

Preface

Many countries have begun to use microcomputers in the classroom; others are considering their use. The purpose of this book is to help those making decisions about their use and about the role of information technology in the classroom. Ministers of Education, at their conference in Cyprus in 1984, asked the Commonwealth Secretariat to look into these issues in order to produce unbiased advice, based on Commonwealth-wide experience, to help member countries.

As a result, the Secretariat, in co-operation with the government of Alberta in Canada, called a pan-Commonwealth meeting of specialists which was held in Edmonton in May 1986. This report is one product of that meeting. It reflects the experience brought to the meeting from Barbados, Britain, Canada, Cyprus, India, Kenya, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Trinidad and Tobago. The report was then considered at a meeting of Caribbean educators held in Barbados in June 1987 and revised in the light of their comments and advice. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the work, the insights and personal contributions of the participants at the meetings which have informed this short report.

We are glad to acknowledge too, the help we have had from Robin Bartlett, Bill Broderick, Geoffrey Hubbard, Lorraine Stone and John Wood who contributed to and commented on drafts of this report. It does not, however, necessarily represent their views but is a working document prepared for the Secretariat.

We hope it will be useful to Commonwealth educators of many kinds. We would welcome comments from users and critics in the hope that we can, in due course, produce a fuller and better edition.

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