

7 Top Tips when buying new Headphones for Schools

When you're looking for new headphones for your school, you want them to be suitable for your needs, and you want them to be durable. There are a number of features that you need to consider:

1. Connection Type

The standard fitting for a pair of headphones is a 3.5 mm jack. These fit all computers, smart phones etc.

3.5 mm jack



You may have Coomber boxes or similar, that use the 'old fashioned', bigger 6.3 mm connection.

Headphones for these are quite hard to source now, and useful alternatives are to either purchase headphones with a 3.5 mm jack and come with a 6.3 mm adaptor for them, or just **buy headphones with 3.5 mm jacks, and buy any needed adaptors separately.**

Old-style, 6.3 mm jack



2. Ear-Pieces

The most comfortable and durable option is to buy headphones which have substantial, padded earpads. These are most popular with schools. If these are also made of leather, then they are much more durable than cheaper, plastic alternatives.

Leather padded ear-pads for comfort



Many schools have purchased headphones with foam ear pieces. Whilst these earpieces are small, they mean that children can hear a lot of background noise from around the classroom (which distracts them).

Unfortunately, many children love picking at the foam earpads, or even ripping them apart!

Damaged foam ear-pieces



This means they don't last long and, even if you can buy replacement foam pads, it's a never-ending task and the headphones are still **not** comfortable.

One alternative that a minority of schools have investigated is the use of 'In-Ear headphones' or 'Ear-Buds'. As these fit inside each child's ears, from a hygiene perspective, each child would need their own personal set, so they're not a piece of equipment that you can leave for all users of an ICT Suite.

3. Head Frame

Cheap headphones often come with thin, somewhat brittle plastic head-frames (which connect the ear-pads on either side). Often these are difficult to adjust to fit a child well, and applying any force to adjust the headphones often causes them to snap. And, some children have been known to deliberately break these thin frames too!

Snapped, thin head frames



What you should aim to find are headphones with a substantial head-frame, enabling children to easily adjust the headphones to the size that they require. If they are padded, then they'll also increase comfort across the top of the head.

Substantial, padded head-frame



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4. Microphone

Headphones can be purchased with or without built-in microphones. If you don't want children to record sounds or speech, then headphones without a microphone may be ideal.

Headphones with built in microphones can have the microphone discreetly built into the cable, or attached to an ear-piece as a 'boom microphone'.

The boom microphones are easy to adjust if they are flexible, whereas rigid ones are hard to get correctly positioned for children with different head sizes. Whilst the boom microphones are ideal if children will be speaking into them a lot; if they aren't using the microphones regularly then the boom microphone can be something that children have a tendency to fiddle or play with, in which case you would be better with the discreet microphone.

The discreet microphone is ideal if you occasionally need to record sounds or children's voices. They are much less obtrusive, and if they come complete with a clip, they can be loosely clipped on to a tie or lapel, positioning the microphone in the ideal place to pick up a child's voice.

All headphones that have a microphone will also have a microphone jack (colour-coded: pink) which should be connected into a PC's mic. socket, to enable sounds to be recorded.

Headset with 'boom' microphone



Discreet microphone



3.5 mm microphone jack



5. Volume Control

The volume of headphones can be controlled from the computer volume settings, and/or by a volume control on the headphones themselves.

Some teachers prefer headphones with no volume control (to stop children 'fiddling'), although pupils would need to know how to access the computer settings to change the volume themselves.

Built-in volume control



Most schools tend to prefer headphones with a built-in volume control, which is simple for children to understand, and very easy to change to the required level.

6. Cables - Quality

Some cheap headphones come with very thin cables to connect the headphones to the computer. If children ever start fiddling with the wires, twisting the headphones around etc, it can cause the wire to be damaged or come away from the headphones.

Damaged, thin lightweight cable



Headphones with a more substantial cable, like those listed on page 4, are therefore much more durable!

Cable - length and type

Cables are either straight or coiled. The advantages of straight cables are that they are easier to connect to the back of a PC, and can easily be shortened to any required length by using a cable tie, eliminating the

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problem of a long cable getting tangled up at all. (We supply cable ties free of charge with all our straight-lead headphones). If cables need to be long enough to reach to the back of a computer, then straight cables are generally better for this.



