



# Parent FAQ's

## 1:1 Laptop Program

### Introduction

#### What is a one-to-one program?

One-to-one learning provides every student and teacher access to his or her own laptop computer in a wireless environment allowing students to learn at their own pace and ability levels. One-to-one initiatives have gained momentum, worldwide, and are increasingly seen as a key to transforming education and better preparing students to succeed in a global world.

In the one-to-one program, students' access to a laptop and the Internet enables them to be self-directed and receive highly personalised instruction. Teachers can create personalised learning opportunities for each child, addressing his or her unique needs. Students use their personal devices to do research, homework, problem-solve, team projects, email and academic coursework. At the same time, they gain valuable 21st century skills that will be beneficial throughout their lives and careers.

These Frequently Asked Questions try to address some of the most common questions parents have in relation to a 1:1 program.

### 1-to-1 devices and student learning

#### Why laptops instead of computer labs?

Teachers report that when computers are in labs, they use technology less often for instruction because of the difficulty of scheduling time in the lab and transporting students there.

More widespread access to computers makes it possible for students and teachers in schools to transition from occasional, supplemental use of computers for instruction to more frequent, integral use of technology across a multitude of settings. Providing students with ubiquitous access to wirelessly connected computers has the potential to transform learning environments and improve student learning outcomes.

Furthermore, 24/7 access to computers makes it possible for students to access a wider array of resources to support their learning, to communicate with peers and their teachers, and to become fluent in their use of the technological tools of the 21st century workplace.

#### Will students use computers 'too much' for schoolwork?

The 1-to-1 device will complement the existing school curriculum by providing appropriate digital learning tools in balance with more traditional learning tools.

The goals of the curriculum are supported, not supplanted, by the use of 1-to-1 devices. Students will use 1-to-1 devices where they serve a purpose, for instance, in research, data analysis and generating presentations.

Wireless access will allow for 'just-in-time' learning where students can search for information or collaborate with others in a real-time context. Students will be able to use their school files at home and be able to collaborate with their peers on projects through the secure BCE Student Portal.

#### How can 1-to-1 devices improve learning?

With greater access to real-time information, digital learning resources, educational software and collaborative workspaces, students experience higher levels of motivation and engagement in their learning.

Typically students experience initial improvement in areas such as organisational and technological skills, revision, writing and editing work. With the development of presentations and other multimedia projects, students experience subsequent improvement in analytical, presentation and speaking skills.

Involvement in 'virtual workspaces' creates opportunities for collaboration and communication, improving relationships in the classroom through a greater level of interaction between students, their peers and their teachers.

A networked environment, where it is easy to share developing work and research with peers and teachers, is the environment students will live and work in during secondary school and the future.

Students working together and providing solutions to real-world problems will create links beyond the classroom and move levels of thinking beyond a simple knowledge framework to complex analysis and evaluation.

Increased levels of learning both in and out of school with an emphasis on higher-order thinking, creative thinking and expression will be promoted.



# Parent FAQ's

## 1:1 Laptop Program

### Will learning outcomes be evaluated differently?

Students will continue to be evaluated against the Queensland and/or National Curricular. The devices complement the existing school curriculum by providing digital learning tools that link in with planned classroom activities. Wireless access points at schools will foster collaboration and teamwork, allowing students to search for information together and share the learning experience.

### How will 1-to-1 devices be used in the classroom?

This is a technology-rich world and students are immersed in digital technology in their out-of-school lives. The use of devices in the classroom will evolve over time as students and teachers become more familiar and therefore will be able to optimise the advantage of their use to support teaching and learning in the classroom, wherever that classroom may be.

Staff and students will collaborate and use the device as a tool that develops the student as information seeker, analyser and evaluator, problem-solver and decision maker. They will use programs to create ways in which to communicate their findings and become publishers of their own work.

### What about handwriting?

Handwriting will continue to have a place in the classroom as well as the use of the keyboard.

### What about safe Internet use?

Students are offered a device to facilitate anytime, anywhere learning. Teachers will supervise students as they would for any learning activity as they create and maintain a safe, comfortable and learning-focused classroom. Appropriate use of the Internet service within the BCE network is closely monitored by a filtering system that allows for inappropriate content blocking by a regularly updated list of categories and sites. This does not apply to use of devices outside of the school network.

