



An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education

# Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027

JMB Education Conference 2022

Digital Technology in Education : Possibilities – Practice - Policy

Bernie McNally,  
Secretary General

5<sup>th</sup> October 2022



# Introduction



- Vast array of policy developments
- Change
- Strength of people in education
- Covid and Ukraine
- JMB role





# Budget 2023



- Free primary school books
- 40% increase to capitation ( €113 per student in post-prim)
- Senior cycle reform
- Anti-bullying
- School transport fuel (and expansion)
- Summer programme
- 1000 extra teachers
- 1100 SNAs and 160 staff in NCSE
- Social Inclusion (SCP and HSCL) €8m
- SEC examiner rates €11m
- School buildings €860m





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

## Harnessing Digital

The Digital Ireland Framework



## Overall goal..



Ireland to be a digital leader

at the heart of

European and global  
digital developments





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## Digital Strategy for Schools

to 2027



## Vision



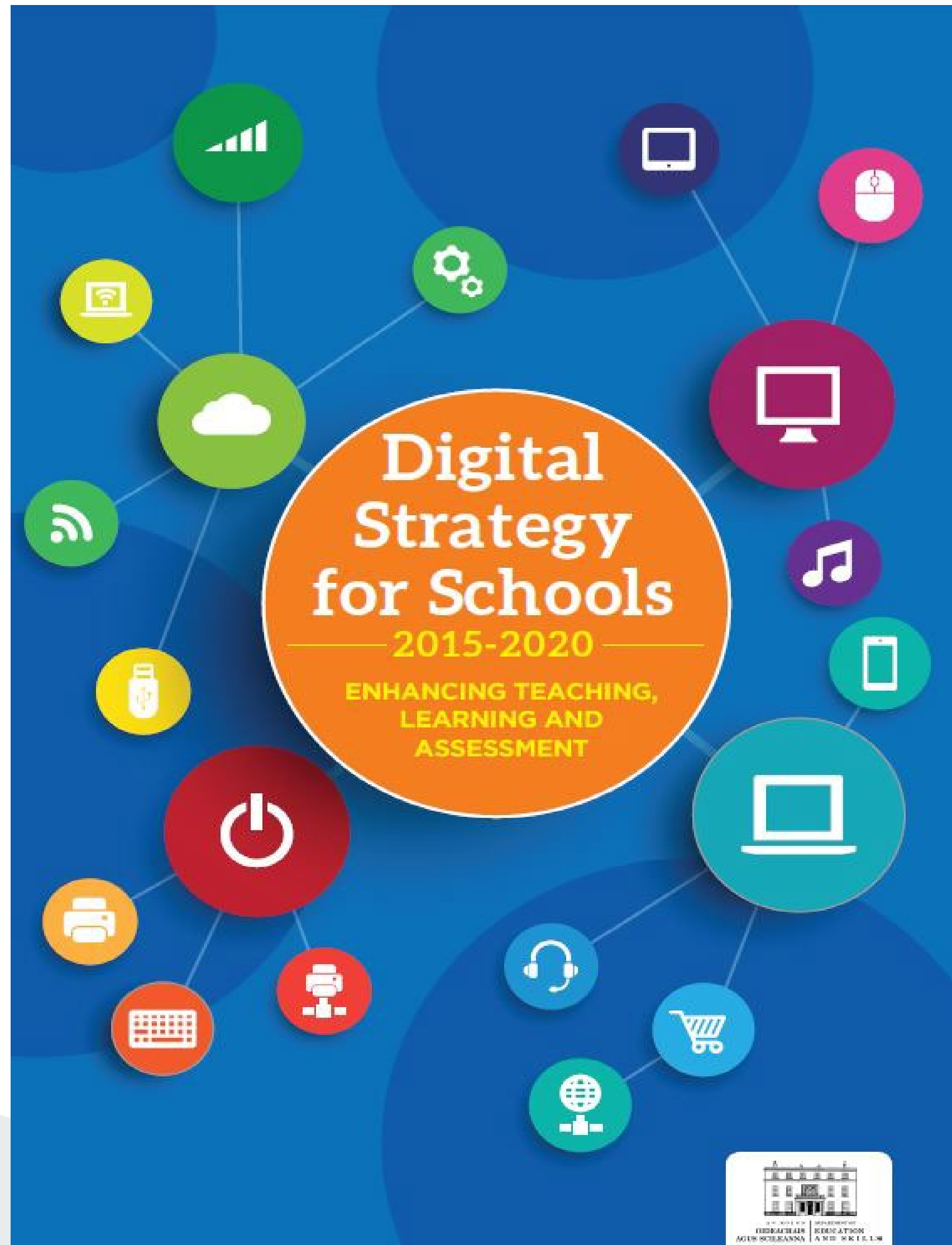
*“Empower schools ...  
harness the opportunities...  
to build digital competence ...  
an effective digital education  
ecosystem...  
to develop competent,  
critically engaged, active learners...  
while supporting them to reach their  
potential  
and participate fully as global citizens  
in a  
digital world.”*





