CONNECTED CLASSROOMS: CONNECTING BUSINESSES WITH LOCAL SCHOOLS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY REUSE

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Executive Summary/Abstract

The **Connected Classrooms** initiative by **TFix** provides organisations with a secure, transparent, and socially impactful way to manage redundant IT equipment.

It transforms outdated technology into valuable educational resources, connecting businesses directly with local schools and communities.

Every year, thousands of UK businesses upgrade IT assets that still hold significant usability and resale value. At the same time, many schools struggle to access reliable technology for students.

Connected Classrooms bridge this gap by securely collecting, processing, and repurposing end-of-life IT equipment, ensuring **data protection, environmental responsibility, and measurable community benefit**.

The program operates through three flexible models:

1. **Repair & Donate** – TFix repairs and prepares equipment for donation, allowing businesses to fund direct contributions to nearby schools.
2. **Partial Sale & Donation** – Part or all of the collected equipment is resold to recover costs, enabling schools to receive refurbished devices at no expense to the donor.
3. **Resale & Reinvestment** – When direct donation isn't feasible, proceeds from asset resale are reinvested to purchase new devices, such as Chromebooks, for local schools.

Every project begins with **certified data destruction**, ensuring total compliance with **GDPR** and **ISO 27001** standards before any device is assessed or reused. Assets that cannot be securely wiped are **physically destroyed** to eliminate data risks.

In addition to operational transparency, TFix provides donors with **co-branded PR materials**, photography, and social media content to help communicate their impact. This not only enhances brand reputation but also supports ESG reporting with verifiable metrics on social and environmental performance.

Through **Connected Classrooms**, businesses can demonstrate tangible community engagement, meet sustainability objectives, and extend the life of valuable technology — turning redundant IT into opportunity, and opportunity into education.

Introduction

The rapid pace of technological change drives businesses to refresh their IT infrastructure regularly.

While necessary for performance and security, these upgrades leave behind a growing volume of surplus devices — laptops, desktops, and peripherals that often still hold considerable life and value.

Traditionally, this surplus equipment is sent for recycling or stored indefinitely, despite its potential to serve a greater purpose. At the same time, many UK schools operate with outdated or inadequate technology, limiting students' access to digital learning and essential IT skills.

TFix developed the **Connected Classrooms** initiative to close this gap.

It transforms IT asset retirement into a local, traceable, and socially beneficial process — giving businesses a structured, secure way to support the schools in their own communities.

By integrating **certified data destruction**, **WEEE-compliant logistics**, and **flexible reuse or resale options**, Connected Classrooms aligns corporate IT disposal with tangible **ESG and CSR outcomes**.

Every project begins with full data sanitisation or physical destruction to eliminate security risk, followed by careful evaluation of each asset for reuse, resale, or responsible recycling.

Through this approach, organisations maintain complete compliance while converting redundant technology into educational opportunity.

Connected Classrooms not only reduces electronic waste — it builds relationships between local businesses and schools, strengthens digital inclusion, and makes community impact measurable, visible, and secure.

The Problem

Across the UK, businesses upgrade IT systems every few years, generating large volumes of surplus technology. Much of this equipment — laptops, desktops, monitors, networking gear, and peripherals — is still functional, yet it's often recycled or stored indefinitely.

Meanwhile, local schools continue to struggle with **outdated or insufficient technology**, widening the digital divide and limiting students' access to modern learning tools.

Several factors contribute to this disconnect:

- **Data Security Concerns**

  Organisations are reluctant to donate redundant devices directly to schools due to the risk of data breaches and GDPR non-compliance.

- **Misaligned Equipment Needs**

  Most retired business equipment is not always suitable for direct classroom use. Schools often require specific devices such as Chromebooks or tablets, not enterprise-grade desktops or servers.

- **Lack of Transparency in Existing Donations**

  Even when equipment is donated, organisations rarely know *where* it ends up or *who* benefits. There is no traceable framework that links their contribution to local outcomes.

- **Limited Local Community Connection**

  Many businesses want to give back to the communities they operate in, but existing recycling or donation schemes offer no way to ensure their support reaches nearby schools.

- **Missed ESG and Community Value**

  Without traceable outcomes, businesses can't demonstrate their environmental or social contribution, missing a measurable ESG reporting opportunity.

As a result, valuable technology goes to waste, schools remain under-equipped, and businesses miss the chance to make a visible, traceable contribution to their local community.

