

**Name
Session**

Cris Turple, Head of Learning Technology & Innovation, GDST
UK – EdTech Leader or Follower?

Session Synopsis

In his book 'The Children's Machine: Rethinking school in the age of the computer' MIT computer scientist and artificial intelligence pioneer Seymour Papert observes: "Nothing could be more absurd than an experiment in which computers are placed in a classroom where nothing else has changed" (1993). The quantity and quality of devices is not a direct correlation to a school's ability to prepare pupils to be leaders in the digital age. Instead, the success of a school's technology programme relies heavily on school leaders' ability to clearly communicate a purpose for technology use, as well as the encouragement for teachers to design instructional approaches that enable pupils to construct knowledge and develop future-focused dispositions. Citing examples from around the world, Cris will discuss the role of technology in school innovation and present her work exploring such approaches in the U.K. context.

Speaker Profile

Cris Turple provides digital strategy guidance and facilitates professional development opportunities for The Girls' Day School Trust, a group of 25 all-girl independent and academy schools across the U.K. She previously worked in Canada, Hong Kong and Singapore as a classroom teacher, instructional technology coach and curriculum coordinator. Cris is an Apple Distinguished Educator, Google Certified Trainer and Innovator, and Microsoft Innovative Educator who holds a Masters Degree in Educational Technology from the University of British Columbia. Connect with her on Twitter: [@CrisTurple](https://twitter.com/CrisTurple)