

Helping schools buy ICT goods and services

The following frameworks are in place to help schools, single Academies, school consortia, Academy Trusts, Free Schools, local authorities (LA), regional broadband consortia (RBC) with all areas of ICT spend. All are either owned or managed by DfE directly, or have been developed in close collaboration with DfE.

All of these frameworks have been specifically designed to meet educational requirements. Some key benefits for users are:

- Suppliers with existing knowledge and experience of delivering educational solutions
- The suppliers have been evaluated via an EU compliant competition process
- All suppliers are quality assured and have had their solutions technically tested and quality evaluated.
- Suppliers have signed up to a comprehensive set of pre-determined contractual terms and conditions (limiting risk exposure to customers)
- Suppliers are subject to contract and performance management and reporting by DfE experts.
- The DfE offers users advice where necessary to help with framing of requirements and specific performance and/or contractual issues (see contact point below).

[ICT Services Framework](#) – enables buying of all ICT equipment and services including infrastructure, connectivity and service integrators. This is being used extensively within the Academy community, has contracts worth £250m already committed through it and has become the default procurement mechanism for the Free Schools ICT capital programme. (A specific 'Lite' version of this Framework's terms and conditions is available for single school or Academy use).

[Microsoft Licensing \(MoU\)](#) – the new MoU enables all those schools choosing to purchase Microsoft software to have more flexibility and choice, access significant pricing discounts and savings, together with enhanced licensing terms.

[Information Management and Learning Services Framework](#) – is a framework allowing schools and local authorities to buy management information systems and learning platforms (VLEs). It is owned and managed by CCS but has been developed using key educational input from DfE.

Adverse publicity surrounding contracts signed by schools for photocopiers or MFDs has resulted in the Department issuing guidance to schools around this subject, this can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/buying-for-schools-energy-and-mfd-top-tips>

Do you need further ICT buying support and advice?

Details of these arrangements and latest updates can be found on the Department's website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/buying-ict-for-your-school> or via email from schools.ictsupport@education.gsi.gov.uk