DfE
Connect the Classroom

Fully Funded Wi-Fi Upgrade

IT services Communications Security

Department for Education

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Connect the Classroom

DfE Funded Wireless Networking Solution

DFE CONNECT THE CLASSROOM

The DfE Connect the Classroom scheme supports improvements to school networks by replacing wireless access points and associated networking equipment.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The DfE Connect the Classroom scheme for 2025–2026 provides a further £25 million in funding to help 1,000 schools that aren't yet meeting Wi-Fi Standards improve their infrastructure with Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7.

This upgrade will enhance your school's current IT and network infrastructure, delivering stronger connectivity and coverage across your site, ensuring reliable, high speed access to meet the demands of your school.

FREE
WI-FI UPGRADE
FOR ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Schools currently receiving targeted support through the RISE programme are eligible for Connect the Classroom funding. Some schools outside the programme also qualify and have been notified by the DfE.

To qualify, a school's existing network must not yet meet the DfE's minimum Wi-Fi connectivity requirements. These standards include:

- Use of the latest **wireless network standard** approved by the Wi-Fi Alliance
- Full **wireless coverage** throughout all school buildings and outdoor areas
- A **centrally managed** wireless network solution
- Robust security measures to **prevent unauthorised access**

All Work Must be Completed and Final Claims Submitted by 27th February 2026

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DRIVING CHANGE WITH DFE FUNDING

The DfE is committed to narrowing the digital divide by 2030, ensuring every school has access to modern, high speed broadband and robust Wi-Fi infrastructure. This forms a key part of the DfE's long-term digital strategy, designed to create equal learning opportunities for all pupils.

A reliable, high-performance wireless network is now an essential, as classrooms become increasingly digital and device driven. From interactive learning tools to cloud-based teaching platforms, modern education depends on fast, secure, and consistent connectivity.

BENEFITS OF UPGRADING TO WI-FI 6 & WI-FI 7:

- **Higher Data Rates** - Faster speeds for seamless connectivity.
- **Increased Capacity** - Supports more devices without slowdowns.
- **Lower Latency** - Reduces lag for real-time applications.
- **More Reliable Connections** - Stronger signal stability, fewer dropouts.
- **Optimised for Smart Classroom Tech** - Supports interactive boards, laptops, PCs.
- **Stronger Digital Security** - WPA3 encryption for better protection.
- **Future-Proofing** - Ready for evolving digital and cloud needs.

Wi Fi

Tel Group can support your DfE funded switch to **Wi-Fi 6 & Wi-Fi 7**

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THE FUNDING PROCESS

Once your school is contacted by the DfE, you can begin planning your fully funded wireless upgrade. Our team will guide you through the process, from the free site survey and application to a tailored quote, delivery, and aftercare.

Step 1
Engagement:

Schools are contacted by the DfE, confirming eligibility and requesting a completed Network Asset Form detailing current Wi-Fi and cabling infrastructure which you then submit to the DfE.

Step 2
Assessment:

The DfE reviews the submission to assess whether the school meets the minimum Wi-Fi standards. If eligible, Tel Group can carry out a full site survey to develop a custom solution.

Step 3
Proposal:

Based on the requirements. our team will provide a tailored proposal and cost matrix that meets the DfE's strict funding criteria. You can review this and share it with your DfE advisor.

Step 4
Procurement:

Once you have received all proposals, your school must select a preferred supplier and submit the cost matrix to the DfE for final approval. The DfE will then issue a funding agreement.

Step 5
Delivery:

We manage the entire project, working with you to plan, schedule, and install your upgraded connectivity to the agreed specifications, with ongoing support, training, and aftercare.

Step 6
Claim & Enjoy:

The school submits an invoice to the DfE, which pays the responsible body, who then pays the supplier. The school can then enjoy their upgraded Wi-Fi 6 and 7 network with improved connectivity.

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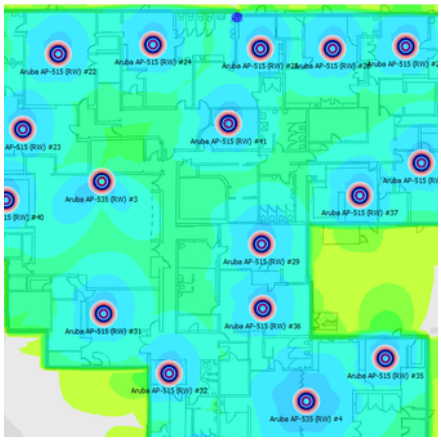
EXCELLENCE DELIVERED BY TEL GROUP

Tel Group can ensure that your school maximises its funding by delivering a seamless, future-proof wireless network solution that transforms your IT infrastructure and boosts connectivity across your premises.

