

Hwb In-Schools Infrastructure Grant Scheme Background

In July 2019, the Minister for Education announced a National programme of grant funding to transform Digital Learning in Welsh schools. The £50million initiative will introduce a new national 'ICT catalogue' as a means to help Local Authorities to buy the appropriate Equipment needed on behalf of their schools.

The funding is available in order to ensure:

- That schools have new IT Equipment that is fit for purpose
- A better understanding, knowledge and use of the Hwb digital infrastructure
- That every school is working towards the National Digital Learning Standards, published on Hwb
- Lay the foundations for a sustainable digital learning infrastructure
- Reduce the bureaucracy for schools, freeing up more time for Heads and Teachers
- Learners will be able to take advantage of better and consistent learning experiences.

In line with the grant conditions, the local authorities will be the lead strategic partner for the programme. The funding must be used to ensure that each school is upgraded to meet the national digital standards. Every local authority, including Gwynedd have committed to this role and have agreed to the core principles of standardisation, consistency, and most importantly, sustainability.

Network

Gwynedd Council are responsible for providing and maintaining school networks currently. The grant enables us to renew the network in order to reach the National Standard. We will be upgrading Wi-Fi Networks, some Network Cabinets and re-cabling where needed.

We have placed the order for the hardware to upgrade the network, and the work of fitting this hardware will happen over the next two terms.

Sustainability

The Council has committed to sustain the schools' network for the future, therefore there will be no cost obligation on schools when the Equipment is due to be renewed.

Almost £1.4m of the grant funding has been spent on the upgrade of the Network.

Devices

An assessment of numbers and condition of devices across Gwynedd schools has been completed. It shows that there is a wide range of devices in our schools. However many of them are outdated resulting in a negative effect on some teachers and pupils' learning. These factors also put significant pressure on supporting these devices.

The Education Department's Digital Learning Strategy has set an ambition regarding the ratio of devices to pupils; 1:4 in the foundation phase, and 1:1 in KS2, KS3 and KS4. In addition the strategy has highlighted the need to ensure a device each for teachers and to many support staff.

Not providing a ratio of 1:1 in the secondary sector would mean keeping elements of the old system and would result in substantial increase in supporting these devices. We estimate that we will need around **13,676** devices.

The National ICT Catalogue was published late on 26/02/2020, with the costs from the catalogue referenced below against current school population numbers:

Foundation Phase (128GB Apple iPad): £332.50,

Key Stage 2 (Chromebook and Windows Laptop): £177.91

Key Stage 3&4 (Windows Laptop): £157.67

Teaching Staff (Windows Laptop): £389.27 (an additional £183.77 would be required for Docking Station, 24" Monitor, Keyboard & Mouse)

In order to buy the devices therefore, we would need to invest **£2,908,205.02**

The grant allows us to buy these devices.

Sustainability

Based on a renewing cycle of 5 years, 20% of the cost of renewal must be found every year for the next 5 years. At the end of the 5 years, a new set of devices will be introduced.

	Number of pupils	Number of devices (based on ratio)	Cost (based on ratio)		Refresh contribution	Cost per pupil
FP	3,530	883	£ 293,431.25		£58,686.00	£16.62
KS2	5,150	5,150	£ 916,242.16		£183,248.43	£35.58
KS3 a 4	6,455	6,455	£ 1,017,759.85		£203,551.97	£31.53
Total	15,135	12,488	£ 2,227,433.26		£ 445,486.65	£29.43

Teachers						
	Number of teachers	Number of devices (based on ratio)	Cost (based on ratio)		Refresh contribution	
Every school*	1,188	1,188	£ 462,452.76		£92,490.55	

* Additional £218,319 required for Docking Station, Monitor, Keyboard & Mouse, but not reflected for sustainability as these should outlast technology refresh cycle

The programme's sustainability cost would therefore be £537,976 for both sectors, with **£280,939 from the primary and £257,038 from secondary.**

For a primary school with around **100 pupils, they would be expected to contribute around £3,250**, a school with around **200 pupils £5,900** and around **300 pupils £9,500.**

The table explains the estimated sustainability cost for the secondary schools (doesn't include sums for support staff).

Financial implications for schools in 2020/21

We don't foresee that there will be any Financial obligation on schools to contribute towards the sustainability of the programme in the next Financial year.

Up to £800,000 is available for devices this year. Without commitment to the sustainability of the grant, we cannot benefit from the grant.

YSGOL / SCHOOL	Total
Arduwly	12,723.13
Botwnnog	17,022.62
Bro Idris (Ysgol 3-16)	11,612.64
Brynrefail	24,428.27
Dyffryn Nantlle	14,186.52
Dyffryn Ogwen	16,213.59
Eifionydd	15,052.72
Friars	44,842.83
Glan y Môr	19,266.51
Syr Hugh Owen	28,662.73
Tryfan	13,058.23

As a sign of the Council's commitment to the Digital Learning Strategy and our commitment to our pupils' digital skills, the Education department wish to invest in the sustainability of this project.

Any investment by the department will reduce the sustainability commitment for the schools.

Tywyn	13,418.84
Godre'r Berwyn	13,234.61
Y Moelwyn	13,314.43