

Laptop & Chromebooks 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 allocate Chromebook or Laptop once an application has been received and the criteria is met.
- Laptop and Chromebooks 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 following guidelines issued by VSK with the Laptop or Chromebook by 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 only be considered after 3 years when the warranty has ceased.
- It is the responsibility of the Social Worker, VSK Staff and Foster Carer to ensure that if a young person moves placement that their laptop and Chromebook 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 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 details please visit the VSK website.

Students aged 7 – 11 (Key Stage 2)

- Students in School Years 3- 6 will qualify for a Chromebook if they have been in care for 6 months and are in full-time education and remain in care at the point of delivery.
- Approval for a Chromebook outside these criteria will need approval from a VSK Deputy Head and reasons will need to be provided as an attachment to the application.
- 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 Liberi by the social worker.

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

- Students in School Years 7-11 will qualify for a laptop if they have been in care for 6 months and are in full-time education and remain in care at the point of delivery. If they already have a Chromebook, then a laptop will not be issued unless there is a specific reason that will need to be approved by VSK Deputy Head and the Chromebook returned to VSK.
- Approval for a laptop outside these criteria will need approval from a VSK Deputy Head and reasons will need to be provided as an attachment to the application.
- 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 Liberi by the social worker.

16plus Students (Key Stage 5)

- Students in Years 12 -13 maybe in receipt of a bursary to support their continued participation in education. Applications for laptops 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 laptop 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 laptop to complete their work should 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

- 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.