

## **Laptop & Tablet Computers Provided to CiC Under the Kent Pledge Qualification Guidance**

Virtual School Kent (VSK) are responsible for the administration of this scheme and will manage the conditions under which it is run. The purpose of this pledge by KCC to the children and young people in its care is to ensure the best possible ICT support for study opportunities during the secondary phase of statutory school education. The following guidance clarifies the conditions under which computers are allocated.

- VSK will allocate computers once an application has been received on the basis of a waiting list six times a year.
- Laptop and Tablet computers are given to young people under the condition that they use them within the boundaries set out by their Foster Carer and Social Worker and that they look after them responsibly. A written agreement must be signed by the young person if aged 13 + or the foster carer for younger aged children before the equipment can be given.
- Parental controls will be in place and will be governed by the Foster Carer until the young person is at least 16.
- Young people will not be asked to return their computer to KCC, even if they leave care, unless they break the above conditions, in which case KCC reserves the right to take the computer back.
- End of life laptops and tablets must be disposed of in accordance with Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Legislation which includes Data Protection, Duty of Care and Hazardous Waste Regulations. For further information about how to arrange collection of an end of life laptop/tablet please visit the VSK website at:  
<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/resources/kent-pledge>

### **Students aged 11-16**

- Students in School Years 7-11 will qualify for a laptop if they have been in care for 6 months and remain in care at the point of delivery.
- Social workers, with the agreement of their Team Manager, can in exceptional circumstances relating to safeguarding concerns for the young person, request that ICT support is withheld and VSK will respect this decision and a record of this decision and the reasons should be recorded on to Liberi by the social worker.

### **16plus Students**

- Students in Years 12 -13 maybe in receipt of a bursary to support their continued participation in education. Applications for computers from young people in this group will be considered on a case by case basis and only be approved if it can be satisfactorily explained why, if a computer is required for access to their studies, the young person is not using a proportion of their bursary to purchase this equipment, as would be the case for any other recipient of the post 16 bursary.
- Apprentices who require a computer to complete their work should be provided with this equipment by their employer and therefore applicants from this group will need to provide an explanation if this is not the case.
- Students who are 18 will only be considered if they are progressing onto Higher Education and do not qualify for a grant for equipment via their university student services.
- VSK will not consider retrospective applications from care leavers.
- VSK will not consider applications from 16plus students attending Adult Education, Unaccredited provision or Educated at Home.
- Any applicants on the waiting list who turn 18 before a delivery date is confirmed will be removed from the list.

- Young people who are CiC due solely to their provision being 38 or 52 week residential special provision or Youth Custody will not be considered.

#### Warranty and Repairs

- Laptops will be subject to a three year warranty which will cover unforeseen breakdowns. The provider will maintain a helpline which can be contacted directly by the foster carer. It will not cover damage or loss through negligence, accident, theft or malicious action. In these cases the foster carer should contact VSK and explain the circumstances under which damage or loss occurred. VSK SLT will consider such requests on a case by case basis and have the discretion to fund or part fund replacement or repair.
- There is no expectation that Foster Carers will protect these computers under their household insurance, but they may do so at their discretion, however, VSK will not be able to fund this.