Education and support are important for maintaining acceptable use of devices, particularly in relation to Internet access. Like mobile phones, email and messaging systems can be used for unacceptable purposes and to bully others. It is essential that all members of the community, students, parents and staff are aware of this potential and also of the school's Bullying and Acceptable Use policies. Any incident of bullying or unacceptable use should be investigated and dealt with in accordance with these policies.

### Won't students be able to 'cheat' by using the spell checker?

The spell checker is a tool to allow students immediate feedback on the correct spelling of words they use. It supplements the existing school spelling program, but does not replace it.

### What if students play on the devices during the school day instead of going outside for recess?

The devices will provide additional support for student learning, and therefore students will be supervised, as they would be for any learning activity. The issues of screen time limits, supervised Internet use and best academic uses will be covered by our school's Acceptable Use Agreement.

### How will parents continue to be informed about integration of 1-to-1 devices into the curriculum?

The school's newsletters and websites will provide updates to the whole school community about the use of the devices by students and teachers in and out of the classroom. Ongoing parent information evenings will assist parents with the use of the device at home.

## Student safety and online privacy

### Will children be safe carrying 1-to-1 devices?

Overseas research has shown that insurance companies have reported very few incidents while students travel to and from school. Students should be specifically warned not to take the devices out in public, and to carry them in the protective cover provided, which should be placed within their school bags.

### Are these devices going to add to the heavy loads students carry from home to school?

The E6220 has been deliberately chosen for a number of reasons, including its weight specifications. The device will alleviate the need for students to carry some textbooks, further reducing the weight of items students need to carry to school. The device should not be packed into the bottom of an oversized backpack with other books and items, because this can lead to a compression fracture of the screen.



# Parent FAQ's

## 1:1 Laptop Program

### Will the student files on the device be private?

Students can expect their device to be periodically inspected and monitored for appropriate usage. School personnel may request access to the browser history and/or caches as well as any and all files belonging to the student resident on the laptop as well as stored on the SharePoint sites and BCE web based drives. Students and parents need to be aware that files stored locally or on SharePoint sites and BCE web based drives are not private.

### Software and hardware

#### What software will be on the devices?

With the help of classroom teachers, BCE has researched and is proposing a standard image that incorporates both BCE-licensed and free open source software. This image has also been developed to aid students in meeting requirements of the Queensland curriculum and to replicate the type of software that is used in the workplace. It is envisaged that this comprehensive and high-quality software list will meet the needs of students over the life of the device; however, schools and students may load additional software to meet their needs subject to appropriate copyright and licensing laws. This image is only available for devices purchased from BCE's panel.

A complete list of the software included on the image is available separately.

#### What hardware will be offered?

St Rita's school has chosen to offer laptops that have the following specifications: Dell E6220

- 3yr onsite warranty
- a standard BCE suite of software
- management and security software
- a software image that can be reinstalled by the student
- configured to enable reliable access to online applications, administration and teaching and learning resources
- students will have day-to-day responsibility for the machine including their management and care, both at school and at home
- laptops will be configured to enable users to connect outside the school network e.g. to home networks

### With the warranty, is it our responsibility to deliver the machine to the supplier for repair?

No. BCE have service arrangements in place with suppliers to handle warranty repairs. Students will be required to return a machine needing service or repair to the school who will make the necessary arrangements.

### Is there any charge for school-based software installed on machines?

All school software is installed at the school's expense.

### Obligations, costs and maintenance

#### Why does the school need insurance cover on these computers?

The current school contents policies do not cover the use of the computer by a student outside of school grounds, hence the need to take out a separate insurance policy. The school will establish the insurance arrangements as the computer at all times remains the property of the school. Parents do not own the device until the school signs it over to them after a defined period / cost as negotiated by the Principal.

#### What payment/discount will the school be giving to users that go towards the expense of contents insurance, home Internet connection, line rental, electricity cost, printer ink and paper?

None. A family can choose to allow a laptop to be connected onto their home Internet service or printer.

#### What are the learning outcomes of the student whose parents do not agree to the terms and conditions of the supply and usage of the computer?

Students will be educated and address the same learning outcomes they do currently.

#### How does a student participate if they do not have a computer?

Students will be given access to a computer, which might or might not be located in their current classroom. These computers will not be able to be taken home.



