



## Bower Learning Partnership

### Job Description

#### IT Strategic Lead

**Job Title:** IT Strategic Lead

**Responsible to:** Executive Headteacher / Strategic Development Officer

#### Purpose of the Role

The IT Strategic Lead will provide **inspirational, strategic leadership for technology across the Bower Learning Partnership**, shaping and delivering a clear long-term digital vision that supports exceptional outcomes for children and young people.

The postholder will **lead the development of a forward-thinking IT strategy**, ensuring systems are secure, robust and future-proof, and that technology enhances teaching, learning, safeguarding and organisational effectiveness across all partnership sites.

The role will ensure **compliance with Department for Education expectations**, including digital safeguarding, cyber security, data protection and the effective use of technology within education. The IT Strategic Lead will champion innovation, support staff and pupils, and embed a culture of confident, safe and effective use of technology.

#### Key Responsibilities

<b>Strategic Leadership and Development</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop, implement and continually review a partnership-wide IT and digital strategy aligned to school improvement priorities</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead on the strategic vision for IT, ensuring innovation, sustainability and futureproofing across all schools</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Monitor emerging technologies and educational developments, evaluating their impact and suitability</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contribute to whole partnership strategic planning, ensuring digital transformation supports educational outcomes</li></ul>

#### IT Infrastructure, Systems and Security

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oversee the planning, maintenance and development of IT infrastructure, including networks, hardware, cloud systems and software</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure all systems are secure, reliable and scalable, supporting current and future needs</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead on cyber security, ensuring alignment with DfE standards (e.g. Cyber Essentials, digital resilience expectations)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure compliance with GDPR, data protection legislation, and information governance requirements</li></ul>



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintain robust disaster recovery, backup and business continuity arrangements</li></ul> |
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### **Safeguarding, Filtering and Monitoring**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide strategic oversight of filtering and monitoring systems across all schools, ensuring they meet statutory safeguarding requirements</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work in partnership with safeguarding leads to ensure technology supports online safety and child protection responsibilities</li></ul>              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regularly review filtering/monitoring reports, identify risks and ensure appropriate escalation</li></ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure staff are trained in safe and appropriate use of technology, including safeguarding responsibilities</li></ul>                                |

### **Teaching, Learning and Digital Innovation**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead the integration of technology to enhance teaching and learning, including use of educational platforms and digital tools</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote digital literacy for staff and pupils, supporting safe, confident use of technology</li></ul>                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the development of inclusive digital practices, particularly for pupils with SEND</li></ul>                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drive innovation in the use of AI, digital tools and emerging technologies in an ethical and responsible way</li></ul>                  |

### **Staff Development and Support**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver and coordinate high-quality training for staff, building confidence and capability in IT systems</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide ongoing support to colleagues across all roles, ensuring effective use of technology</li></ul>             |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Act as a visible and approachable leader, promoting a culture of collaboration and continuous learning</li></ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support pupils directly where appropriate to enhance learning and engagement</li></ul>                             |

### **Leadership and Management**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead, manage and develop IT staff and external providers to deliver high-quality services</li></ul>                         |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work closely with senior leaders, teachers and support staff to ensure IT meets operational and educational needs</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manage external contracts, suppliers and service level agreements effectively</li></ul>                                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and manage the IT budget to ensure best value and sustainability</li></ul>  |



## Compliance and Governance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all IT systems and practices meet DfE expectations and statutory guidance for schools</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain clear documentation, policies and procedures relating to IT use and governance</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support inspection readiness by ensuring systems are compliant, auditable and well-evidenced</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver training sessions for staff on filtering and monitoring systems, GDPR and safe use of technology, and attend Governor meetings as required to provide clear guidance and support governors' understanding of IT provision, safeguarding systems and data protection across the partnership schools.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor system performance and user feedback to inform continuous improvement</li> </ul>

## Partnership Working

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build strong relationships with colleagues across all school sites within the partnership</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with external agencies, suppliers and stakeholders to enhance provision</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support consistency and standardisation of IT systems across the partnership</li> </ul>

## Additional Responsibilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a strong commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to a positive, inclusive and ambitious culture across the partnership</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake additional duties as directed by the Executive Headteacher</li> </ul>

## Knowledge, Skills and Experience

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proven experience of strategic IT leadership, ideally within education</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong knowledge of IT infrastructure, cyber security and cloud-based systems</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding of DfE digital and safeguarding expectations, including filtering and monitoring</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of leading digital innovation to improve teaching and learning</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent leadership, communication and interpersonal skills</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to inspire, influence and drive change across multiple sites</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of training and developing staff</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong project management and organisational skills</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant IT qualifications (e.g. Microsoft, Cisco, CompTIA) desirable</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to ongoing professional development and staying up to date with emerging technologies</li> </ul>



**Additional Information:** This job description is not exhaustive and may be reviewed in line with the needs of the partnership.