

Google VLE and Espresso update

Introduction

You will be aware from [MI Sheet 152/11](#) that the Google VLE is being offered to schools following a successful pilot.

ICT Shared Services is using Google Apps to provide simple to use, secure and supported VLE functionality for those primary and special schools who do not wish to use Fronter and to replace Netmedia. Over 100 schools have signed up for the Google VLE.

We advised you through the ebulletin that we had entered discussions with Espresso to investigate the possibility of a single arrangement for all schools in Norfolk ***subject to approval***

Previously we told you that the contract for Espresso ends on 31st August 2011 and the grant funding is no longer available. The new contract would secure the price for the next 3 years and that schools will need to pay.

Espresso kindly agreed to continue providing content until the end of September to allow time to complete the discussions and advise you of the contract costs.

Google

Google VLE Implementation

We have configured the VLE for the 60 schools who have returned the information we requested and we will be contacting the named contact at each school about what happens next to get access to their template.

Reminder for schools who have signed up but not returned the additional information – we will configure your VLE as soon as we receive this information.

Google VLE Support during the project rollout

- A Welcome Pack will be provided with access to support guides.
- Support during implementation will be provided by ICT Shared Services for those schools who request it at no cost to the school.
- Members of our Locality Teams (groups of ICT Shared Services' staff that focus on a particular geographical area or cluster of schools) have been trained in the Google VLE, so they are able to support schools to obtain greater benefits.
- ICT Shared Services will provide support, maintain corporate pages of external links and create how to guides and help pages.
- Focus groups will be held termly to develop the service further based on your requirements.

Google VLE Support costs from April 2011

Support for the Google VLE is free until March 2012 but will be chargeable from April 2012. The pricing for support for Google VLE will be dependent on the number of schools that sign up, as follows:

No of Schools Signed up for Google VLE support	Annual Price
100-200	£567
200-300	£453
300+	£398

Thus if less than 200 schools take the service the price will be £567 per school, but if more schools take the service the charge per school will be lower.

The final pricing will be based on the actual number of schools signed up for Google VLE support by 31st March 2012

Charged on a yearly full year basis

Annual prices for 3 Year Contract

Currently approximately 130 schools have indicated a wish to take the service but we know many other schools are waiting until they know the pricing.

Pricing is based on the costs to deliver namely:

2 members of staff to support the Google VLE for up to 200 schools

3 member of staff to support 200 to 300 schools

or 4 members of staff to support over 300 schools.

Training for ICT Shared Services staff

Integration with other content providers.

What is covered by Google VLE support?

- Access to Google and Norfolk specific support guides ie geared to using Google in the schools' environment
- Telephone support via the Service Desk and Schools Systems specialists
- Members of our Locality Teams (groups of ICT Shared Services' staff that focus on a particular geographical area or cluster of schools) have been trained in the Google VLE, so they are able to support Silver Plus contract schools to obtain greater benefits.
- ICT Shared Services will provide support, maintain corporate pages of external links and create how to guides and help pages.
- Integrated Sign on with Espresso – that is users sign on once to the Google VLE and then access Espresso if the school has subscribed to Espresso.
- Focus groups will be held termly to develop the VLE based on your requirements.

We are developing the integration for access through the Google VLE to E2BN learning resources. We are also reviewing the availability of other cloud based applications based on school feedback and will integrate them via the Google VLE.

Schools will be able to select the Google VLE support option through the Contract to Purchase process from Children's Services later in the year for the 3 year period from 1st April 2012.

Google VLE Sign up

You can still sign up to the Google VLE by typing the following address into your internet browser or clicking the link below. You will need to login with your NSIX account (this is the account that you use to log in to Google Mail / SIMS i.e. joebloggs1nr@nsix.org.uk). <https://sites.google.com/a/nsix.org.uk/google-vle/>

If you are unsure of your log in credentials your school are sent a list of log in details via AVCO/Anycomms, which is typically downloaded by the school secretary.

Google VLE Training

Advice and support on how to use Google with learning and teaching in the classroom is available by contacting Jill Duman, Advisory Service at jill.duman@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone 01603 307785. A programme of training for Google is also available from Advisory Service.

Espresso Education

Espresso Contract renewal – subject to contract finalisation

The new contract with Espresso Education will commence from 1st September 2011 for 3 years. The pricing below is based on schools committing to the contract for 3 years.

The Norfolk Contract price per pupil is £4.40 - this price reflects the price to be paid to Espresso. There are no county on-costs or charges from ICT Shared Services.

What is covered by the Espresso Education contract?

- Current Content
- Weekly updates in term time
- Topical weekly news items for each Key stage
- Speed Guides to aid search and usability
- Full access to the service for Teachers from Home
- Full access to the service for Pupils from Home
- Telephone helpline curriculum support

ESPRESSO Fixed Price comparison for 3 year contract		
	Norfolk Contract price	Espresso direct renewal
Pupil user licence	£4.40 per pupil	£4.85 per pupil
Pupil Home Access licence	£0.00 per pupil	£1.00 per pupil
Total price	£4.40 per pupil	£5.85 per pupil
Saving	30%	

Example costs on a per School basis		
Size of School per pupil	Norfolk Contract price	Espresso direct renewal
50	£220.00	£292.50
100	£440.00	£585.00
150	£660.00	£877.50
200	£880.00	£1,170.00
250	£1,100.00	£1,462.50
300	£1,320.00	£1,755.00
350	£1,540.00	£2,047.50
400	£1,760.00	£2,340.00
500	£2,200.00	£2,925.00

Schools that previously contracted with Espresso prior to the County paid arrangement

The credit still owed to individual schools by Espresso and the outstanding benefit remains a contractual obligation between the school and Espresso and won't be without prejudice to any days owed.

If schools do not wish to sign up to the new 3 year contract then their balance of days will be honoured by Espresso Education.

Espresso contract sign up

We are now asking schools to confirm sign up for Espresso for 3 years by [completing the form here](#) or emailing ictcontractsteam@norfolk.gov.uk by **Friday 23rd September 2011** to ensure content can be provided.

You will not be able to access the service after 30 September 2011 unless the school has either

- Entered this county contract or
- made your own arrangements directly with Espresso

by 23rd September 2011.

If you have any questions

For Google VLE please email tanya.allen@norfolk.gov.uk

For Espresso Education please email ictcontractsteam@norfolk.gov.uk