

Your Guide to Connect the Classroom Funding

Understanding the programme, the DfE requirements and the steps involved in planning your school network upgrade.



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IT SUPPORT



What is Connect the Classroom?

Improving connectivity in schools

Connect the Classroom is a Department for Education programme designed to improve school connectivity by funding upgrades to Wi-Fi access points and network switches. Eligible schools are contacted directly by the DfE. Funding is available where a school's existing network falls below the DfE's connectivity standards.



£325 million
available between 2025-2030



Who can take part?

Schools receiving targeted intervention through the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) programme may be eligible. The DfE contacts selected schools and asks them to provide information about their existing network infrastructure.



If your school has already been contacted by the DfE, the next step is to understand what your existing network can support and what may need upgrading.

www.schoolnetupgrade.co.uk

Key DfE Network Requirements

The DfE publishes digital and technology standards for school connectivity.



Wi-Fi 7

New wireless upgrades should use Wi-Fi 7 (802.11be) as a minimum.



Reliable Coverage

Coverage should be sufficient throughout the areas where devices are used.



Central Management

Access points should be centrally managed for monitoring and control.



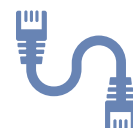
Security

Networks should prevent unauthorised access and support secure authentication.



Suitable Switching

Switching infrastructure should support modern wireless performance and be securely managed.



Cabling

Where copper cabling is replaced, Cat 6A is the current DfE standard.



A detailed survey helps identify what your school needs to have a fast and secure network.

www.schoolnetupgrade.co.uk

How Connect the Classroom Works

From DfE contact to your upgraded network

1

DfE Contact

Selected schools are contacted by the DfE and asked to complete a Network Asset Form, providing details of their existing Wi-Fi, switching and network infrastructure.

2

Eligibility Assessment

The DfE reviews the school's existing network against its connectivity standards and confirms whether the school can progress through Connect the Classroom.

3

Network Survey & Solution

If your school can progress, Cheeky Munkey can carry out a detailed site survey and develop a solution that meets your school's requirements and DfE specifications.

4

Proposal & DfE Approval

Cheeky Munkey provides the technical proposal and cost information required for the next stage. Once the necessary information has been approved by the DfE, the upgrade can move forward.

5

Installation

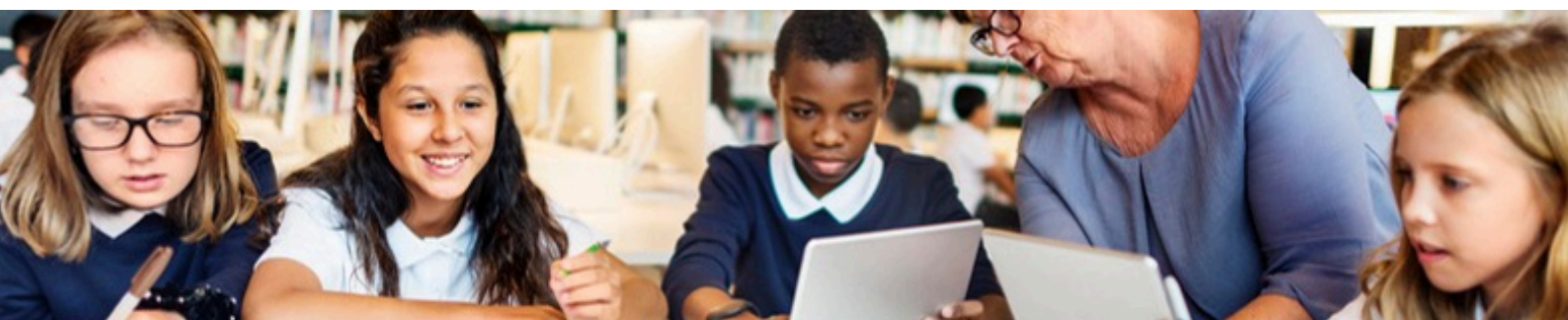
The network upgrade is scheduled and installed, with disruption to your school kept to a minimum.

6

Completion

The required documentation is completed in line with the DfE process, leaving your school with an upgraded, capable and secure network.

www.schoolnetupgrade.co.uk



Why Cheeky Munkey?

Cheeky Munkey has extensive experience supporting schools and organisations with reliable, secure and future-ready IT infrastructure. Their team can guide you through the process, from understanding your existing network and carrying out the site survey through to solution design, installation and completion.



Education IT experience

Experienced in supporting schools and education organisations.



DfE-aligned solutions

Network upgrades designed around your requirements and the relevant DfE specifications.



Guided from start to finish

Clear advice and support throughout the process.



Minimal disruption

Installation planned around your school's teaching and operational requirements.

Working together to support schools

Mediamerge is working with Cheeky Munkey to help eligible schools navigate the Connect the Classroom programme and access the specialist support they need. As part of this collaboration, schools completing a new Connect the Classroom upgrade with Cheeky Munkey will receive free access to VideoLearning CPD, courtesy of Mediamerge. **Terms and conditions apply.*

VideoLearning gives teachers and school staff online access to classroom observation videos and professional development resources.

12 months' free access for your school at no additional cost.

www.videolearning.co.uk

**Offer applies to qualifying new Connect the Classroom projects introduced through Mediamerge. Excludes existing or completed projects and opportunities sourced independently by Cheeky Munkey.*



Ready to discuss your school's network upgrade?

Request a Call Back
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www.schoolnetupgrade.co.uk