



20 November 2008

Dear Principal,

The Department of Education and Science (DES) and Microsoft Limited has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the extension of the **Partners in Learning School Agreement to all DEIS schools at primary and post-primary level.**

The Partners in Learning School Agreement is a particular element of Microsoft's global Partners in Learning Programme, which aims to empower schools to significantly raise the level of ICT literacy among their staff and to support schools in developing an internal culture of innovation.

Under the Agreement, Microsoft Limited is offering low cost desktop software (Windows XP Pro Upgrade and Office 2007) to certain disadvantaged Primary and Post-Primary schools. In keeping with their international practice, Microsoft Limited is anxious to assist these particular schools. The schools selected for participation in the Partners in Learning School Agreement have been proposed by the DES and agreed by Microsoft Limited.

The enclosed letter from Microsoft Limited outlines the Partners in Learning School Agreement. Obviously, the decision whether to participate in the Agreement is a matter for each individual school, having regard to its individual requirements and its assessment of the best solution available to it.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the ongoing support of the NCTE on www.scoilnet.ie and on www.ncte.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Jerome Morrissey - Director