

ACCS Continuous Professional Development Programme 2016/2017

Making Effective Use of the
ICT Infrastructure Grant



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The Agenda

- Looking at the Digital Strategy for Schools and the ICT Infrastructure Grant Scheme,
Mr. John Irwin, ACCS
- The role of ACCS ICT Advisor and results of ICT audits in schools to date the common findings,
Ms. Deirdre Redmond, ACCS ICT Advisor
- Supports available from PDST and the ICT planning process,
Mr. Tom Lonergan, PDST Technology in Education



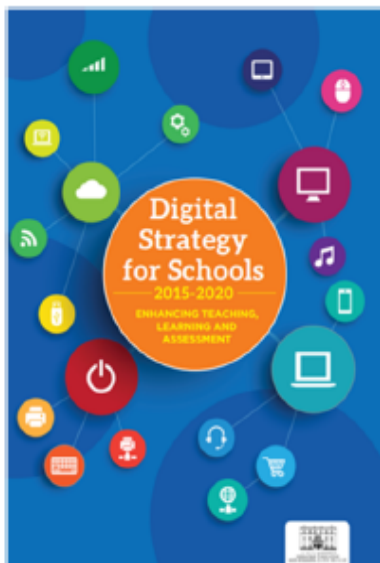
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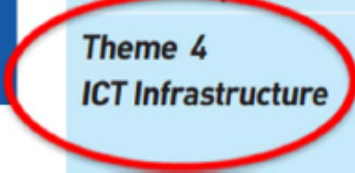
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Digital Strategy for Schools (2015-2020)

Key Principles:

1. Constructivist Pedagogical Orientation underpinning the embedding of ICT in schools.....Active Learning
2. Use of ICT in teaching, learning and assessment can enhance the learning experiences of all students...Inclusion, Diversity
3. The use of ICT in teaching, learning and assessment is embedded in school curricula, Department policies and teacher education.
4. ICT is used in an ethical and responsible way.
5. **ICT Planning is required to ensure ICT integration in teaching, learning and assessment.**





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ICT Grants for Schools

- A five year approach, expectation that €210m will become available over the period.
- Facilitates multi-annual planning by schools.
- Each school is expected to draw up an eLearning plan using a whole school approach and taking account of its context and circumstances.
 - Vision of the school for the embedding of ICT in teaching, learning and assessment and incorporate targets and priorities for improvement and development.
 - Plan should be reviewed and updated at least annually will guide the way in which the grant funding is used in a phased and coherent approach to incrementally improve learning outcomes for students.



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Grant Rates for Post-Primary Schools

All schools receive a **lump sum of €2,000 per year** (€1,000 per year in fee-charging schools)

Year 1, per student capita amount:

- €26.60 per special needs pupil in special classes, and per pupil in special schools.
- €31.90 per student in post-primary schools.
- €35 per student in DEIS post-primary schools.
- €15.90 per student in fee-charging schools.

Qualification for Funding:

- All recognised schools open longer than 3 years
- Schools built prior to 2013.

It is expected, subject to the availability of resources, that **similar scheme of grants will be payable up to 2020-2021 school year.**

Any queries in relation to the ICT grant itself to ictpolicy@education.gov.ie

What can ICT Grant be used for?

- **Computers:** PCs, laptops, tablets or hybrid devices
- **Projectors, Interactive Flat Screens (IFS)**
- **Networking equipment** (fixed and wifi, cabling, switches and installation)
- **Cloud based tools and applications**
- **Learning platforms**
- **Local software or 'apps'**

- **Other ICT Equipment:**
- **An indicative (though not exhaustive) list includes audio visual equipment such as still and video cameras, speakers, interactive presentation technologies, visualisers, and equipment including mobile laptop/tablet trolleys, printers and a school server.**



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Tender Procedures and Record Keeping

- All purchases must be in **compliance with Public Procurement Procedures**
- As with all exchequer grant-aid, school authorities must be able to provide records on how funding, provided under this scheme, was spent
- Schools must ensure **compliance with Circular: 13/2014 Management of and Accountability for Grants** from Exchequer Funds
- **Invoices and receipts must be retained in the event of an audit inspection** by the Department and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General
- It is necessary for schools to keep details of quotations received, invoices, receipts and any other **relevant records in respect of all expenditure** for a period of **seven years**

**For guidance on all matters relating to
Public Procurement and your school –**

Schools Procurement Unit

**Emmet House,
Dundrum Road,
Milltown,**

Dublin D14 V3K8

Phone: 01 203 5899

**Web: [http://www.jmb.ie/school-
procurement](http://www.jmb.ie/school-procurement)**

Email: procurementsupport@jmb.ie

ICT Infrastructure - Overview

- School **context differs**: culture, capacity, supports ...
- **Purpose** of ICT Infrastructure: to support a **chosen model** of teaching & learning
- Advice on **identifying 'fit-for-purpose'** technologies
- **Planning**: select, procure, implement and support ICT
- **Technologies**: Computing devices, networking/wifi, presenting in the classroom, cloud services, broadband & technical support

Some Key Questions:

- What are our **teaching & learning objectives**?
- What **technologies** can assist in achieving these?
- What approach will **best fit my school & my staff**?
- What are the **priorities and stages**?
- What **advice and support** is available?



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ACTION PLAN FOR EDUCATION

2017

Objective 1.3: Increase subject choice for learners in Senior Cycle to equip them with the skills and knowledge to participate in a changing world

No.	Actions and sub-actions	Quarter	Delivered by
23	Introduce Computer Science as a subject at senior cycle (for September 2018 implementation), following completion in 2016 of scoping exercise.		NCCA
23.1	Steering Group to develop and oversee implementation plan for the introduction of Leaving Certificate Computer Science in schools from September 2018.	Q4	NCCA



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