## The last strategy

- €210m
- A global pandemic
- Remote teaching, learning and assessment



# Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027

- Extensive consultation process
- Learnings from Covid
- Consultative Group (JMB member)

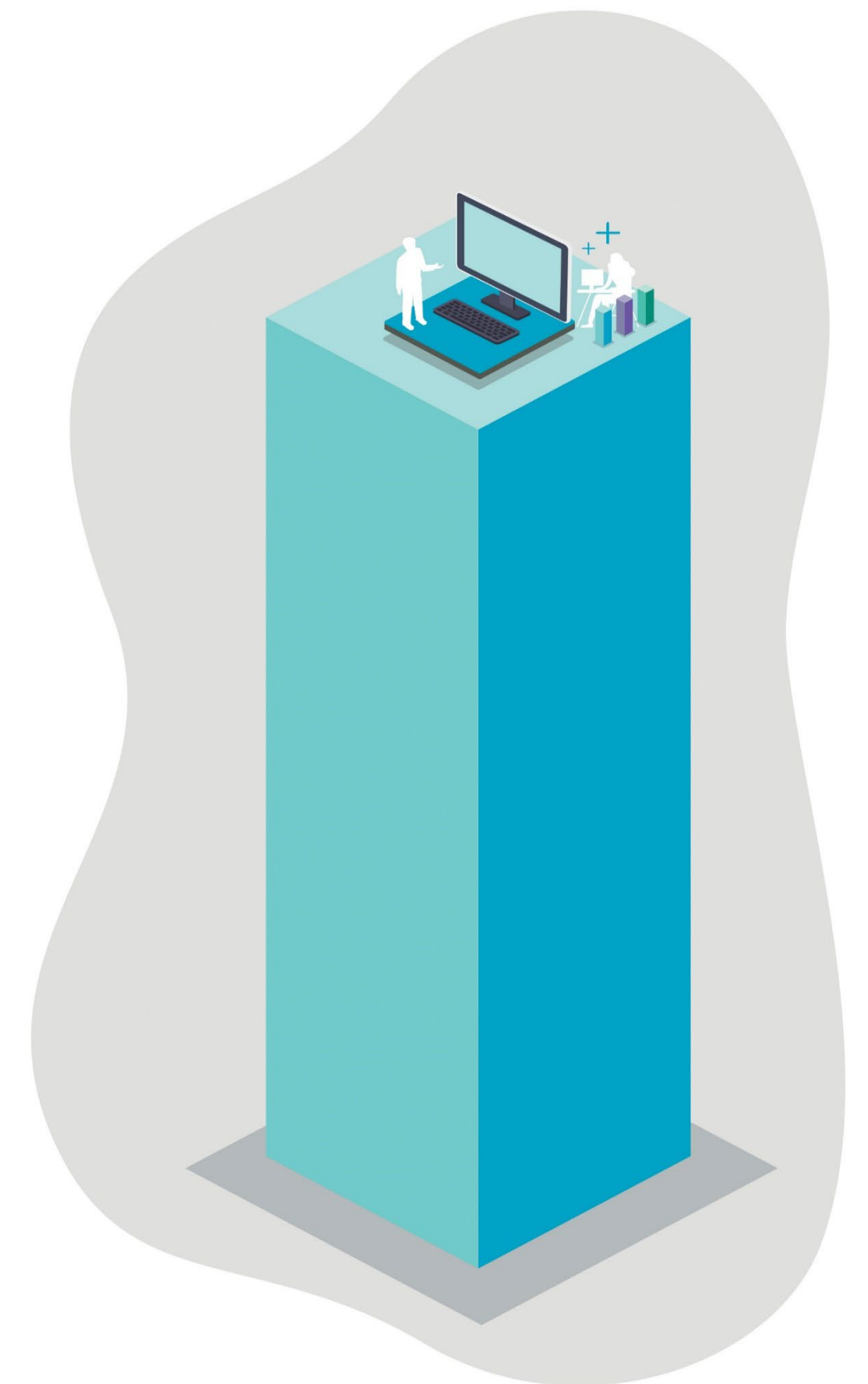




# Pillar 1- Supporting the embedding of digital technologies in **teaching**, **learning** and **assessment**



- Supporting teachers and school leaders through training, support and resources
- Learner-centred approach
- Inclusion
- Planning for digital and digital skills

