**Personal Devices – Parent Payments and Access**

**Frequently Asked Questions for Parents**

My child's school has a program where parents pay for laptop computers or tablets. Do I have to purchase/lease the device specified by the school?

No. It is the parents’ choice whether they purchase/lease these items or not. If a parent declines to participate in a 1-to-1 program then the school should provide access to a device with the required capabilities for your child to complete planned learning tasks.

My child already has a laptop computer/tablet. Can he/she use this at school instead of purchasing the one(s) the school is specifying?

Yes. If you have a device at home that is similar and suitable. However, you should be aware that it will not always be practical or possible to connect a device that is not the one specified by the school. These devices need to meet the minimum technical specifications set out by the school to ensure that they can be effectively used for learning. While the school should provide some technical assistance to allow the device to be connected to the EduSTAR wireless network, the amount of technical support that can be provided by the school is limited.

In addition, if the specified devices are imaged by the school, it may not be possible to install required software for licencing or software reasons and you may need to organise your own purchase of the software.

If I choose not to purchase or provide the laptop computer specified by the school for my child, will they miss out at school?

Where parents/families decline to participate in a 1-to-1 program, schools should provide students with access to a device with the required capabilities needed to complete planned learning tasks.

I would like to purchase/lease the laptop computer/tablet offered by the school but it is too expensive. What can I do?

All schools offering programs where parents pay for the costs of their child’s device must ensure they have support options available for parents who may have financial difficulties or fall into the hardship category. These options should include supporting parents with reasonable and affordable payment plans or access to loan arranged school purchased devices. If you are experiencing difficulties in providing or paying for the specified school device, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the principal or the school’s nominated parent payments contact person to discuss support and assistance options. All information you provide will be treated with the strictest confidence.

I don’t agree with students having their own computing devices for school.

The discerning use of digital technologies in the classroom can maximise learning opportunities. Students learn how to engage with the world around them, connect, collaborate, access information and acquire digital skills to participate in life and work. Personal devices are important learning tools. Research shows that there are many benefits to your child having a personal device. A sense of ownership creates a greater connection to using the device for learning, and students can learn anywhere and at any time in a way that suits their needs. Talk to your school principal about the educational value of the program.

If my child does not participate in a 1-to-1 program will they miss out on important opportunities to complete tasks at home?

Where parents/families decline to participate in a 1-to-1 program on grounds other than financial hardship, schools should provide students access to a device with the required capabilities to complete planned learning tasks.

How do schools adhere to the safe and responsible use of technology?

All schools are required to follow and educate students about the safe and responsible use of technology.

Are BYO devices covered by the school insurance policy?

No. The Department does not carry accidental property damage insurance so families are encouraged to provide insurance coverage. Please contact your school principal for clarification.