Alternative IT Provisions for pupils – a list of ways pupils can access remote learning from home, collated by The Brilliant Club

Despite the DfE commitment to provide laptops through Local Authorities, and the recent announcement that pupils without devices at home are entitled to attend school, the realities of the roll out and the ability of schools to host pupils in the numbers required means that there is still a significant digital divide for pupils across the UK accessing remote learning. According to estimates from Ofcom, between 1.14 million and 1.78 million children in the UK (9%) do not have home access to a laptop, desktop or tablet, and more than 880,000 children live in a household with only a mobile internet connection.

Although The Brilliant Club cannot support directly with devices, we have collated the below list to signpost tech support to schools and parents.

If a pupil has a mobile phone they can use for learning

Telecoms firms have teamed up with the Department for Education (DfE) to offer data uplifts to families without fixed broadband, who are struggling to afford additional data needed to participate in remote learning.

- Three is offering unlimited data to Three customers on pay-as-you-go or contract
- EE is offering 20GB per month to eligible customers, on top of their current plan.
- BT will soon offer BT WiFi vouchers direct to families
- O2 is providing 40GB data per month to existing customers
- SMARTY, Virgin Mobile, Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile and Vodafone have also committed to involvement in the scheme

Parents cannot apply directly, this must be done through schools and colleges – more information can be found here: https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data

If a pupil has a games console they can use for learning

Those with an Xbox or PlayStation may be able to repurpose this device for remote learning – a step-by-step guide is available here: https://www.tes.com/news/how-use-xbox-or-playstation-online-learning

If a pupil has no device at home

The primary route for accessing devices for pupils is still the DfE's "Get Help with Technology" programme. However, both local and national charities are working tirelessly to try to support schools and families with refurbished devices throughout this period. Below is a list of just some of these – if there is no organisation listed for your area, a targeted internet search could provide some options:

- Birmingham: Birmingham Education Partnership
- Edinburgh and East Lothian: People Know How
- London Borough of Lambeth: Lambeth TechAid
- Swindon and Wiltshire: Wiltshire Digital Drive

- West Yorkshire: [Digital Access West Yorkshire](#)
- National – [Business2Schools](#); [Donate Digital](#)
- For [disabled children and their families](#)

In addition, restart hosts [a list of laptop recycling/refurbishment organisations across the country](#). Though the list is for people wishing to make a donation, it acts as a good starting point for identifying organisations in your local area.

Microsoft Office

Online versions of Word, PowerPoint and Excel can be accessed for free [here](#); users need to sign in using an Outlook email address. Pupils can also use a valid school email address to sign up for Office 365 Education for free; more information [here](#).

Alternatively, Google Docs and Google Sheets can be exported to a Microsoft-compatible format; in the document, go to File, then Download, and choose the desired format.

Additional resources

[Educational programming on the BBC](#)

[Oak National Academy](#)

[BBC Bitesize](#)

[The Brilliant Club online resources](#)

[The Prince's Trust catalogue of resources](#)

Should you be aware of any additional resources that you would like to share with The Brilliant Club community, please tag us in your tweets @*BrilliantClub* or email [schools@thebrilliantclub.org](#)

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