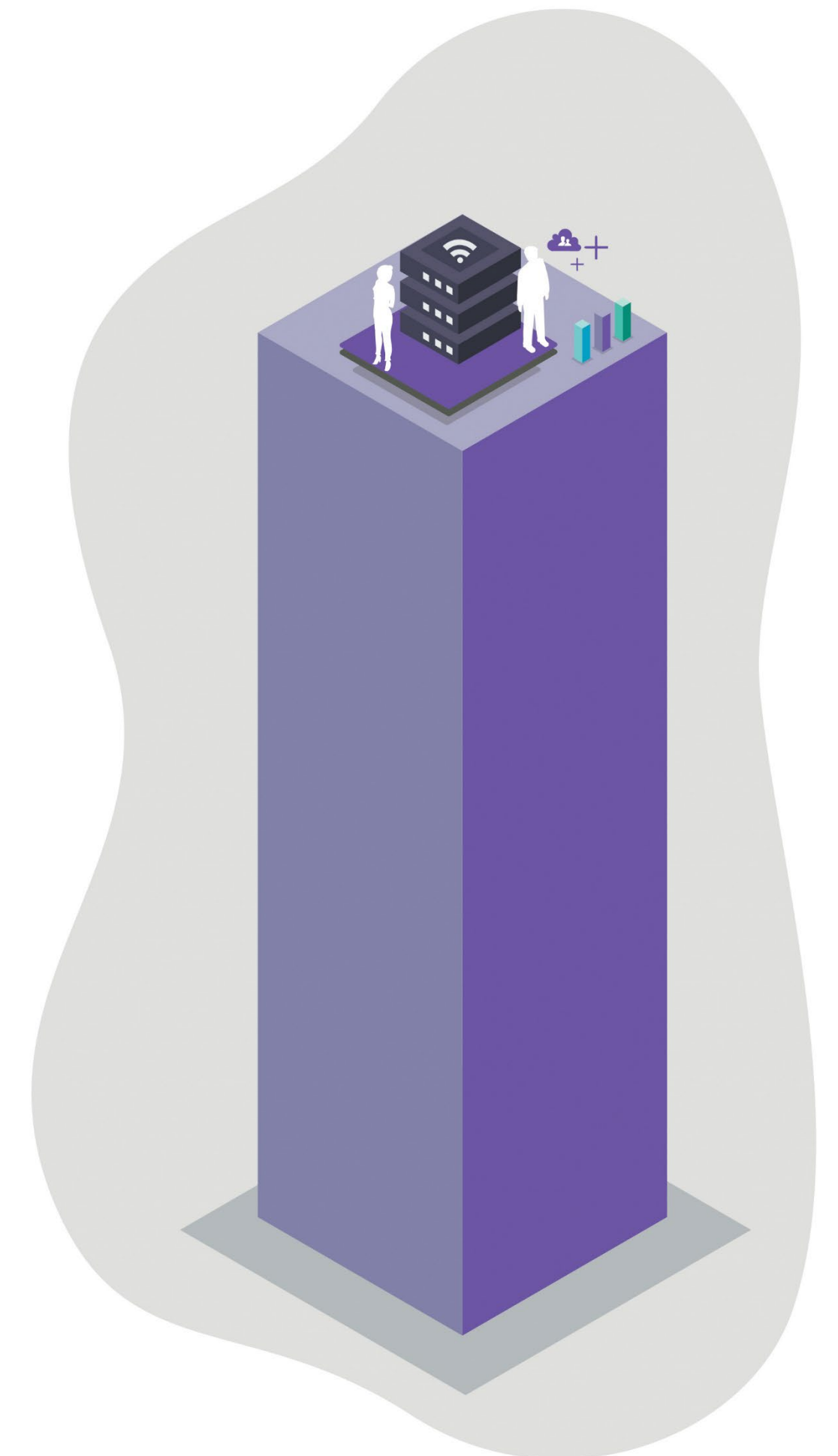




# Pillar 2 – Digital Technology Infrastructure



- Funding
- Infrastructure development
- Connectivity
- Technical Support
- Procurement frameworks