- **Proven Track Record** - Secured £2.5 million in funding for 40+ schools through the DfE.
- **Bespoke, DfE-Approved Solutions** - Tailored to your needs for optimal funding impact.
- **End-to-End Support** - From application to planning, implementation, and aftercare.
- **Education Technology Experts** - Specialising in schools' IT and connectivity challenges.
- **One-Stop Shop** - Offering a range of tech solutions to meet school goals within budget.
- **Reliable delivery** - On-time, efficient project execution.
- **Scalable Infrastructure** - Future-proof solutions that grow with your needs.

Internal Access Points

Upgraded Cat6 Cabling



Full Coverage Solution

Enquire today to discover how **Tel Group** can seamlessly manage your DfE **Connect the Classroom Project**

CLICK TO ENQUIRE

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DRIVING CHANGE WITH DFE FUNDING

Since the DfE launched the 'Connect the Classroom' scheme in 2021, we've successfully secured £2.5 million in funding for schools and trusts across England. This funding has enabled more than 40 schools to transform their operations, transformations they couldn't have achieved without it.

Our work spans nurseries, primary and secondary schools, as well as trusts, showcasing our ability to plan and deliver installations for sites of all sizes and requirements.

Many of these schools have become long-term partners, choosing us as their preferred supplier for a range of additional services, which is a testament to our exceptional delivery and expertise.

ENQUIRE TODAY

We've Secured **£2.5 Million in DfE Funding** for 40+ Schools and MATs

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OUR IMPACT IN THEIR WORDS

The LEARNERs' Trust

"10 of the 18 schools in the LEARNERS' Trust were eligible for the Connect the Classroom scheme. Having previously worked with Tel Group and spoken with other companies, we were confident that Tel was the right team for such a big task.

From start to finish, communication was clear, and the Tel team provided excellent support. They visited each site, gathered the necessary documentation, and remained flexible and considerate with installation dates and times.

Installations were carefully planned around the schools' schedules, and the on-site teams were fantastic. Caretakers often remarked that it hardly looked like any work had been done because everything was left so tidy. We wouldn't hesitate to work with Tel Group again on similar projects in the future."

Tom Sheffield - Senior IT Support

Cidari Multi Academy Trust

"As part of the DfE Connect the Classroom scheme, we partnered with Tel Group to upgrade the cabling and Wi-Fi at two of our eligible schools.

From the outset, their team demonstrated exceptional professionalism, ensuring a smooth and efficient installation.

When we later expanded our network as part of a self-funded initiative, Tel Group provided expert advice and seamless integration, aligning our infrastructure with our budget and long-term goals.

Following this, they won the contract to upgrade cabling across our remaining 14 schools."

Matt McIver - COO

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St Thomas CofE Primary School

"We are a primary school in Oldham with over 500 children and were eligible for the Connect the Classroom scheme. We were approached by several companies, but Tel Group stood out for their professionalism and organisation.

From the initial meeting to the final sign-off, they were excellent. The work was completed out of hours, the school was left immaculately clean, and the cabling was flawless.

Their follow-up support has been easy to access, and the team is always approachable. We would highly recommend Tel Group for CtC projects."

Paul McGrath - Head Teacher

Frank Field Education Trust

"Working with Tel Group has rapidly enhanced ICT across our Trust, hugely improving teaching and learning for our students.

Our partnership began through the DfE Connect the Classroom Scheme, where Tel completed a Wi-Fi upgrade at one of our eligible schools. Following their success, we confidently awarded them the Wi-Fi project for a second school and now partner with them on multiple ICT services.

We're confident that Tel Group will remain an invaluable partner as we continue to grow and cannot recommend them highly enough."

Sam Finch - Chief Finance and Operating Officer

Mill Ford School

"I have worked with Tel Group for several years now over a range of projects, including Connect the Classroom. I cannot fault the service provided. They are professional and knowledgeable and nothing is too much trouble. They understand the context of my school and adjust their working procedures accordingly."

Andrea Howard- School Business Manager

Tel Group

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