



King's Baptist Grammar School

King's Laptop Program

FAQ's for Parents & Students

Overview

Why laptops?

Over the past years, King's looked at how access to digital resources for students could be improved. In our ICT Strategic Planning, our long term vision is to **provide "access anytime, anywhere" computing**. In the past we used a mix of IT focused rooms and laptops in trolleys. There were limitations in this approach – for example, the time required to move trolleys between rooms, remove laptops, start them up, log in and put them back again at lesson's end. We revisited our strategy and believed placing laptops in student hands was a superior option.

From a learning perspective, time is saved and lessons can be planned, knowing that access to hardware and software will be the same for each student, and lessons won't be held up due to troubleshooting issues. The student also is able to take the laptop home knowing that all applications and data are available when off campus.

Which year levels use laptops?

In Middle School, Year 6 students are allocated a laptop on campus. They are taught basic computer management skills and responsibility. They receive their own laptop upon starting Year 7. This laptop is theirs to take home.

In Senior School students in Year 10 receive a new laptop. Distribution occurs at the end of year prior in Term 4 - that is, while they are still in Year 9. It is intended for this laptop to last 3 years until graduation.

Contribution Scheme

Middle School - How much will it cost?

The parent contribution for participating in the program is spread over a period of 3 years. The cost is \$300 per year, broken down into 4 payments, one for each term. For students who join King's during the 3 years, a pro rata schedule is applied.

Senior School - How much will it cost?

The parent contribution for participating in the program is spread over a period of 3 years. The cost is \$400 per year, broken down into 4 payments, one for each term. For students who join King's during the 3 years, a pro rata schedule is applied.

What does that cost cover?

The cost covers the laptop itself, bag, software applications installed, insurance and technical support.



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Is it compulsory?

Yes. A standard learning environment is very important to ensure the success of this program. All students should be learning on the same device, for reasons of equity and uniformity.

Who owns the laptop?

King's will formally own the laptop until final payments are made. In practice however, the student will treat it as theirs, and will be allowed to use it as such, as outlined in school policies.

I can buy a laptop at Harvey Norman for \$500!

In the same way that a \$5,000 car will not perform the same as one for \$50,000, computers come with different specifications. Computers at the low end of the price range are not suitable for students engaging in high demand applications. King's can obtain substantial discounts on bulk purchases; better than can be obtained through retail channels. King's also provides the software, bag, insurance and support in addition to hardware costs. These extras would cost several hundred dollars on top of the laptop purchased from a retail outlet. King's cannot provide support to devices not obtained and authorised by the IT department.



Can my child bring their own laptop to school instead?

No. To provide a consistent environment for both students and teachers, the same device is necessary. This reduces confusion with differing devices, streamlines ongoing maintenance, support and service costs.

What other costs will parents incur?

There are no additional costs, other than optional items that the student/parents may choose to purchase. While a wireless mouse is recommended, the student may have preference for using the built in touchpad. An external hard drive is recommended as a computer backup strategy.

Why can't my son/daughter use the same laptop in Senior School?

At the end of Middle School, the laptop will be 3 years old. This is considered the standard lifetime of a business grade device; thus warranty time periods are seldom extended past this. It does not mean, however, that the laptop won't last for years to come.

I noticed that the fees are different for Middle and Senior schools - why?

Senior School students will use their laptop more often, and curriculum needs are higher. Thus, a larger laptop with higher performance specifications is more suitable.



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Usage

Will the laptops be used in every lesson?

This is dependent on the curriculum goals, and is at the discretion of the teacher in the individual classroom.

What about security?

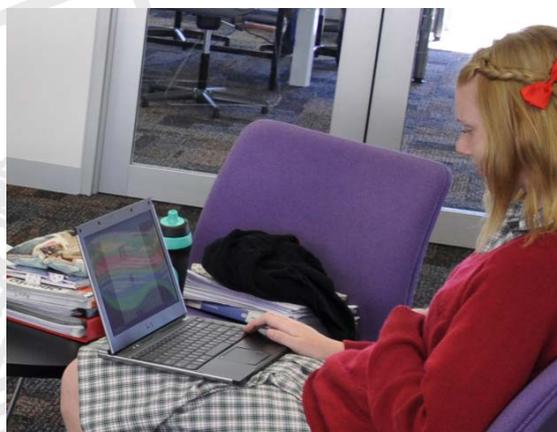
Students are expected to take full responsibility for securing their laptop in the same way they secure other school and personal items.

