

Summary: ICT Funding 2006/07

This note provides a summary of information available from the DfES related to the funding of ICT in schools from April 2006. It represents a substantial change from previous years. Full details may be found in the DfES publication *Learning, Teaching and Managing with ICT*¹.

Funding Changes

The DfES Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners sets out a commitment in relation to the overall future funding which will give schools more control over their budgets. To support this, from 2006–07, substantial changes have been made to the way funding for ICT and learning technologies will be given to schools. Standards Fund Grant 31a will **cease** in its current form. Schools and the LA will now receive funding for ICT through the following grants:

- **Standards Fund Grant 101: Schools Development Grant (SDG)**
- **Standards Fund Grant 121: ICT in Schools: Connectivity and Learning systems**
- **Standards Fund Grant 122: ICT in Schools: e-Learning Credits**
- **Devolved Formula Capital Grant (DFC)**

Grant 101: School Development Grant (SDG)

This is devolved to schools. Schools are able to spend the **School Development Grant (SDG)** on any activity that support improvements in teaching and learning. The revenue element for ICT (previously the LA matched funding) has been added as DfES grant to the new SDG. At the request of the ICT Advisory Group, for this year only, we have identified a notional amount for ICT within the allocation. (See attached Appendix 1) This is based on the number of pupils on roll.

SDG can be used to support your school's ICT related expenditure related to:

- ongoing subscriptions or any other items of a revenue nature, e.g. computer maintenance, software, internet service provision;
- contracts for leased ICT equipment;
- teachers' professional development and training in the use of ICT for learning and teaching; including ongoing subscriptions;
- ICT training - objectives in the school's and in individual's development plans;
- training in the use of management information systems for school support staff;
- the employment of a technician, perhaps on a shared, part-time basis;
- purchase of support from the IT team in Seymour House;
- the recruitment and training of support staff, including ICT Technicians;
- tailored training for individual teachers;
- releasing those teachers who already have a particular area of ICT proficiency to share with other teachers within the school, or further a field.

Schools are free to manage their professional development programmes in-house or use support available from the LA and other providers. Funding has been retained to provide Hands on Support for teachers – please contact Mark Baker for details.

¹ Available from DfES publications. Ref 0193-2006DRW-EN. Downloadable from teachernet.gov.uk/publications
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Grant 121: ICT in Schools: Connectivity and Learning systems

The Broadband and Connectivity Grant is now redefined as the Connectivity and Learning Systems Grant and will remain an LA retained ring-fenced grant, with the lesser proportion remaining matched funded. This grant includes an element of funding to ensure that the Regional Broadband Consortium (RBC) and the LA maintain their connection to the National Education Network resources in a safe, secure and coherent manner. FE, HE and cultural sector institutions (Museums, Libraries and Archives) are also connected to the NEN, forming a genuinely national educational resource.

The purpose of this grant is to:

- ensure that all schools are connected to broadband by 2006;
- connect all schools to the National Education Network (NEN);
- enable the LA (through the RBC – in our case SEGfL) to ensure that all schools have available to them a learning platform service with at least core functionality by **spring 2008**

The grant also requires that:

- Broadband connections should be supplied through the LA or a RBC;
- The LA and RBC should identify all schools that are hard to connect and have a plan to ensure that these schools are supplied with a broadband connection by 2006;
- Shibboleth should be adopted as the mechanism for secure access to online content;
- All RBCs and LAs should use this system for school online resource authentication and authorisation.

Provision of a 'core' Learning Platform Service

- communication and collaboration tools
- safe and secure, individual online learning space for the school workforce and pupils enabling anytime, anywhere learning
- tools to enable teachers to manage and tailor content to user needs and learning styles, and to track user progress

Further details of the approach to providing broadband internet services to schools can be found in the Broadband Briefing Guidance Note 2 (April 2006).

Grant 122: ICT in Schools: e-Learning Credits (eLCs)

Each school should manage and maintain an effective set of multimedia resources for all subjects that achieve an appropriate balance between priced, non-priced and locally produced materials. eLCs are paid to LAs as a ring fenced Standards Fund capital Grant based on the number of schools in their area that directly provide nursery, primary and secondary education up to and including Key Stage 4 and the number of pupils at those schools aged between 3-15.

Funding allocation

- £1000 for each maintained (government funded) institution within the authority that directly provide nursery, primary or secondary education government funded) institution (which includes Traveller Education Services, Pupil Referral Units, Traveller Education Service, Hospital Schools and other education authority funded education providers);
- An allocation per pupil in maintained education;
- Private, voluntary and independent nurseries are not entitled to the baseline figure.

Spending

- All eligible resources for purchase using eLCs can be found on the [Curriculum Online website](#);
- Schools and institutions may choose to purchase approved digital learning resources from a registered supplier using part funding from other sources;
- Schools and institutions must notify the registered supplier that eLCs are being used for the purchase (or part purchase) of approved digital learning resources to enable the supplier to provide the Department for Education and Skills with information on eLC spend.

