

Most Advantageous Tender (MAT) – Weighted Evaluation Framework

Libraries for Primaries 2026–2029

1. Overview

This evaluation framework has been developed in line with Most Advantageous Tender (MAT) principles and is based on the delivery requirements for the National Literacy Trust’s Dormant Asset funded Libraries for Primaries programme roll out 2026–2029. Over 3 years this roll out will provide 1,625 schools with training, a curated book collection of 500 books from a range of publishers, library furniture, an audiobook package and other resources.

The government has committed to ensuring a library in every primary school in England by the end of this Parliament - a step that supports the National Year of Reading 2026's aims to tackle the nation's steep decline in reading for pleasure. The National Literacy Trust will work with DCMS and the National Lottery Community Fund to design the programme of delivery in England, whilst also continuing its mission to ensure every primary school in the whole of the UK has a dedicated library space to help create a strong reading for pleasure culture for its pupils. This role/tender will support the National Literacy Trust in delivering this work.

Organisations responding to the tender may submit bids for a single lot or multiple lots outlined below. Full details of the project can be accessed in this [briefing pack](#). A call for tender is made 1 May 2026, and the deadline for quotation is 12th June 2026. Confirmation of contract award selection will be made by 3rd July 2026. Bids should be submitted using this form: <https://literacytrust.tfaforms.net/5157435>

For any questions, please email primarylibrarytraining@literacytrust.org.uk.

2. Tender Structure

Lot 1 – Books fulfilment

- Co-ordination and receipt of deliveries from 30+ publishers, including the management and resolution of delivery issues and substitutions and relevant communication to National Literacy Trust and publishing partners to ensure adherence to agreed delivery schedule.
- Storage, picking and packing of curated 500-book collections (525 collections in Y1, 575 in each of Y2 and Y3. Books to be chosen and ordered by National Literacy Trust direct from publishers) in branded boxes, and providing insurance for loss or damage of book stock while in storage and during delivery transit from storage to schools.
- England-wide delivery to 525 locations (Y1) and 575 locations (each of years 1 and 2) (Total 1675 packs) with adherence to agreed delivery schedule.

- Proof of delivery into the school building (no curbside only delivery will be accepted) and prompt issue resolution, within a maximum of 28 days.

Lot 2 – Furniture manufacture and delivery

- Manufacture of 525 furniture packs in Y1 and 575 packs per year in Y2 and Y3. (Total 1675 packs), each pack with a value of £950 incl. VAT, to include multiple shelves and an element of soft seating. Furniture pack contents to be agreed with National Literacy Trust.
- Packaging and England-wide delivery into the school building with proof of delivery (No curb-side only delivery will be accepted). 1 furniture pack to be delivered to each school, 525 in Y1, 575 each in Y2 and Y3. Stock to be insured for loss or damage during storage and transit.
- After-sales support, furniture guarantees/warranty and prompt damage and issue resolution, within a maximum of 28 days.

Lot 3 – Audiobook provision

- Provision of audiobooks for schools, [either via online provision, or physical media] to 525 schools Y1 and 575 schools per year in years 2 and 3 (Total 1675 packs). Audiobook titles to be agreed with National Literacy Trust.
- For physical media, this includes delivery to 1675 England-wide locations
- Provide ongoing technical support for schools using and accessing the device and/or platform.
- Proof of delivery into the school building (no curbside only delivery will be accepted) and prompt issue resolution, within a maximum of 28 days.

3. Scoring Methodology

Bids will be evaluated on the basis of the Most Advantageous Tender, using a 0–5 scoring scale:

0 = Fails to meet requirement

3 = Meets requirement

5 = Exceeds requirement

Criterion scores are multiplied by the published weighting to produce a weighted score. The highest total weighted score will be recommended for award (price evaluation is set out below)

Lot 1 – Books Fulfilment Evaluation Criteria and Weightings

Criteria	Weighting
Price	25%
Project management & customer service	30%
Capacity & logistics (storage, pick/pack, delivery windows, PODs). To be demonstrated by track record of previous large scale projects	35%
Environmental impact & sustainability	10%

Lot 2 – Furniture Manufacture and Delivery Evaluation Criteria and Weightings

Criteria	Weighting
Price (manufacture, warranties and delivery)	30%
Track record of project management & customer service in similar scale projects	20%
Suitability and flexibility of range	30%
Environmental impact & sustainability	10%

Lot 3 – Audiobook Provision

Criteria	Weighting
Price (manufacture/creation, warranties and delivery)	30%
Track record of project management & customer service in similar scale projects	20%
Suitability, appeal and flexibility of range	30%
Environmental impact & sustainability	10%

4. Price Evaluation

Price will be assessed using total evaluated cost for total 3 year tender of providing packs to 1675 schools. Lowest total cost will score highest, with other bids scored proportionately.

5. Governance and Record Keeping

Scores will be awarded independently by panel members and agreed through moderation. Records of scoring rationales will be retained to ensure transparency, auditability and regulatory compliance.