



Committed to Excellence

Chromebook 1:1 Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions July 2021

Why is this scheme specifically for chromebooks?

This scheme is a dedicated chromebook scheme, rather than a generic Bring Your Own Device scheme. Students will not be able to bring their own laptops or tablets to school. There are several reasons for this. There are greater security issues with introducing laptops to the school IT infrastructure. There is also more potential for peer pressure and pressure on parents to purchase more expensive laptops due to the variation in specifications available. Also, with the myriad of different laptops available, it would be far more difficult for teachers to coordinate these in the classroom.

My child already owns a chromebook, can they bring this to school instead?

Our preference is for students to use chromebooks purchased through this scheme in school. This allows the school to ensure that the specification of the chromebooks is most suitable for the educational environment. It also ensures greater cyber security for the school. Lastly, it eliminates issues between students of peer pressure about the specification, look, branding etc of new technology.

However, given the context of the current situation, we understand that some parents have recently purchased chromebooks specifically for their child's use. We will allow these to be enrolled on our school system for a cost of £35 which covers the management license and administration costs of this process. Whilst the chromebook is logged in through the John Colet email account it will be managed by the Google Management Suite for John Colet School and also will be protected by our e-safety software. The Chromebook can still be accessed at home using a different google account which is not subject to the John Colet School management.

How is e-safety managed?

When a child uses their school email account to log on to their chromebook they are automatically covered by the school e-safety monitoring system. When in school the device must be used through the school email system.

I would like more information about the payments options offered by Freedom Tech

We will be supplying further information with the payment options offered by Freedom Tech when a purchase portal becomes available.

I am concerned about struggling to meet the cost of a new chromebook

For students who are eligible for pupil premium funding we will be offering a 40% contribution to the cost of the payment. If you believe your child is eligible for pupil premium funding please ensure you have completed the Pupil Premium [application form](#).

I would like to know more about the specification of the chromebook offered and does it offer value for money?

The chromebooks offered are supplied through organisations which specialise in sourcing value for money options for school, whilst ensuring that the devices have the appropriate specification for an educational environment, including the wear and tear that comes with life in a teenager's backpack! Having consistent devices also eliminates issues between students of peer pressure about the specification, look, branding etc of new technology.

Part of the cost of the scheme is an accidental, breakdown, and theft warranty. This gives parents peace of mind that their child will have access to a chromebook for the full three years. It does add to the overall cost of the package.

I am concerned about the excessive use of screens and loss of key skills like handwriting.

The use of chromebooks in the classroom is never going to be a replacement for high quality teacher to student learning. I think we have all realised that more than ever in the last few months! However, having access to the internet and learning apps immediately in the classroom gives more opportunities for enrichment and extension to learning with immediate feedback to students. There is no intention to replace exercise books and pens, or indeed paper reading books. However, textbooks are likely to be available online and therefore will be easily accessible at home as well as in the classroom.