The Solution

Every project begins with data security. Before any device is assessed or reused, all information is securely erased or the hardware is physically destroyed in line with TFix's Secure Data Policies and Processes.

The **Connected Classrooms** initiative provides a secure, transparent, and structured framework for businesses to support local schools with their redundant IT equipment.

It combines TFix's certified data destruction procedures with a community-focused redistribution model — ensuring every asset contributes measurable educational and social value.

All collected equipment is handled under **TFix's Secure Data Policies and Processes**:

- Every device is subject to **complete data erasure** using approved data-wiping software in accordance with **GDPR** and **ISO 27001** standards.
- Devices where data cannot be safely removed — for example, due to hardware faults or drive failure — are **physically destroyed** to eliminate any risk of data exposure.
- Only once data has been fully sanitised or destroyed are items **assessed for reuse, resale, or recycling**.
- Schools receiving equipment are verified by TFix to ensure the devices match their technical requirements and that all donations meet safety and suitability standards.

Depending on the condition of the equipment and the donor's preferences, there are **three ways** technology can reach schools:

Option 1 – Repair & Donate (At Donor's Expense)

For organisations that want their own equipment to go directly into classrooms.

Process:

1. TFix collects and processes all redundant assets using **tracked and licensed logistics**.
2. All equipment undergoes **secure data wiping or physical destruction** in line with TFix's Secure Data Policies and Processes.
3. Equipment suitable for educational use — typically laptops, tablets, and computers — is repaired, tested, and prepared for classroom deployment.
4. TFix identifies and contacts schools near the donor's location that require such equipment.
5. Devices are delivered and donated in the donor's name.

Cost Model:

The donor covers collection, processing, and repair costs.

Outcome:

Schools receive ready-to-use technology, and the donor receives photos, data destruction certificates, and a PR-ready summary of their contribution and its impact.

Option 2 – Partial Sale & Donation (Cost Recovery Model)

For organisations seeking a cost-neutral route to donation.

Process:

1. TFix collects and processes all redundant assets using **tracked and licensed logistics**.
2. All equipment undergoes **secure data wiping or physical destruction** in line with TFix's Secure Data Policies and Processes.
3. Once cleared, items are evaluated for reuse.
    a. Equipment suitable for schools is repaired and prepared for donation.
    b. Any portion of the collected equipment — whether suitable for schools or not — may be resold to recover the costs of collection, processing, and refurbishment.
4. Recovered value offsets operational expenses, allowing the program to remain fully sustainable while still delivering refurbished devices to local schools.
5. TFix identifies and contacts schools near the donor's location that require such equipment.
6. Devices are delivered and donated in the donor's name.

Outcome:

The initiative funds itself entirely through resale, enabling schools to receive technology without any direct cost to the donor.

Option 3 – Resale & Reinvestment (Profit Sharing Donation)

For organisations whose equipment is unsuitable for direct donation or who prefer indirect impact.

Process:

1. TFix collects and processes all redundant assets using **tracked and licensed logistics**.
2. All equipment undergoes **secure data wiping or physical destruction** in line with TFix's Secure Data Policies and Processes.
3. TFix sells the equipment through its verified resale channels using our established Profit Sharing model.
4. After covering collection and operational costs, the donor's share of proceeds is used to purchase ***new devices*** — typically Chromebooks or tablets — for schools in their local area.
5. Schools receive the new equipment under the donor's name, with TFix managing procurement and delivery.

Outcome:

Donors support their local schools without additional cost, turning retired technology into modern learning tools through resale and reinvestment.

Each path guarantees **full data security, ESG compliance, and traceable local impact**.

PR and Community Visibility

TFix ensures every donation generates meaningful visibility for the donor and the community:

- Each project is featured across TFix's social media channels, highlighting the donor's contribution and the schools supported.
- Donors receive a co-branded PR package, including photos, press release templates, and social media content for their own channels.
- Larger donations can be supported with event coverage, media features, and local press outreach coordinated by TFix.
- Prior to publication or photo use, TFix obtains written consent from participating schools and ensures all imagery complies with safeguarding and privacy requirements. Where direct consent from students is not available, only group or non-identifiable photos are used.

This ensures donors not only make a difference but can publicly demonstrate their community and sustainability commitment through high-quality, ready-to-use PR content.

Conclusion

Technology doesn't stop evolving — but that shouldn't mean working devices end up as waste. The **Connected Classrooms** initiative transforms redundant business IT assets into opportunities for learning, sustainability, and community engagement.