Do students need to take the laptop home every night?

Yes. The laptop is expected to be used at home for study. Laptops should not be kept in lockers at school overnight. They are expected to be charged nightly so that they have full battery capacity for the following school day.

Can my child install software on his/her laptop?

Middle School devices will come with the software required for use at school. No other software is to be installed. Senior School students have the opportunity for local administrative rights, based on completion of an online assessment that will indicate their proficiency and of laptop management. Those students that pass the assessment may install additional software. All installed software must be legal and ethical. The school expects that content will be school related, and not compromise any school values, ethics and/or acceptable use policies.



What if I don't want my child to install anything?

If a parent does not want their child installing applications, this can be arranged with the IT department.

Will we need internet access at home?

Internet access will be assumed. Curriculum delivery frequently depends on access to online resources. If this is an issue, please advise the appropriate teaching staff.

Can my child customise his/her laptop?

Yes, the laptop is a personal device. Customisation within the boundaries of the school ethics and policies is allowable.



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May my other children use the laptop?

As the laptop will be a personal device, no one other than the student should be using it. Of course, parents and King's Personnel may need access to the laptop at times for support, maintenance or duty of care.

Can my child charge their laptop at school?

In the same way that a student is expected to bring their journal, textbooks and other material to school on a daily basis, it is expected that the laptop will have 100% charge. It is not feasible for King's to provide power points or charging stations.

Support

Will IT Support be available at the school?

Yes. Support is available during regular school hours (8am-4pm).

Is IT Support available during school holidays?

The IT Help Desk operates on all school days. During holidays, such as between school terms, limited support will be available, and spare laptops may be borrowed via reception. During the Christmas break the school is officially closed, and support is available when school resumes.

Will the school take care of backups on the laptop?

The school will provide instructions on maintaining data and backing it up but responsibility for this task remains entirely with the student. If students follow instructions given by keeping their school related documentation in their *Work Folders*, then the school has a backup copy for restoration. Personal data in *Work Folders* is not supported.

What are Work Folders?

Work Folders is a reasonably new technology from Microsoft, enabling data to be available on a corporate network (e.g. King's) at all times.

This means data placed within these folders is available anywhere the student works (e.g. whether on school grounds or while in Japan on an exchange excursion) – "Access Anytime, Anywhere". Students are encouraged to keep their school work in this location.

What if the laptop is faulty?

As warranty claims may take a day or two King's will have loan ('hot spare') laptops available for these contingencies. The laptop will be repaired and returned to the student.





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Is the laptop covered by warranty and insurance?

Yes. The laptop will have warranty support and Accidental Damage protection coverage for each device. This coverage will be for 3 years, or when the student ends their enrolment. Parents will be expected to pay any excess, as with any other insurance policy. Insurance does not cover theft or loss, so you may want to check your home and contents policy for inclusions.

Will King's provide internet filtering?

While at the school, web filtering and policies are in place. At home it depends on the environment. If filtering at home is a major concern, the IT department may be able to assist in suggesting solutions.

What software is provided?

The laptop will have Windows 10 installed on it with Microsoft Office 2016. Office 365 is also available to all students, with or without a laptop.

Policies & Procedures

What if the laptop is not charged or has been forgotten at home?

It is the student's responsibility to maintain the laptop, and bring it to school in a fully charged state. There are limited charging stations available on campus, for emergency charging.

What will occur if the laptop is misused?

All standard policies and procedures apply. If a student wilfully damages a laptop, the parent may be invoiced for repairs or replacement.

What happens to the laptop after graduation?

As this is not a rent/lease arrangement, the student will own the laptop after 3 years.

What if my child leaves King's prior to graduation?

A student has the option to buy the laptop outright at a reduced amount, depending on the pro rata rate.

Benefits

What benefits are there for the laptop program?

There are cost savings for parents that were considering purchasing a laptop for their son or daughter. As King's costs are less than retail, we can pass these savings on. As an example, the full version of Microsoft Office 2016 costs about \$400 RRP.

IT Support matters...

Having readily available technical support is crucial to the ongoing success of this program. For example, many BYOD strategies leave the end user without ANY critical IT support. A retail outlet will cover a basic warranty (usually only a year), but will provide no ongoing technical support.