Devolved Formula Capital Grant (DFC)

The capital element of the old ICT Standards Fund Grant 31a will merge with DFC from 1 April 2006 and is the capital funding for ICT equipment. There is **no** separately identifiable allocation for ICT within DFC. There is a 3 year carry-forward currently available for DFC. The decision about how much DFC is used for either ICT or buildings and grounds should be based on your school's own priorities and circumstances. Schools should also refer to Section 5 of the LA Guidance Note on the 2006/07 actual and 2007/08 indicative school budgets for guidance on eligible expenditure.

DFC can be used to support schools purchases of:

- ICT infrastructure and equipment e.g. desk top computers, interactive whiteboards or laptops & computer peripherals e.g. digital video cameras and printers;
- purchase or upgrade management information system infrastructure;
- purchase operating and curriculum software related to new hardware purchases;
- support infrastructure investment;
- ICT Technical Support services when purchased as a service, or as part of another service - e.g. if it is included as part of the overall ICT infrastructure package purchased by the school.

DFC should not be used:

- to pay for subscriptions;
- ***under existing regulations DFC cannot be used to pay for leases.***

And the rest...

- Schools may wish to refer to the DfES e-strategy document: "Harnessing Technology: Transforming Learning and Children's Services"
- In order to assist schools to plan the ICT self review framework is available from BECTa. *(This framework focuses on eight areas, critical for success with ICT in school: Impact on pupil outcomes; leadership and management; Curriculum; Learning and teaching; Assessment; CPD; Resources and Extended learning);* Each school should have access to anytime/anywhere learning and teaching technology that can be managed at the pace, place and time to suit;
- Schools may wish to consider the following when planning future developments : Digital infrastructure, managing and exploiting the full potential of broadband access, the personalisation of the curriculum through ICT, integrated learning and management ICT systems, Key Stage 3 on-screen ICT test, managed learning environments, the use of ICT in the context of extended schools and services;
- Each school needs to have an effective infrastructure, and a competent, confident and supported workforce to embed ICT in teaching, learning and whole school management across the school;
- Schools should take into consideration all the specific national objectives for learning technologies in schools when deciding how best to spend their capital allocation.

Laptops for teachers (Lft)

Becta continues to provide a catalogue (<http://www.lft.ngfl.gov.uk/>) of suppliers. There is no separate grant for this. Helen Greehy and Cherry Bluett are available to advise schools on the purchase of laptop computers using funds devolved to them.

Interactive Whiteboards (IWB)

The framework allows schools and LAs to purchase equipment from an online catalogue (<http://www.whiteboards.becta.org.uk/>). Penny Knight, Helen Greehy and Mark Baker can advise schools on the purchase and effective use of interactive whiteboards.

Targets and Dates

2010

- Integrated learning and management ICT systems to facilitate the development of managed learning systems that provide a full range of functionality across every aspect of school life. The aim is that each school will have access to an integrated system that conforms to BECTA guidance by 2010.

2008

- In accordance with the government's e-strategy priorities and targets, by 2008 pupils will need to have access to a system which provides a personalised on-line learning space with the potential to support e-portfolios;
- LAs to ensure availability of a learning platform with at least core functionality to all schools by spring 2008 (Communication and collaboration tools, safe and secure, individual online working space for the school workforce and pupils enabling anytime, anywhere learning, tools to enable teachers to manage and tailor content to user needs and learning styles, and track user progress). *LAs and schools can use their **Devolved Formula Capital, Schools Development Grant and Grant 121 connectivity and Learning Systems** as appropriate, to purchase learning platforms and associated support services.*

2007

- Key Stage 3 on-line testing for ICT. DfES intend that a fully functioning national test, which all schools can access will be in place for the summer term in 2007 and subject to successful piloting this test will become **mandatory in 2008**

Awaiting further information: Pupils' Home Access to ICT

The Budget statement March 2005 announced £50m (£25m capital in each of 2006-07 and 2007-08) for home access. This funding will be used to support home access to ICT equipment in the most disadvantaged areas, where existing home access to ICT is lowest.

See also the e-learning foundation website (<http://www.e-learningfoundation.com/>)

Finally, a warning:

Schools and LAs who invest in ICT but do not similarly invest in a concurrent programme of professional development (such as HoS) are likely to find that their investment is underutilised or neglected.

Current Frameworks/Procurement Arrangements

Procurement advice - www.becta.org.uk/schools/procurement

Laptops for teachers - <http://ift.ngfl.gov.uk>

Interactive whiteboards - <http://whiteboards.becta.org.uk>

Microsoft Memorandum of understanding - www.becta.org.uk/leas/display.cfm?section=14_7_2

Software licensing – operating and office productivity software - <http://procurementtools.becta.org.uk/>

ISP accreditation – <http://ispsafety.ngfl.gov.uk/>