

Digital Transformation at The Council of British International Schools



The Council of British International Schools (COBIS) stands as the premier global

association for British schools overseas. Committed to school improvement, safeguarding, and supporting its members, COBIS has grown significantly since its founding in 1989. With over 300 member schools, the London-based COBIS team manages a diverse range of activities, including accreditation, employment checks, training, webinars, and conferences

SITUATION

As COBIS expanded, it faced the common challenges of organic growth: outdated platforms and a reliance on spreadsheets to manage operations. With a desire to enhance services for its growing member base whilst maintaining tight control over costs, COBIS embarked on an 18-month enterprise-wide digital transformation journey.

THE CHALLENGE

COBIS recognized the complexity of its business model, the critical need for data

protection, and the global distribution of its team and membership. To address these challenges, COBIS engaged The EduTec Alliance to leverage its full range of services for a comprehensive transformation initiative.

THE PROGRAMME

1. Digital Capability Assessment

The EduTec Alliance conducted extensive stakeholder interviews across the COBIS community, compiling the insights into its comprehensive knowledge base. This process involved creating an inventory of existing digital systems and identifying current issues and improvement opportunities.

2. Digital Strategy Development

A vision for the future of COBIS was essential to developing a flexible and supportive digital strategy. Key elements included migrating functionalities from end-of-life systems to existing platforms, with Microsoft Office 365 becoming the main collaboration tool. Establishing an organisation-wide Management Information System (MIS) based on Ninnox Private Cloud eliminated spreadsheets and provided a real-time single version of the truth.





3. Digital Strategy Implementation

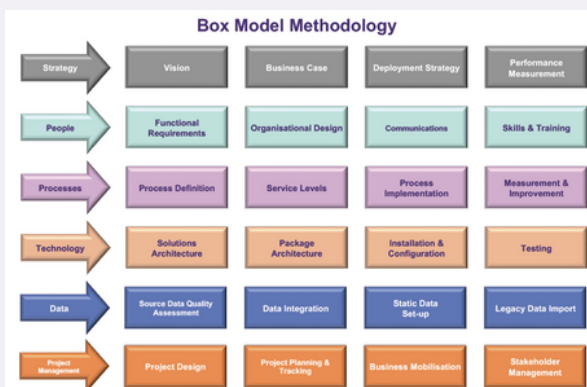
The programme's success was ensured through a steering committee consisting of senior COBIS executives and EduTec Alliance directors. This committee kept the programme on track, ensuring alignment with the strategic vision.

4. Educational Technology Advisory

The EduTec Alliance identified 'fit for purpose' platforms to optimize COBIS processes. Leveraging our in-house knowledge base, we selected solutions that integrated seamlessly, enhancing operational efficiency.

5. Programme Design & Management

As day-to-day programme managers, we deployed our 'Box Model' methodology to structure the programme and its components. This approach ensured full alignment across all initiatives and strands; people, process, technology, and data.



EXECUTION AND RESULTS

1. Operational Efficiency:

Streamlined operations with fewer platforms, tighter processes, controlled data, and well-trained personnel.

2. Enhanced Services:

Empowered COBIS to grow its member base and offer improved services.

3. Single Version of Truth:

Implemented a centralized MIS, eliminating the reliance on spreadsheets and ensuring accurate, real-time data.

4. Integrated Platform:

Developed an operational platform to support accreditation activities, using Microsoft Office 365 and Ninox Private Cloud.

CONCLUSION

COBIS's digital transformation journey illustrates the significant impact of strategic planning and expert partnership. By collaborating with The EduTec Alliance, COBIS successfully modernized its operations, enhanced service delivery, and positioned itself for future growth. COBIS serves as an inspiring example for other school associations and individual schools aiming to achieve similar success through digital transformation.

TESTIMONIAL

"We couldn't have achieved our digital transformation without The EduTec Alliance. They guided us every step of the way in the development of our new platforms and processes, whilst meeting all our milestones. The journey of digital transformation is a cultural one, but the key to success is finding the right partner."
 – Colin Bell, Chief Executive, COBIS

