



SMART: DATA – FURTHER EDUCATION

SERVICE DEFINITION DOCUMENT

G-Cloud 15 Framework | Lot 2b: Cloud Software

SERVICE OVERVIEW

SMART Data for Further Education provides a governed data enablement layer that prepares college data for AI, analytics, and automation use at scale. **Built on the ICS.AI SMART: Platform**, the service enables further education providers to ingest, structure, govern, and expose data safely for use across SMART: Front Door, SMART: Staff Copilot, and SMART: Agentic services.

The service focuses on making FE data **AI-ready**, rather than replacing existing systems. It addresses common challenges such as fragmented learner data, inconsistent data quality, limited metadata, and constrained access controls, while maintaining safeguarding, funding, and inspection-ready governance.

SERVICE TIERS

Tier	Description
Foundation	• Ingestion of priority further education data sources • Basic data normalisation and preparation • Core metadata capture and classification • Role-based access controls • Data prepared for AI consumption (RAG-ready) • Audit logging for data access and usage Foundation provides a controlled starting point for colleges beginning their AI and data maturity journey.
Premium	Includes all Foundation capabilities, plus: • Expanded coverage across learner, curriculum, and corporate data • Data quality rules and validation checks • Enrichment and semantic tagging • Improved metadata management and discoverability • Monitoring and reporting on data usage Premium supports broader adoption of AI and analytics across teaching, support, and leadership teams.

Tier	Description
Specialist	Includes all Premium capabilities, plus: • Includes all Premium capabilities, plus: • Domain-specific data models (e.g. learner lifecycle, funding, attendance) • Cross-system data products spanning multiple functions • Data structures optimised for agentic and automation use cases • Advanced governance workflows and approval controls • Enhanced lineage and dependency tracking Specialist enables more complex AI and automation scenarios while maintaining safeguarding and compliance controls.
Ultra	Includes all Specialist capabilities, plus: • Organisation-wide data fabric across academic and operational domains • Advanced lineage, assurance, and audit capabilities • Support for multi-domain AI and agentic orchestration • Scaled performance and resilience for enterprise use • Priority optimisation and support Ultra provides a mature, enterprise-grade data foundation for AI-enabled further education providers.

SERVICE SCOPE

SMART Data supports the full lifecycle of further education data readiness, including:

- Ingestion of structured and unstructured data from FE systems
- Data transformation, normalisation, and enrichment
- Metadata management, classification, and tagging
- Data quality controls and validation
- Secure access and role-based exposure of data
- Lineage, auditability, and usage tracking

Prepared data can be safely consumed by AI models, copilots, analytics tools, and agentic workflows.

KEY FEATURES

- Governed data pipelines for further education environments
- Central metadata and classification management
- Data lineage and audit trail supporting inspection and assurance
- Integration with existing college systems
- Secure exposure of data to AI and analytics services
- Monitoring of data usage, quality, and access
- No requirement to replace existing data platforms

KEY BENEFITS

- Improves quality and consistency of data used by AI
- Reduces risk associated with uncontrolled learner data access
- Accelerates delivery of AI-enabled learner and staff services
- Supports funding, audit, and inspection requirements
- Maximises value from existing college data assets
- Provides a scalable foundation for AI maturity

TECHNICAL ARCHITECTURE

Built on the **ICS.AI SMART: Platform**, providing:

- Microsoft Azure deployment with UK data residency
- Secure data ingestion and processing pipelines
- Metadata and governance services
- Integration with retrieval, copilot, and agent runtimes
- Identity integration via Microsoft Entra ID with RBAC
- Central telemetry for data usage, quality, and risk

FURTHER EDUCATION DATA SOURCES

SMART Data supports integration with common FE data sources, including:

- Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Admissions and enrolment systems
- Attendance and timetable platforms
- Learner support and safeguarding systems
- Finance, HR, and estates systems
- Document and records management platforms

Integrations are configured in line with college data governance and safeguarding policies.

GOVERNANCE, SECURITY & COMPLIANCE

- Role-based access control for data and metadata
- Policy controls for data exposure and use
- Data lineage and audit logging
- Sensitive data handling with redaction and minimisation
- Human oversight of data onboarding and changes
- WCAG 2.2 AA compliant management interfaces
- GDPR compliant with UK data residency

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

- **Discover & scope** – priority data sources and use cases
- **Configure governance** – access rules, policies, classifications
- **Ingest & structure** – connect systems and prepare data
- **Validate & assure** – data quality and governance checks
- **Enable consumption** – expose data to AI and analytics
- **Operate & optimise** – ongoing monitoring and improvement

SUCCESS MEASURES

- Number of AI-ready data sources onboarded
- Data quality and completeness metrics
- Reduction in manual data preparation effort
- Time to enable new AI and automation use cases
- Governance and audit outcomes

DEPENDENCIES & PREREQUISITES

- SMART Platform Core (included with any SMART product)
- Microsoft Azure subscription (UK or EU hosted)
- Microsoft Entra ID for identity management
- Access to further education source systems and data

USER SUPPORT

The response time is 24 hours, depending on the contract signed by the client and applies during working hours from Monday to Friday. The Support levels are as follows:

Level	Description	Response
Level 1: Urgent	System not responding or critical function loss that affects all users.	24hr fix/workaround
Level 2: High	A function loss that causes significant disruption to business and users.	Priority response
Level 3: Normal	Function loss that affects some users but will not stop them from being able to do other tasks.	Standard response
Level 4: Low	A cosmetic issue or a minor function loss that affects some users.	Scheduled response

This service, up to an agreed number of hours per month, is included in the cost of the Licence for the SMART: Data. Additional support hours can be purchased if required.

DISCLAIMER

This service description was prepared for G-Cloud 15 and will remain on the Digital Marketplace for the duration of the framework period (up to 24 months). As AI technology and our platform capabilities evolve rapidly, specific features, integrations, or functionality described in this document may have changed since publication.

Before purchase, we recommend contacting ICS.AI to confirm current capabilities and any new features that may have been added since this description was published.

CONTACT



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Learn more about ICS.AI, our services, and how we support the UK public sector with responsible AI

<https://www.ics.ai/>



EMAIL US

Contact our team with questions about our services, G-Cloud offerings, or to start a conversation

info@ics.ai



BOOK A MEETING

Schedule a call with our team to discuss your requirements or learn more about our services

[book a meeting](#)