For additional information,
Contact: Penny Murray
+44 (0)7791 872 776
pmurray@sifassociation.org

Birmingham, UK (10 March 2011) –The SIF Association and the Department for Education (DfE) are pleased to announce that they have agreed to work closely together to take forward work on the interoperability of data in the UK education system. Both organisations share the common goal of achieving cost effective and secure methods of sharing data between different systems and organisations, and today's announcement sets out how they will work together to each achieve that goal.

The DfE acknowledges and values the work done by the SIF community and others in the UK. The DfE will continue to support the work of the SIF Association by sharing knowledge and advice through the Technical Support Service for the Information Standards Board (ISB), the Department's Chief Information Officer Group and the Data and Statistics Division.

The DfE and the Department for Business, Innovations and Skills (BIS) jointly sponsor the ISB as the approval body for data and information standards across the system of Education, Skills and Children's Services (ESCS) in England. The SIF Association recognises and values the work that has been done by DfE and the ISB in producing a Business Data Architecture model suitable for use across the ESCS. The Association also accepts the long term vision and direction of the Business Data Architecture and has committed itself to work alongside the ISB in the development of new data items.

Details on the work of the ISB can be found at http://www.escs-isb.org.uk/.

About the SIF Association
The SIF Association is a unique, non-profit collaboration composed of over 3,200 schools, districts, local authorities, states, US and International Ministries of Education, software suppliers and consultants who collectively define the rules and regulations for educational software data interoperability. The SIF Implementation Specification enables diverse applications to interact and share data efficiently, reliably, and securely regardless of the platform hosting those applications. The SIF Association has united these education technology end users and providers in an unprecedented effort to give teachers more time to do what they do best: teach.
For further information, visit http://www.sifassociation.org/uk.