

DfE School's Buying Strategy

Following representations by the NASUWT on the importance of transparency and value for money in relation to procurement practice by schools, the Department for Education (DfE) has announced an important schools' buying strategy to enable schools to save money on non-staff costs through joint procurement initiatives.

The DfE schools' buying strategy www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-buying-strategy includes measures such as:

- giving schools access to national deals, which can save them up to 10% on their energy spend and over 40% on the cost of printers, photocopiers, IT equipment and services;
- piloting regional buying hubs to support local schools with services like catering and cleaning, and to buy collectively to save cash;
- developing a digital platform and tools to enable schools to compare suppliers and get the best prices.

This is an important step forward. The NASUWT will continue to press the DfE to put national processes in place which facilitate efficiencies in schools, reduce school leaders' workload and enable school leaders to focus on leading teaching and learning.

IT Procurement

The DfE has joined with the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) to achieve significant savings for schools in the procurement of tablets, laptops and desktops. The CCS will run the procurement process, rather than schools having to do this themselves. All publicly funded schools (including academies) can take part.

Schools need to complete a form to express their interest.

The deadline for submitting requirements is 10 February, with hardware being delivered from 29 March onwards.

Application forms and details are available via www.gov.uk/government/publications/technology-hardware-for-schools.

Future CCS national school procurement exercises are scheduled for late April to early May 2017 (to allow for summer delivery of devices), Autumn 2017 and Spring 2018.

