading Learning Trust (2016 to 2022); incorporating Selwyn Primary School. Previously Trust IT Manager (September 2016 to April 2019) and ICT Learning Manager at Selwyn (April 2014 to August 2016) within the same organisational lineage. Over 11 years of continuous service.

Directed trust-wide IT transformation across all academy sites, modernising from on-premise infrastructure to cloud-first architecture, with sustainable long-term budgeting and practical cyber security at the core.

- **IT strategy & transformation.** Designed and delivered the trust-wide digital strategy, moving schools from expensive on-premise servers to cloud-first, serverless infrastructure. Among the first London trusts to do so.
- **Staff development.** Personally trained over 1,500 teachers, leaders, and support staff on Google Workspace, Canva, generative AI (Gemini, NotebookLM), and basic cyber safety.
- **Cyber security & continuity.** Authored the trust-wide cyber security incident response and disaster recovery plan, fully aligned with NCSC guidance.
- **Budget & asset management.** Multi-million pound IT budgets with sustainable five-year hardware refresh cycles across Apple, Dell, HP, Lenovo, and Cisco.
- **Digital equity.** Led the trust-wide 1:1 device strategy, bridging the digital divide for pupils in disadvantaged communities.
- **Executive advisory.** Acted as critical friend to the CEO, school leadership, and trust board, translating complex technical risks into plain English.

Little Ilford School & RM Education PLC

October 2004 to April 2014

Network Technician, then Customer Support Engineer

Initially employed by Little Ilford School; TUPE transferred to RM Education PLC in April 2009 under the Building Schools for the Future programme, with role renamed. 10 years of continuous service at Little Ilford School.

Foundational career in education IT. First, second, and third-line support for over 1,300 users; Microsoft Windows Server administration; network infrastructure and endpoint management across a busy London secondary school.

SPEAKING & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Bett Show

Speaker since 2018. Bett Advisory Board member 2024 to February 2026, contributing to programme direction and content curation.

ISTE

Featured Voice at #ISTELive 24 in Denver, Colorado, USA.

InnovateEDU

Keynote in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.

UK Speaking Circuit

Schools and Academies Show, BRILLIANT, MATPN, and LGfL Let's Assemble.

EdTech AM Podcast

Co-host with Meagan Alfano. Unpacking AI, cyber security, and digital strategy for school and trust leaders on both sides of the Atlantic.

Global GEG Co-Founder

Co-founded a global educator network during the 2020 lockdowns. Over 1,500 members, 15,000+ social followers, and nearly half a million views on the Global GEG YouTube channel.

Digital Futures Group

Active member contributing to national conversations on EdTech, AI policy, and digital strategy across UK education.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **CrowdStrike: What Can the Education Sector Learn from the Global IT Outage?** Cyber Security
- **Digital Transformation in Schools: Are We Really There Yet?** Digital Strategy
- **Windows 10 End of Life: What Schools Need to Do Next.** Cyber & Strategy
- **Browser Wars: Rise of the AI Machines!** AI & EdTech

MEMBERSHIPS & VOLUNTARY ROLES

- **Community Leader.** ISTE + ASCD
- **Community Advocate.** SchoolAI
- **Club Brisk.** Brisk Teaching
- **Canvassador.** Canva
- **Google Champion.** Google for Education

Previously: Governor at Selwyn Primary School and Stratford School Academy; Trustee at Quwwat-ul-Islam Society.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- **Featured Voice, #ISTELive 24.** Cyber Security in Education
- **Winner, EduFuturists Network Manager of the Year.** 2020
- **#EdTech50, Ones to Note.** 2020
- **Runner-Up, EduFuturists Network Manager of the Year.** 2019

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

- **Cyber Security in Education**
 - › Bett Show, London, UK
 - › LGfL Let's Assemble, London, UK ([YouTube](#))
 - › #ISTELive 24, Denver, USA (Featured Voice)
 - › MATPN North, Manchester, UK (Keynote)
- **Breaking Down Barriers in Technology.** Bett Show, London, UK
- **Finding your PLN and Building Brand YOU.** InnovateEDU, Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa (Keynote)
- **AI in Education: How? What? Why?!** InnovateEDU, Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa
- **Cyber Security & Online Safety in the Classroom.** InnovateEDU, Johannesburg & Cape Town, South Africa
- **EdTech SmackDown Live!**
 - › #ISTELive 25, San Antonio, Texas, USA
 - › #ISTELive 26, Orlando, Florida, USA
- **7 Things You Can Do With AI (But Really Shouldn't...)** #ISTELive 26, Orlando, Florida, USA
- **Digital Transformation: Are we there yet?** BRILLIANT, Liverpool, UK
- **Meeting the DfE's Digital Standards 2030.** Schools & Academies Show, Birmingham, UK

RECOMMENDATIONS

"I rarely meet anyone with such a holistic understanding of both the technical implementation and strategy, and the pedagogical implication of moving to the cloud. His willingness to support others and share his trust's journey has been invaluable to us."

Oli Trussell, Solutions Engineer, EMEA, Google for Education

"Rare to find an IT leader so responsive to change and willing to put the needs of their staff first, yet that is exactly what we see in Abid. He will have a very successful future in the IT education sector and is an asset to any employer."

Kirri Watson, Former Head of Education, Google

"Abid is rapidly becoming a key figure in the wider EdTech landscape. The model he employed is being widely replicated to deliver efficient, cost-effective, cloud-based school IT solutions."

Max Carter, Former Country Manager, Wizkids UK

"His knowledge and connections in the UK EdTech community have been valuable for us to help grow our own. He is an excellent presenter and trainer, with a contagious enthusiasm."

David Weston, Country Manager, Edpuzzle

"Abid is a whirlwind of a human being, giving the feeling that he is an entire team in one person. He has a fantastic ability to find time to talk to everyone he meets and couples this with strong technical knowledge to develop both his own and other people's understanding of how IT works in schools."

Dave Leonard, Strategic IT Director, Watergrove Trust

"Abid is a passionate educationalist focused on doing new things with new technology and making a difference. He has made strong connections with some of the UK's leading EdTech organisations. In simple terms Abid is a doer, and someone I'm honoured to be working with."

Neil Emery, Director, TrilbyTV

QUALIFICATIONS

BSc Computer Science and Accounting

University of East London

Google Certifications

Certified Innovator

Certified Trainer

Workspace ChromeOS IT

Administrator

Professional ChromeOS Administrator

Canva

Canva Certified Education Trainer

Microsoft & Apple

MTA: Windows Server Administration

MTA: Windows OS Fundamentals

Apple Mac OS X 10.6 Support

Essentials