

[Free data for disadvantaged families in England to help school kids learn – from EE, O2, Three and Vodafone etc. How it works \(moneysavingexpert.com\)](#)

Families in England who can't afford to get online may be able to get free data for the next few months from many mobile providers to help kids learn at home. However, it's a voluntary scheme so not all providers are taking part, plus there is a cap to the help on offer, so don't hang about if you qualify.

Some firms even offer unlimited data to eligible families. The key points of the Department for Education's "[Get Help With Tech](#)" scheme are:

Families in England with kids in years 3-11 (ie, mainly aged 7-16) qualify if...

- The child/children are experiencing disruption to face-to-face education (which most clearly are right now)
- They can't afford to have fixed broadband at home, nor additional mobile data

Do I have to prove I can't afford broadband/mobile data? The Government says it won't ask schools to show evidence when they submit applications on your behalf (which is the process – see below), so you're unlikely to be asked for proof either, but please don't abuse the system or you could be depriving those in genuine need.

Some families with kids in other school years in England may also qualify if...

- They meet the criteria above, AND
- Have been advised to shield because they (or someone they live with) are clinically extremely vulnerable, or they have a child attending a hospital school

Which mobile firms are providing free data for eligible families, and how much data are they giving?

Unfortunately, children face a lottery depending on whether they or their parent or guardian's mobile provider is taking part, or the type of contract they have. This has prompted criticism from some, including Labour MP [Siobhain McDonagh](#), who first alerted MoneySavingExpert.com to this issue.

She told us: "It can't be right that a child's education is determined by which mobile network they are on. It's time for all providers to step up."

Help for disadvantaged kids in England from mobile firms

Provider	Help offered under Government scheme
Asda Mobile	N/A
EE	Free unlimited data for pay-monthly and PAYG users
Giffgaff	N/A
Lebara Mobile	No response
O2	Free unlimited data for pay-monthly and PAYG users
Plusnet	N/A
Sky Mobile	Free one-off 100GB extra data for pay-monthly users only
Smarty	Free unlimited data for pay-monthly and PAYG users
Tesco Mobile	Free 20GB/mth extra data for pay-monthly users only
Three	Free unlimited data for pay-monthly and PAYG users
Virgin	Free 20GB/mth extra data for pay-monthly users only
Vodafone	Free unlimited data for pay-monthly and some PAYG users (i)

(i) Vodafone PAYG users must be on a 'Big Value Bundle' worth £10 or more or to participate.

Any free data should last till July

The scheme officially lasts till the end of July and the participating mobile providers – EE, O2, Sky Mobile, Smarty, Tesco, Three, Virgin Mobile and Vodafone – have all confirmed it will definitely run until 31 July 2021.