

Update from Department on ICT purchases using ICT Grant funds (FAQs Nov 2010):

(The following additional FAQs were finalized after the grant letter was sent to schools, and thus were not included in the letter.)

Q: Can I use the ICT grant to purchase software?

A: Schools which have the baseline ICT equipment (ie. a teaching computer, long range wireless keyboard & mouse, and a fixed digital projector) in each classroom may use the grant to make once-off (outright) purchases of appropriate educational software. Purchases which involve recurring charges (for example, annual license, leasing or usage fees) are not eligible.

Q: Can I use the ICT grant to purchase other ICT equipment which is not listed in the Department letter?

A: Schools which have the baseline ICT equipment (ie. a teaching computer, long range wireless keyboard & mouse, and a fixed digital projector) in each classroom may use the grant to purchase digital devices which have a clearly defined educational value and which are appropriate to the stage of ICT development of the school.

Q: Do I have to buy a wireless keyboard and mouse for a classroom which is already equipped with a wireless slate with keyboard functionality?

A: No. Wireless slates with keyboard functionality provide a similar (or higher) level of ICT interactivity in the classroom when compared with wireless mice/keyboards.

Q: Can I use the ICT grant to set up a school website?

A: No. The NCTE provides a free website hosting and a blogging service for Primary and Post Primary schools. The Scoilnet blogging service allows schools to easily develop a school website or school blog and host it free of charge on the schools broadband network. The blogging service supports different types of content, including text, images, audio, including podcasts and video clips. For more information, see the Scoilnet Webhosting-Blogging section of the NCTE website.

Q: In the context of networking infrastructure development projects, is installation of Antivirus software an eligible expenditure under the ICT grant?

A: Yes. High quality anti-virus (AV) protection is an essential element of any school network, and the inclusion of AV software and its associated installation cost in a local networking project can help schools to avoid maintenance costs and down-time associated with viruses. The cost of once-off (outright) purchasing of AV software and it's associated installation as such is also eligible. However, recurring charges such annual licensing/usage fees are not eligible expenditure within the scope of this capital grant scheme.