Technology Rich Learning

Parent FAQs

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, develop 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.

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 learning anytime, anywhere. 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, at home this will be a parent responsibility.

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 the individual 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.

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 could be placed within their school bags.

Parent FAQs

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

The device has been deliberately chosen for a number of reasons, including its weight specifications. The device will alleviate the need for students to carry calculators and 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.

Will the use of laptops promote poor posture, eye strain or hearing issues?

Poor posture and associated strain are generally the product of fixed body position for an extended period of time. Looking at any screen (computer, TV or iPad) for a long period of time without resting your eyes may cause eye strain. With regards to volume levels for headphones, as a general rule the level should be set low enough to hear a person speaking at normal levels when standing one metre away. Teachers will instruct and raise awareness of the importance of good posture, regular break and appropriate volume of headphones.

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 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.

Evaluation

Evaluating the program

Schools may wish to conduct internal action research projects. This may involve areas such as literacy, numeracy, collaboration and attendance. Individual schools may conduct their own evaluation using instruments such as:

- anecdotal evidence provided by teachers, parents and students
- tracking the amount of time students use the 1-to-1 device in classrooms
- surveying parents, students and teachers concerning the impact of 1-to-1 access on student learning.

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 Australian 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 and whilst being used by a BCE school.

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

What hardware will be offered?

The HP Touch Screen Laptop is a Windows based laptop that has the following features:

- 3yr onsite warranty
- a standard 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 its 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 that 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

How much does it cost?

Costs for the laptop that will appear on the school fees each term for the years 2016, 2017, 2018 as outlined below and **include insurance.**

Per School Week	Per Term	Total for each year (x3 years)
$11.55	$112.50	$450.00

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. The school needs to establish the insurance arrangements as the computer must remain the property of the school for a period of 3 years – parents do not obtain ownership of the device at the end of the 3 year period. At the end of the 3 year period, some laptops may be offered for sale by tender.

In the event of a total loss of the computer, replacement will be negotiated by the parents in conversation with 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.

Parent FAQs

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 today.

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.

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 from home may not be brought to school and are not suitable for this program.

Will textbooks still need to be purchased?

Yes. Many books are not yet on CD. 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 licenses. 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 e xcept when directed by a teacher. The national Copyright Advisory Group (CAG) has   developed the Smart copying Website:
http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/sc.w/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 licenses and make arrangements for the installation of the software for student use. Permanent changes such as engraving, marking, painting or drawing will not be permitted as the device remains the property of 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. The school will have one extra charger available to manage the charging of a battery during the day on the rare occasion this is needed.

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

Although the computers selected 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 limited bank of spare laptops that will be swapped in and out of service when a computer requires a repair or if a student forgets to bring it from home. This means that a student will have access to a computer at all times, unless there are multiple faults currently being processed.

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 willful damage, an excess fee of $150 will be payable to the school.

Please note: Repeat incidents of damage will attract an escalating excess at the discretion of the Principal.

When the device is damaged off site (student's home) an excess of $150 will be payable to the school for claims made under the Accidental Damage Program.

Please note: Repeat incidents of damage will attract an escalating excess at the discretion of the Principal.

The devices will be insured by the school for loss or theft. Loss or theft of a laptop is to be notified immediately to the school administration and not later than 24 hours after the event. A Queensland Police Reference Number should accompany this. An excess fee up to $500 will be payable to the school depending on circumstances and will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Home use of devices

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 class blogs, wikis and potential online conferences
- using email if available.
- 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.

Other FAQ's

What happens when a student leaves the school?

The laptop will be returned to the school collection for distribution to a new student at no further cost to the exiting family.

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"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