

## **IT Equipment 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 Years 3 to 11 (Key Stage 2 to 4) of statutory school education. The following guidance clarifies the conditions under which equipment is allocated.

- VSK will fund up to £250.00 or supply IT equipment once the requirements of the young persons IT needs have been discussed at their PEP and ensuring the qualifying criteria is met.
- IT equipment is given to a 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 put in place following guidelines issued by VSK to the Foster Carer/Social Worker and will be governed by the Foster Carer until the young person is at least 16.
- Applications for new equipment will be considered at the PEP considering the age of the current equipment and if the needs of the young person has changed. It is the responsibility of the Social Worker, VSK Staff and Foster Carer to ensure that if a young person moves placement that their IT equipment moves with them. The New Foster Carer will be required to complete an agreement form and it be returned to VSK.
- Young people will not be asked to return their computer to KCC, even if they leave care, unless they break the conditions laid out in the agreement signed by either Foster Carer or Young Person, in which case KCC reserves the right to take the IT Equipment back.
- End of life IT Equipment 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 details please visit the VSK website.

### **Students aged 7 – 11 (Key Stage 2)**

- Students in School Years 3- 6 requirements for a device will be discussed at the first PEP in agreement with School, Foster Carer, Social Worker and VSK. This will be either funded by VSK or a Chromebook will be issued on receipt of an application form if they have been in care for 1 month and are in full-time education and remain in care at the point of delivery.
- Approval for a device outside of these criteria will need approval from a VSK Deputy Head and reasons will need to be provided as an attachment to the application or request for funding.
- At the PEP meeting or thereafter a social worker, 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 Liberi by the social worker.
- At each PEP meeting the use of the device will be discussed to ensure that it still meets the Young Person needs.

### **Students aged 11-16 (Key Stage 3-4)**

- Students in School Years 7-11 requirements for a device will be discussed at the first PEP in agreement with School, Foster Carer, Social Worker and VSK. This will be either funded by VSK or a Chromebook for Years 7-9 and laptop for Year 10-11 will be issued on receipt of an

application form if they have been in care for 1 month and are in full-time education and remain in care at the point of delivery.

- Approval for a device outside of these criteria will need approval from a VSK Deputy Head and reasons will need to be provided as an attachment to the application or request for funding.
- At the PEP meeting or thereafter a social worker, 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 Liberi by the social worker.
- At each PEP meeting the use of the device will be discussed to ensure that it still meets the Young Person's needs.

### **16plus Students (Key Stage 5)**

- Students in School Years 12-13 requirements for a device will be discussed at the first PEP in agreement with School/College, Foster Carer, Social Worker and VSK. This will be either funded by VSK or a laptop will be issued on receipt of an application form if they have been in care for 1 month and are in full-time education or on an accredited course and remain in care at the point of delivery.
- Applications for funding or laptops from young people in Years 12-13 will be considered on a case-by-case basis and only be approved if it can be satisfactorily explained why a laptop is required and approval given by VSK Deputy Head.
- Apprentices who require a laptop should complete an application form and provide an explanation as to the need for the laptop and the work to be completed.
- Students who are approaching the end of Year 13 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.
- Applications will not be considered for young people who are beyond school Year 13.

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**

- Laptop and Chromebooks provided by VSK will be subject to a one-year warranty which will cover technical issues with the device. 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.