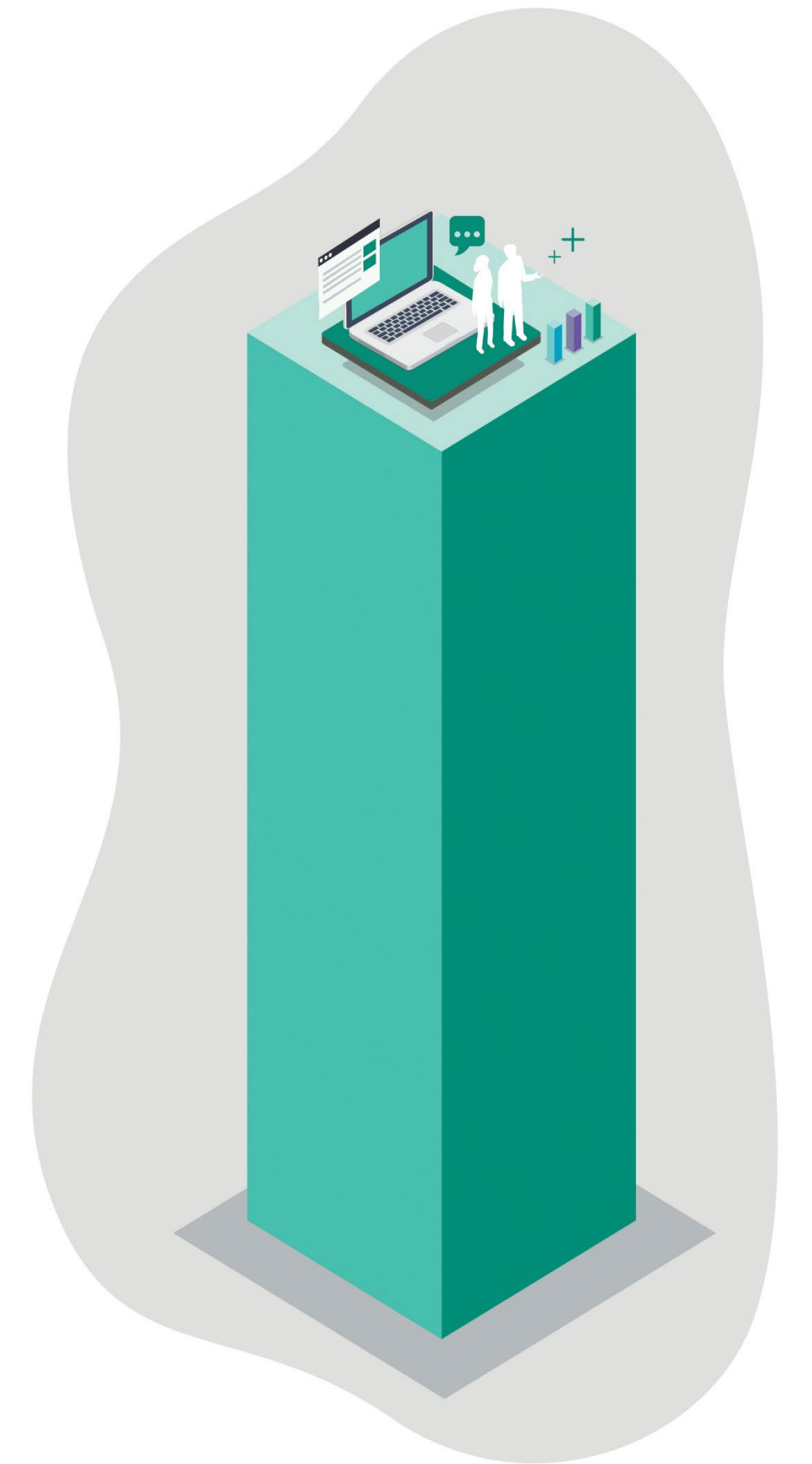




# Pillar 3 – Looking to the Future: Policy, Research and Digital Leadership



- Alignment with relevant EU and national strategies and policies
- Online safety
- Research and innovation taking account of new and emerging trends