The advantage of coiled headphones is that the cable easily coils up, again eliminating the problem of a long cable getting tangled up at all.

7. Sharing a Computer

By using an audio splitter, two sets of headphones can be plugged into a computer, so children can share a computer if required.



5 Way Rockstar Splitter



Alternatively, if more than 2 pupils need to listen at the same time, a Rockstar 5 way splitter will enable up to five sets of headphones to be connected.

At Wishtrac we supply cable ties free of charge with all headphone orders placed, for headphones with a straight lead. This is so that, if you wish to shorten the length of the cables, this can be done very easily.

Overall Summary - Top Tips

- 1. Connectivity:** Buy headphones with 3.5 mm jacks, and buy any needed 6.3mm adaptors separately
- 2. Ear Pads:** The most comfortable and durable option is to buy headphones which have substantial, padded leather ear-pads
- 3. Head-Frame:** Aim to find headphones with a substantial head-frame, enabling children to easily adjust the headphones to the size that they require
- 4. Microphone:** A discreet microphone is ideal if you occasionally need to record sounds or children's voices
- 5. Volume Control:** Most schools prefer headphones with a built-in volume control, which is simple for children to understand, and very easy to change to the required volume level
- 6. Cable Quality:** Headphones with a more substantial cable, like those listed on page 5, are much more durable
- 7. Audio Splitters** enable two or more sets of headphones to be plugged into one computer

Computer Headphones for Schools

...save money for your school with these Bulk-Buy Deals

If you're fed up of spending a fortune on headphones, or buying cheap ones that keep breaking, then this range of headphones is the solution you're looking for.

Working very closely with schools, we have identified a range of headphones that are comfortable for children, stand up to the rigours of school life, and don't cost the earth! These includes headphones with boom microphones, some with discreet microphones in the cable and, following requests from schools, some with no microphones at all.

Price Matching

12 month guarantee



Quality Stereo Headphones

Best Seller



Comfortable, durable & affordable - our most popular headphones

Headphones with Boom Microphone



Ideal when used for lots of speech recording

Hi-Fi Stereo Headphones



No microphone or volume controls for children to fiddle with!

Stereo Headphones with Coiled Cable



Keep long cables tidy with a coiled cable

Product Code	AQ	AP	AS	AT
Connections	3.5mm audio and microphone jacks	3.5mm audio and microphone jacks	3.5mm audio jack and 6.3mm adaptor	3.5mm audio jack and 6.3mm adaptor
Ear pads	Durable padded leather ear pads to improve comfort	Durable padded leather ear pads to improve comfort	Durable padded leather ear pads to improve comfort	Durable padded ear pads with Mono/Stereo switch
Microphone	Discreet microphone with clip, built into cable	Flexible boom microphone suitable for all ages	None	None
Volume Control	Volume dial built into the cable	Volume dial built into the cable	None	2 - one on each ear piece
Cable	Thick, high quality cable	Thick, high quality cable	Extra thick, high quality cable	Thick, high quality coiled cable
Size	Adjustable head frames ensure correct fit - suitable for pupils of all ages	Adjustable head frames ensure correct fit - suitable for pupils of all ages	Adjustable head frames ensure correct fit - suitable for pupils of all ages	Adjustable head frames ensure correct fit - suitable for pupils of all ages
Guarantee	12 months	12 months	12 months	12 months
Price	£7.99	£7.99	£8.99	£9.49
5 Pack Price	£29.95 SAVE £10 (£5.99 each)	£34.95 SAVE £5 (£6.99 each)	£39.95 SAVE £5 (£7.99 each)	£42.45 SAVE £5 (£8.49 each)
Class 30 Pack	£164.70 SAVE £75 (£5.49 each)	£179.70 SAVE £60 (£5.99 each)	£214.70 SAVE £55 (£7.15 each)	£239.70 SAVE £60 (£7.99 each)
School 100 Pack	£499.00 SAVE £300 (£4.99 each)	£549.00 SAVE £250 (£5.49 each)	£699.00 SAVE £200 (£6.99 each)	£749.00 SAVE £200 (£7.49 each)

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...with the teacher in mind

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