



Refurbished Devices Guide for Schools

Reliable laptops and desktops, without
the cost of buying new



Schools need technology that works, but replacing devices can be expensive – especially when budgets are already under pressure.

Refurbished laptops and desktops can offer a practical alternative. When sourced through trusted suppliers, they can be reliable, professionally tested, securely wiped, supplied with long warranties, and cost up to 40% less than buying new.

Through Everything ICT, schools and trusts can access trusted refurbishment suppliers, pre-negotiated pricing, and support from real people who understand education procurement.

For many schools and trusts, refurbished devices are a simple way to access good-quality equipment, support sustainability goals, and make budgets work harder.

Start with need, not stock

Before looking at prices or availability, be clear on what the devices need to do. As you compare refurbished options, keep in mind:

- ✔ **Who the devices are for**
Staff, pupils, admin teams, shared classrooms, SEND, temporary users.
- ✔ **What they'll be used for**
Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, MIS, web-based learning, exams, admin, light creative work.
- ✔ **Where they'll be used**
Classrooms, offices, shared spaces, across sites, or between home and school.
- ✔ **What you already have**
Wi-Fi, filtering, identity management, device management, charging, support arrangements.

Capturing this in a short summary makes it easier to compare options and explain your recommendation to SLT, governors and trustees.



Refurbished doesn't mean second hand

Refurbished doesn't mean second best.

Many refurbished laptops and desktops come from large corporate organisations, where devices are often replaced every few years regardless of condition. That means schools can often access business-grade equipment that still has plenty of useful life left.

Refurbished devices can help schools:

- Reduce the cost of buying IT equipment
- Access reliable laptops and desktops at a lower price
- Support sustainability goals
- Get higher-spec devices within standard device budgets
- Reduce electronic waste
- Add extra devices without committing to a full new rollout

Worried they won't last?

That's usually one of the first questions schools ask us.

A refurbished device from a trusted supplier should not simply be "second-hand". It should have been professionally checked, securely wiped, tested, graded and prepared for reuse.

Many devices come from enterprise environments, where they were originally built for business use and maintained to a high standard. Once refurbished, they can be a strong, reliable option for everyday school use.

The key is sourcing them through trusted suppliers who can explain exactly what you're getting, what condition the devices are in, and what warranty is included.





Good uses for refurbished devices

Refurbished laptops and desktops can be a strong option for smaller, targeted purchases.

They can work well for:

- **Staff laptops**
Useful for replacing ageing staff devices or supporting new starters where a brand-new device is not essential.
- **Classroom desktops**
A good fit for classrooms, libraries, admin areas or shared learning spaces.
- **Admin and support teams**
Suitable for everyday office tasks, MIS access, email, documents and web-based systems.
- **Small refresh projects**
Helpful where you need a limited number of devices quickly, or where budget makes buying new less practical.



When refurbished may not be the right fit

Refurbished devices are not the answer for every project.

They may be less suitable for:

- ⊗ Large one-to-one rollouts
- ⊗ Projects needing hundreds of identical devices
- ⊗ Specialist high-performance work
- ⊗ Heavy creative or media production
- ⊗ Situations where exact specification consistency is essential

Stock availability can change, and refurbished devices may have minor differences between batches.

If you're not sure, speak to Everything ICT. We'll help you decide whether refurbished is right for your requirement.



Specs that make sense for schools

You don't need to start with a technical wish list. Start with how the devices will be used, then match the specification to the job.

For most everyday school use, refurbished laptops and desktops should still offer the performance you need for cloud platforms, MIS access, Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, web-based learning, admin and general classroom use.

A good refurbished option will usually include:

- A modern processor suitable for everyday use
- Enough RAM for multitasking
- SSD storage for faster start-up and performance
- Windows 11 compatibility where needed
- Suitable ports and accessories
- A warranty that supports your planned use

Everything ICT can help you turn your requirement into a clear specification, so you don't have to work through the technical detail alone.



Battery, warranty and daily confidence

One of the biggest concerns schools have about refurbished devices is whether they will hold up to daily use.

Trusted refurbished suppliers will check devices carefully before resale, including key areas such as battery health, screen condition, keyboards, storage and general performance. Devices are graded so you understand their cosmetic condition, and any necessary repairs or replacements are completed before they are supplied.

Warranty is also an important part of the reassurance. Many refurbished devices come with long warranties, helping schools buy with confidence and reducing the risk of unexpected costs.

A good refurbished device should arrive ready to use, with the testing, preparation and warranty in place to give schools confidence from day one.



Safe, secure and ready for school

Refurbished devices supplied through trusted providers are securely wiped and prepared before resale.

That means previous data is removed, devices are checked, and they can be set up for your school environment in the same way you would approach new equipment.

For many schools, refurbished Windows laptops and desktops can still work with existing identity, management, filtering, safeguarding and security tools.

Everything ICT can help you check suitability before you buy, so the devices fit your technical environment as well as your budget.

Better value, less waste

Refurbished devices are not just a lower-cost option. They also help schools make better use of technology that already exists.

Many laptops and desktops still have years of useful life left when they are replaced by large organisations. Choosing refurbished helps keep those devices in use for longer, reducing unnecessary electronic waste and making better use of the resources already invested in them.

For schools and trusts, that means refurbished devices can support both budget planning and sustainability goals – giving you a practical way to reduce costs while extending the life of good-quality technology.

Getting the best value from your budget

For schools, good value is not just about the lowest upfront price. It's about choosing devices that will do the job properly, last for the right length of time, and come with the support you need.

Refurbished devices can be a strong option when you need to make a budget go further without compromising on everyday reliability. They can be especially useful for phased refreshes, small replacement projects, temporary needs, or adding extra devices where buying new would reduce the number you can provide.

Matched to the right use case, and supplied with a suitable warranty, refurbished devices can give schools a better balance of performance, reliability and cost.



How Everything ICT helps

Through Everything ICT, schools and trusts can explore refurbished devices in a supported, straightforward way.

We can help you:

- ✓ Benefit from pre-negotiated discounted pricing
- ✓ Turn requirements like “staff laptop replacements” or “extra classroom desktops” into a clear specification
- ✓ Understand whether refurbished devices are suitable for your use case
- ✓ Access trusted sustainable IT suppliers
- ✓ Compare options on specification, warranty, support and value
- ✓ Keep the buying process compliant, efficient and easier to manage

You stay in control of what you buy. We help make the process clearer.

Ready to explore refurbished devices?

Tell us what you need, how the devices will be used, and your approximate budget. The Everything ICT team will review your requirements and send over suitable refurbished options from trusted suppliers.

[➔ Speak to the team](#)

[➔ How it all works](#)

Request refurbished device options

