

Optional Parent Purchase Chromebook Scheme

We've had some questions regarding the optional parent purchase chromebook scheme following our recent letter. Below are some FAQs with answers to help you make your decision.

We would like to reiterate again that the scheme is optional and there is no demand that anyone participates.

What make and model will we be purchasing?

The initial costings were based on the Lenovo 100e, which is approx 4GB RAM, 32GB, and 11.6" screen.

<https://www.lenovo.com/gb/en/p/laptops/lenovo-laptop/lenovo-edu-chromebooks/100e-amd-g3/22ed01e1ea3?orgRef=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.google.com%252F>

Due to the current climate and stock shortages we cannot guarantee that this will be the model purchased, however, it will be similar and will have the specification needed for the work undertaken in school.

I can buy a chromebook cheaper in the shops - why is the cost higher?

The cost is higher because it includes warranty, insurance, a case, onboarding to the school network, and IT support. Insurance will cover an onsite swap for devices needing repairing.

If I buy a chromebook, will my child have to share with other children whose parents didn't opt in to the scheme?

No, those children who have a parent purchased chromebook will not share their device with children whose parents did not opt in.

What proportion of work is going to be completed on the chromebooks within school?

The proportion of work will vary depending on the curriculum expectations and the children becoming more familiar with their features and layouts. They would also be used for sharing work with the teacher, onto the interactive whiteboard, etc and for research purposes. We will ensure that there is not too much work undertaken on screens and they are used to enhance the learning of the children.

If we didn't participate, can work be completed on a different device at home?

Google products and other software used in school would all be accessible at home on other devices. No products will only run in school and all will be cloud based.

If we didn't participate, will my child be disadvantaged in class?

No, the school will have a bank of chromebooks which children will be able to use, however these will be available on a higher sharing ratio.

Why is my child using a chromebook and not pen and paper?

The national curriculum drives our use of IT as a useful tool to enhance the learning of the children across the curriculum as well as coverage of the computing curriculum <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-computing-programmes-of-study>. Use of IT is appropriate to the learning taking place, and is just another tool, as well as pencils, pens, paper and other resources.

If my child already has a chromebook at home, could I send this into school instead of purchasing through this scheme?

We hope that children who already have a chromebook will be able to bring their own device, if this is approved by parents. All devices would need to be onboarded to the Trust network, which will mean there may be stricter filtering requirements than you may have at home. Any sites which are filtered by school will also be filtered at home, examples include social media platforms, and some game sites such as Roblox. If there is a specific website you would like to check on, then please ask us but if you consider the things which children are unlikely to access in school, you can't go far wrong. We can release some content if we decide it is not of a safeguarding nature for children and therefore it would be released at home.

There will also be a requirement for parents to sign to understand that damage to the device in school is at the risk of the parent..

Will this scheme reduce the amount of paper used in school?

In some of our original correspondence, we did say one of the benefits of the scheme would be “Improved sustainability by reducing the amount of paper used within school”. We are a trust who takes sustainability and decarbonisation seriously and have worked hard this year to secure four decarbonisation plans to do this properly and not just pay lip service to it. However, this sentence was misleading. The scheme will not impact significantly on the amount of paper used in school. However, by buying chromebooks rather than laptops, we hope to improve our carbon footprint slightly, by having to replace them less often than if we purchased laptops. We apologise for any misunderstanding.