

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS AND TRUSTS

The funding is available. Make it count for every learner.

A practical guide for schools and trusts eligible for Connect the Classroom funding



**Better connectivity
is not the end goal.
Better learning is.**

**Education-specific
Independent advice
Lenovo Platinum Partner**

Book a no-obligation call to discuss your school, your funding and the right next step.

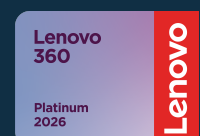
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Connect the Classroom gives eligible schools an opportunity to improve the digital foundations that sit behind teaching and learning. The Department for Education funds qualifying improvements to wireless access points and network switches where connectivity falls below its standards.

If your school has already been identified, the important question is no longer simply “Are we eligible?” It is: “How do we turn this funding into a reliable learning environment that works for our pupils, teachers and wider school community?”

01 | START WITH THE CHILD

What should better connectivity change in your school?

A network upgrade can be described in access points, switches, cabling and standards. But that is not how pupils or teachers experience it. They experience whether technology works when learning needs it.

What “good” feels like to a learner

- A class of devices connects when the lesson starts - not five minutes later.
- Moving classroom or building does not mean moving from good connectivity to poor connectivity.
- Digital platforms, cloud resources and assistive technologies are available when pupils need them.
- Teachers can plan learning around what is pedagogically right, rather than what the network might cope with.
- Technology becomes part of the learning environment instead of an interruption to it.

HEADTEACHER / SLT	BUSINESS MANAGER / BURSAR	IT / TRUST LEAD
A network that supports your improvement plan: lessons start on time, digital resources are available and pupils can participate consistently.	Funding is already available for eligible schools. The priority is a compliant, well-planned project with clear value and minimal avoidable administration.	A fresh assessment of the current estate, a standards-led design and infrastructure that can support devices, cloud services, safeguarding and future demand.

The best network is the one pupils and teachers do not have to think about.

02 | FUNDING TO ACTION

You have the opportunity. What happens next?

Current DfE guidance says schools receiving targeted RISE intervention are eligible for Connect the Classroom where their connectivity falls below the required standards. Eligible schools are contacted directly by the DfE, and schools are responsible for procuring their own supplier. Supplier work must meet DfE specifications.

The practical route from funding to delivery

1**Confirm the opportunity**

Review your DfE communication and understand what has been identified for your school.

2**Understand the current environment**

Establish what you have today, where the gaps may be and what can remain. A detailed survey can then be scoped as part of the next stage, rather than assuming everything needs replacing.

3**Design around the school**

Translate the technical requirements into a solution that works across classrooms, buildings, users and your wider digital plans.

4**Procure and approve**

Choose a supplier that can evidence the proposed approach clearly and support you through the required process.

5**Deliver with learning in mind**

Plan installation to minimise disruption and make sure the finished environment performs as intended.

6**Support the longer-term strategy**

The value should continue after installation through reliable management, support and infrastructure that can accommodate future use.

A practical first step

Start with a no-obligation conversation. We can discuss your DfE communication, your current environment and what you want better connectivity to achieve, then agree the most appropriate next step for your school.

Why start the conversation now? The funding opportunity is already there. An early discussion gives your school time to understand the requirement, consider the learner outcomes you want and plan the right next step without unnecessary pressure.

03 | CHOOSE WELL

Six questions to ask your Connect the Classroom supplier

Use these questions to make sure the project is designed around your school rather than around a product list.

01 Are you starting with our learners and school priorities?

Ask how the proposed infrastructure will improve the day-to-day experience for pupils, teachers and support teams.

02 Will you independently assess what we already have?

An independent assessment should identify what is working as well as what needs attention. Ask how the supplier will establish the current position and whether they will tell you when something does not need replacing.

03 How will you demonstrate DfE compliance?

Ask how the design will meet current requirements for wireless standards, coverage, central management and security.

04 Do you understand how schools actually operate?

Installation, safeguarding, exams, timetables, SEND provision and classroom disruption all matter. Education experience should change how a project is planned.

05 Will this support where our digital strategy is going next?

Consider 1:1 devices, cloud adoption, assistive technology, collaboration, safeguarding and growth - not just today's Wi-Fi issue.

06 What happens after the installation?

Clarify testing, management, ongoing support and who owns the relationship once the project is live.

A fresh pair of eyes - not someone marking their own homework.

04 | WHY CTS

Make the funding count - for this term and beyond

CTS approaches Connect the Classroom as an education project enabled by technology, not simply a networking sale. Our role is to help you understand the current environment, make informed choices and create infrastructure that supports the experience you want for learners.

Education is what we do	Independent advice	Lenovo Platinum Partner
We understand the relationship between connectivity, teaching and learning, safeguarding, staff workload, devices and your wider digital strategy.	We take a fresh look at what you have, what works, what needs to change and what can stay. The school comes before the product.	Our technology partnership brings expertise and commercial value while CTS remains focused on the right overall solution for your school.



Better learning is the goal

The lesson is simple: the value of the programme is not the hardware itself. It is what stronger infrastructure allows the school to do.

Digital platforms, cloud resources and assistive technologies are available when pupils need them.

Your next step: speak to John Vaicekauskas

Book a no-obligation call

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