

NotebookLM

The Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals license is the free "starter" tier for schools. While it gives you access to the tools (Gemini and NotebookLM), it has lower usage limits compared to the paid tiers.

Here is the breakdown of what you get with Education Fundamentals versus what requires an upgrade (the "Google AI Pro for Education" licence).

1. NotebookLM (The Research Assistant)

As of early 2026, NotebookLM is considered a **core service** for Education Fundamentals users.

- **What you get:** You can upload PDFs, text files, and audio recordings. You can generate "Audio Overviews" (the AI podcasts) and use the chat to summarize your notes.
- **What you miss:** The free tier has **standard limits** (e.g., about 3 Audio Overviews per day and up to 50 sources per notebook). Paid tiers get "5x more" of everything—up to 300+ sources and much higher daily generation limits.

2. Gemini App (gemini.google.com)

You can use the main Gemini chat interface with your school account, and it includes **enterprise-grade data protection** (meaning your data isn't used to train the AI).

- **What you get:** Access to Gemini 3 Flash for chatting, summarizing, and transcribing small audio files.
- **What you miss:** You don't get the "Ultra" or "Pro" high-performance models for extremely complex tasks, and your "Deep Research" queries (which browse the live web for hours) are limited.

3. Gemini in Workspace (Side Panel)

This is where the biggest difference lies.

- **The Restriction:** In the **Fundamentals (Free)** tier, you generally **do not** get Gemini integrated directly inside the side panels of Google Docs, Gmail, or Slides.
- **The Exception:** You can still use the "Gemini tab" in **Google Classroom** to generate lesson ideas or rubrics, as Google made this free for educators 18+ recently.

4. Google Meet (Transcription & Notes)

- **Fundamentals Tier:** You can use standard Google Meet, but you **do not** get the "Take notes for me" or "Live Translated Captions" features.
- **The Workaround:** You can still record your meeting manually, download the audio, and then upload it to the Gemini app or NotebookLM to get your transcript.

If you require any of the extra features it is possible to purchase a Gemini Pro license from us on a yearly basis. Just email ictschoools.support@stockport.gov.uk for more details.

