# Advocacy for Collaboration and Community Involvement in the Procurement of EdTech Resources

[Your Name / Address]
[Your Email or telephone number]

[Date]

FAO [Head Teacher at school / LA / Provider Name]
[School Name]
[School Address]
[City, Postcode]

Dear [Recipient Name/Title],

**Subject: Advocacy for collaboration in the adoption of EdTech resources**

I am writing as a concerned parent of a learner at [School Name] regarding the implementation and management of Educational Technology (EdTech) resources within schools. While EdTech offers immense potential to support teaching, learning, and administration, I believe there are significant risks and considerations that must be addressed to safeguard learners' data, ensure equitable access, and promote educational effectiveness. I am advocating for greater oversight, transparency, and collaboration in the adoption of EdTech resources. Specifically, I urge you [School / Local Authority/DfE/Provider Name] to take the following actions:

1. Develop and Support Collective Purchasing Agreements

Many schools face considerable challenges in navigating the complex EdTech marketplace. Collective purchasing agreements, coordinated at the local authority or national level, would provide schools with:

Stronger Negotiating Power: Allowing schools to secure terms that protect learner data and prioritise educational outcomes over commercial interests.

Shared Expertise: Ensuring rigorous due diligence processes, including thorough reviews of providers' compliance with the UK GDPR and the Children's Code.

Cost Savings: Reducing the financial burden on schools by pooling resources and benefiting from economies of scale.

Schools operating in isolation often lack the resources to conduct robust evaluations of EdTech providers, which increases the risk of adopting tools that may not fully meet data protection or efficacy standards. A collective approach would address these gaps and provide a consistent framework for responsible EdTech adoption.

2. Conduct Rigorous Risk Assessments

The decision to adopt EdTech tools must be guided by comprehensive risk assessments that prioritise the wellbeing and equity of all learners. I encourage [Local Authority/DfE/Provider Name] to:

- Evaluate Data Collection Practices: Ensuring that tools collect only the data necessary for their intended purpose and provide clear information on retention and deletion policies.
- Independent Evidence: Require providers to submit independently verified evidence demonstrating the educational efficacy of their products.
- Mitigate Bias: Identify and address potential biases in EdTech algorithms that could disproportionately affect marginalised learners or those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.
- Equalities Impact Assessments (EIAs): Ensure that the deployment of EdTech tools is assessed for its impact on learners with protected characteristics or those at risk of digital poverty.

3. Ensure Greater Transparency and Parental Engagement

Parents and guardians play a critical role in protecting their children's data and supporting their educational experience. I encourage [add Local Authority/DfE/Provider Name] to develop policies that require:

- Transparent Privacy Notices: Providers should communicate clearly how learner data is collected, processed, and stored.
- Engagement with Parents: Schools and providers should work collaboratively with parents to explain the purpose and benefits of EdTech tools, along with any associated risks.
- Customisable Data Controls: Give schools and parents the ability to tailor data collection practices to ensure only the most necessary information is gathered.

While EdTech has the potential to transform education positively, it is essential that we balance its benefits with careful consideration of the risks these technologies can introduce. By working collaboratively to establish collective purchasing agreements and implement rigorous risk assessments, we can ensure that technology supports learners equitably, ethically, and effectively.

I am keen to see [Local Authority/DfE/Provider Name] take a leadership role in these efforts and would be happy to discuss these issues further. I also encourage greater collaboration with parents, schools, and communities to develop policies and practices that protect learners and improve educational outcomes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Full Name]
[Your Contact Information]