# Parent FAQ's

## 1:1 Laptop Program

### Can students bring their own devices from home instead?

Home devices are not configured to the school network, can be a source of viruses and are often not enabled with the licensed software. Home devices may not be licensed to use the school image and maintenance issues may not be resolved in an appropriate time frame. Therefore other laptops / tablet devices from home cannot be brought to school unless approved by the Principal

### Will textbooks still need to be purchased?

Yes. Many books are not yet online. When they become available and it is advantageous, they may be loaded directly on the devices' hard drive. Some book suppliers who have CD-based textbooks require the purchase of the book in addition to the CD or charge more for the CD than the book. In these cases it is cheaper to continue to use the textbook.

### Is the device password-protected?

Students will be prompted to log on with a password when turning on the device. A password-protected device may help protect students' personal information in incidents of loss or theft.

### Can students install their own software?

Software may be installed where students hold appropriate licences. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that there is enough hard drive space and RAM available to engage in all educational requirements. Music and movies will be allowed for academic and recreational reasons, provided copyright obligations are met. Downloading music, games and videos from the internet during school hours is prohibited except when directed by a teacher. The national Copyright Advisory Group (CAG) has developed the Smart copying Website <http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/go> to provide a comprehensive guide to copyright issues affecting Australian schools.

If software is required by a class for academic purposes, the school will purchase licences and make arrangements for the installation the software for student use. Permanent changes such as engraving, marking, painting or drawing will not be permitted as the devices may be used by more than one family during its lifetime at the school. However students will be able to personalise the software interface and background.

### Where do the devices go when not in use?

When not in use, the devices should be in a student's locked classroom. An unattended device around buildings or school grounds will be picked up immediately by a staff member and treated as a lost item. This could incur a penalty in accordance with school policy.

### What about flat batteries? Will students 'plug in' in the classrooms?

Students are expected to charge the device overnight and to bring it fully charged to school each day.

### What about equipment breakdown or if a student forgets to bring it to school?

Although the E6220 will be robust and reliable, the reality is that sometime things will go wrong. All laptops are covered by a three year warranty. Any hardware fault is covered under this warranty. More importantly, the school will have a small bank of spare laptops that will be swapped in and out of service when a computer requires a repair.

### Are the computers covered by insurance for damage, loss or theft?

Each device will be covered by an accidental Damage Program for accidental damage caused at school. If accidental damage occurs to a laptop, the student needs to report the damage or situation immediately to their class teacher or other staff member. If the damage is due to negligence, carelessness or wilful damage, an excess of \$150 will be payable to the school (determined by Principal / delegate).

When the device is damaged off site an excess of \$150 will be payable to the school for claims made under the Accidental Damage Program.

Please Note: These decisions remain at the discretion of the Principal, including the option of not allowing a student to take home a laptop device.

The devices will be insured by the school for loss and/or theft. Loss / theft of a laptop is to be reported immediately to the school leadership and no later than 24 hours after the event. This will need to be accompanied by a Queensland Police Reference Number. An excess may be payable depending on the circumstances and will be at the discretion of the Principal.



# Parent FAQ's

## 1:1 Laptop Program

### The school monitors usage at school, but who monitors it at home?

That is the responsibility of the parents. When off school grounds, parents have full authority to monitor device usage. Examples of this include:

- encourage use in a family room and not in the bedroom restrict use at certain times of the evening or weekend
- advise not to take on long trips, and
- examine the documents and other contents of the device.

### How can students access the internet from home?

Home Internet connection is not supplied by the school or BCE. If there is an existing Internet provision at home, a device can be configured for access.

### How can devices be used at home?

Examples of home use for which internet access would be required include:

- using online collaborative websites such as Life / LMS, class blogs, and wikis
- using email if activated
- using online resources such as digital learning objects located in the learning gateway
- completion of homework using online resources.

Examples of home use for which internet access would not be required include:

- using any of the Microsoft applications or open source software provided
- using any subject-specific software
- working with audio, picture or video files on the devices.

### What happens when a student leaves the school?

Like a library book, the student will be asked to return the device and the school will add this laptop into the pool of spares.

### What happens when the laptops are 3 years old?

The computer may be made available to the student / family. This decision will be made by the Principal depending on the condition of the machine and the current

● ● ●  
“Learning will not take place only inside schools and colleges, but in communities, workplaces and families. The shift to thinking about learning beyond the classroom requires a shift in our thinking about the fundamental organizational unit of education...from the school, an institution where learning is organized, defined and contained...  
...to the learner, an intelligent agent with the potential to learn from any and all of her encounters with the world around her.”

Tom Bentley, DEMOS

