

Northumberland

Schools' Internet Service

The Schools' Internet Service is radically changing to make best use of the Ultrafast broadband connections installed by Information Services in schools across the County.

WHAT?

Ultrafast 1gb Broadband

1000mb connections are available to all schools

WHO for?

The Ultrafast Internet is available to **all schools** across the County

COST?

£2900 a year, with a 3yr contract

WHEN?

Now! Buy it through the SLA platform



Northumberland
County Council

Schools Internet Service

We are pleased to be able to confirm details of the new Ultrafast internet provision available to all schools across the County. Through our sourcing activity, we have negotiated and secured an offer which leverages the power of the wider School community to deliver a faster, more reliable, more cost-effective, and safer internet service than could be procured by schools individually.

Key features of the new service are:

- **Ultrafast 1GB fibre** connection to **all Primary Schools**¹ – this is **100 times faster** than the current service to most schools². For example, this can support 200 pupils simultaneously streaming High-Definition video from the internet – the current service is only suitable for two ³.
- **Pupil safety** through **filtering down to individual level** – in line with UK Safer Internet Centre guidance, with comprehensive reporting and no requirement to install software on school computers/tablets. Also available for devices taken off-site.
- **Alerting in real-time** for **activity/searches of concern (e.g. suicide)** – supporting safeguarding by helping you to identify at-risk pupils as early as possible and intervene.
- **Improved reliability, reduced downtime, and enhanced support** – the all-fibre service is more reliable than the current service at providing the quoted speeds, and we are working directly with a

large communications provider who own and manage the service, pro-actively monitor the service 24x7 and provide guaranteed fix times in the event of a failure.

- **Comprehensive security to protect Schools and minimise outages** – Industry leading Advanced Threat Protection at schools, as well as enhanced security features built directly into the internet service itself.
- You will also continue to benefit from **the in-house expertise and support** that we provide from the Council ICT team, and any central County services currently used (e.g. authentication).

We are extremely pleased to be able to offer this service to schools for only **£2,900 per year**, based on a three-year term, fully inclusive of all broadband equipment, with no up-front installation charges. So that we can commence detailed planning for this new service, we need to know which schools will take it up.

We would be grateful if you log in to the online SLA platform as soon as possible and indicate, your intention to remain/join the Broadband SLA by 30th June 2022.

Secondary Schools/High Schools – as your needs are more bespoke, we will contact you directly to agree your needs and provide an appropriate solution – the new service can accommodate higher bandwidths, including

fully symmetric services, with options for enhanced resilience if required.

If you have any questions regarding the new service, please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of the ICT team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Taylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Taylor, ICT & e-learning Adviser

¹ Circuits will provide 1GB download speed, 115MB upload speed.

² Majority of schools are provided with a 10MB service today, delivered over copper.

³ Internet service provided is capable of this, based on 5MB for streaming in HD. School network and devices will also need to be able to support this.