By combining **certified data destruction**, **transparent asset management**, and **three flexible contribution paths**, TFix enables businesses to safely and visibly support local schools while maintaining full control and compliance. Every contribution is tracked, documented, and aligned with measurable ESG outcomes.

Through this initiative, companies strengthen their social impact, reduce electronic waste, and help bridge the digital divide — all while protecting data and demonstrating their commitment to sustainable business practices.

TFix manages every step, from secure logistics to school coordination and PR visibility, allowing partners to make a **genuine, traceable impact** where it matters most — their own community.

Checklist

Before engaging in the Connected Classrooms initiative, ensure the following steps are completed:

1. **Asset Preparation**
    a. All redundant IT assets are identified, logged, and ready for collection.
    b. Serial numbers and asset lists are provided where available.
    c. Devices are packaged securely for transport or prepared for on-site collection.
2. **Data Security & Compliance**

a. You understand that all data-bearing devices will be securely wiped in accordance with GDPR and ISO 27001 standards.
b. You are aware that any device where data cannot be erased will be physically destroyed.
c. You have reviewed TFix's Secure Data Policies and Processes.
d. You understand that Data Destruction Certificates will be provided for all processed assets.

3. **Donation Model Selection**
    a. Choose one of the three participation models:
        i. *Repair & Donate (At Donor's Expense)* – You cover collection and refurbishment costs; repaired devices are donated in your name.
        ii. *Partial Sale & Donation (Cost Recovery Model)* – Equipment is partially resold to recover processing costs; refurbished units are donated.
        iii. *Resale & Reinvestment (Profit Sharing Donation)* – Equipment is sold, and your share of proceeds funds new devices for local schools.
4. **Local School Engagement**
    a. You've confirmed your preference to support local schools near your business operations.
    b. TFix will identify suitable schools and manage coordination on your behalf.
    c. You agree to allow TFix to liaise directly with the schools to confirm needs and delivery.
5. PR & Visibility
    a. You consent to TFix promoting the donation via social media and web content.
    b. You have received TFix's co-branded PR package, including press release templates and photos.
    c. You understand that written consent will be obtained from schools before any photos or media are published.
    d. You are encouraged to share the story on your own channels to amplify community impact.
6. Reporting & Documentation
    a. You will receive a full Impact Report upon completion, including:
        i. Number and type of devices donated or reinvested
        ii. Schools supported and location
        iii. Data destruction certification
        iv. Environmental impact summary (CO_2 savings, reuse metrics)
    b. You understand that all project details will be securely stored in TFix's tSoft system for full traceability.

Glossary

ITAD (IT Asset Disposition)
The process of securely and responsibly managing end-of-life IT equipment, including collection, data destruction, resale, and recycling.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

A legal framework governing how personal data must be processed, stored, and destroyed within the UK and EU. TFix's data-handling processes are fully GDPR-compliant.

ISO 27001
An international standard for information security management systems (ISMS), outlining best practices for protecting sensitive information and managing data risks.

WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)
UK and EU legislation requiring responsible collection, treatment, and recycling of electronic waste. TFix operates under full WEEE compliance.

Secure Data Policies and Processes
TFix's internal standards and documented procedures ensure complete data sanitisation or physical destruction before any device is reused, resold, or recycled.

Cost Recovery Model
A self-sustaining donation framework in which part or all of the collected IT equipment is resold to offset processing, collection, and refurbishment costs.

Profit Sharing Model
A model where equipment unsuitable for donation is sold, and the donor's share of proceeds is reinvested into purchasing new technology (e.g. Chromebooks) for local schools.

ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance)
A framework used to measure a company's performance in sustainability, community responsibility, and ethical governance. Connected Classrooms directly support the Environmental and Social pillars.

Data Destruction Certificate
A formal record issued by TFix confirming that all data-bearing devices have been securely wiped or physically destroyed in accordance with GDPR and ISO 27001.

Impact Report
A summary document provided to donors detailing the social, educational, and environmental outcomes of their Connected Classrooms participation, including equipment donated, schools supported, and CO_2 savings achieved.

Connected Classrooms
A TFix-led corporate social responsibility initiative that connects businesses with local schools through secure technology reuse, ensuring data protection, ESG alignment, and measurable community impact.

Legal & Compliance

TFix Ltd operates under full WEEE compliance, ISO 27001 information security management standards, and GDPR data-handling standards. All donations are managed as part of a corporate social responsibility initiative and not a charitable collection.