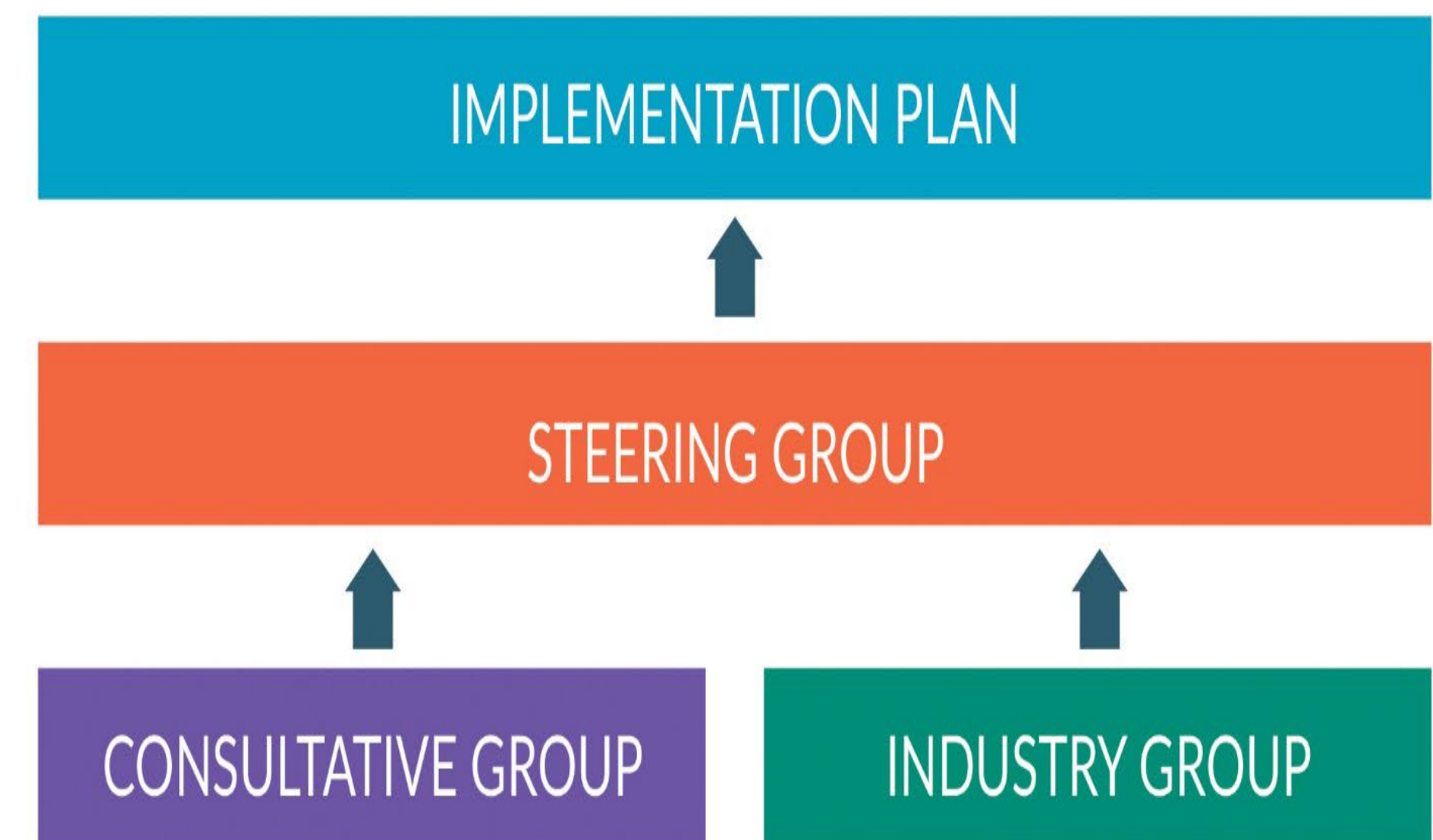




# Next steps

- Development of Implementation Plan 2022-2024
- Mid term review
- Implementation Plan 25 to 27
- Oversight and Measurement
- Engagement throughout via Consultative forum

Strategy Governance and Oversight Implementation Structures







# Some Key Points relating to Strategy

- EU Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027
- Investment of €200m over the strategy period (€50m Nov 21, €50m Dec 21)
- Broadband €13m annually (200mb to 1gb)
- **\*\*Technical Support\*\***





# Confidence and competence



- Supporting development of digital skills for teachers:
  - Céim
  - PDST (Tech in Educ Team, ICT advisors)
- Awareness programme and signposting
- Digital Learning Framework
  - (blended programme, resources, exemplars Scoilnet)
- Curriculum integration / stitching in
- (Merger of 4 Teacher Education Support Services... Sept 23)





# Other relevant Policy development and Strategies



- Senior Cycle Reform
- STEM Education Policy Statement and Implementation Plan to 2026 (soon)
- Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy (due 2023)





# Areas of focus for future



- Inclusion (incl socio-economic and SEN  
Assistive Technology scheme)
- Online safety and cyberbullying
- Review of Anti-Bullying Action Plan  
(higher levels of digital skills = lower risk)
- Webwise
- Misinformation and Disinformation
- EU Digital Education Action Plan.. Guidelines

# Conclusion



Thank you to schools, Principals, Teachers, BOM.

OECD acknowledgement of your role:-

*To prepare young people, enabling them to adapt to changes in the labour market and become informed and responsible citizens.*

Our common goal that  
every young person,  
regardless of background or ability,  
has access to, and opportunities for, the development of the skills  
they need to participate as fully as they can in their own future,  
wherever it takes them.



# Thank you



## John Curtis General Secretary

