

# Parent/Guardian FAQs (3)

## 1-to-1 Programme

### March 2021



**DEAN CLOSE**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL  
CHELTENHAM

**This information is intended to give parents further details about our 1-to-1 Scheme to enhance digital learning at DCPS**

To help with our planning, please could parents of pupils in current Years 5, 6 and 7 complete this [quick form](#) about the 1-to-1 device for their child.

#### **1. What is the exact purpose of pupils having their own chromebook in the school?**

The devices will be used in a variety of ways and will open up new learning opportunities. They will be used for research, revision and knowledge-based games and quizzes, assessment tasks, creative tasks. They will help our children to develop a range of digital skills alongside and intertwined with their very important more traditional skills.

#### **2. The 1-to-1 information sheet talks about Google Classroom, will the pupils be doing online lessons when they return?**

Pupils will not be doing on-line lessons when they return. However, these devices will be used to supplement pupils' learning. There may be some digital tasks delivered through Google Classroom so that they are organised in a way that pupils are used to.

#### **3. Is a touch screen required?**

Not necessarily. It will not be essential but may help some pupils with certain tasks.

#### **4. Are Chromebooks really up to the task?**

This specification was selected as being suitable to requirements for this age group. Our Dean Close sister Prep School at St John's have used these devices for some time and from their experience they are an ideal classroom tool. Indeed many users of these devices in similar Prep Schools view Chromebooks as superior in terms of performance, reliability, cost and security when compared to iPads or Windows devices. However, it is true that Chromebooks have limitations. They are unable to install software in the same way that a Windows PC or Apple Mac allows but instead pupils will have access to the 365 Suite as well as the Google suite of Office applications since much of the work that will be completed using these devices will be cloud-based. Installing additional software, such as that found on Windows devices, often comes at a cost whereas these services do not on a cloud based Chromebook. Further, the processor and RAM in the Chromebooks recommended are not as high-spec as you might find in other laptops. However, we believe them to be more than adequate at this stage of learning and make it a tool suitable for pupil use in this age-group. As regards robustness, not all

Chromebooks are the same and the ones recommended by the school have been recommended as particularly robust - military standard even - we are told.

## **5. Why are we finding cheaper quotes elsewhere on the market in comparison to the recommended portal?**

We are assured that the price of these devices through the portal are competitive once the 'add-ons' have been included such as the 3 year warranty, licence and case. Should you not find this to be the case, then other suppliers may be sourced for the same device but it is crucial that it can handle the Google licence since this allows the school to oversee its management and security.

## **6. Is this spec compatible with DCS requirements since they appear to be at the low end of the spec for senior school?**

DCS operates a BYOD programme in common with the 1-to-1 programme being launched at DCPS. However, due to the wider range of software requirements, they allow a greater freedom for pupils to be able to bring a variety of portable devices to schools. Whilst the devices recommended for one-to-one use at DCPS will be compliant with DCS specifications, parents may wish to up-grade their child's device during their time at the senior school. However, in DCS there are currently a number of students using Chromebooks and they have access to the apps required for their learning. At DCPS we are looking at a 3 year cycle for the use of these devices in school.

## **7. Can other devices be used instead of the required specification?**

As this is not a BYOD (bring your own device scheme) for reasons of appropriate management and security at this age group, the following is the minimum specification required by the Prep School for their 1-to-1 scheme.

- A Chromebook device
- A screen size of 14"
- CPU: AMD A4-9120 / Intel n4000 or better
- Storage: 32GB or greater
- Memory: 4GB or greater
- Software: MUST specifically support the Google Device Management Licence

Other devices not meeting these requirements will not be allowed in school.

## **8. For a child in Year 7 this is a large expense for only 4 terms. Is it compulsory for Year 7 to have these devices for such a short time?**

We are aware that for a pupil currently in Year 7, there is the expectation that they will only be required to have their Chromebook for use at DCPS for a short period of time (4 terms). Whilst we would love to be able to provide Chromebooks to pupils in this year to ensure they are tidied over, we are unable to do so and therefore request that pupils have their own. Understandably, some parents will be uncomfortable with this increased expense and they are recommended to contact the school to explore other possible options.

## 9. I have purchased a device through an alternative retailer. What next?

[Click here](#) for the next steps

## 10. Are the devices able to be used for personal activities too whilst being managed by the school?

Web-based activities can be accessed as long as they are age-appropriate. However, in some cases the school's filtering service will not always allow certain apps to be accessed through school WiFi. Further, due to the licence, downloading apps may not always be allowed using a school Google Account.

## 11. How will these devices be stored safely?

During their time in school, pupils' devices will be each child's responsibility to be looked after and stored safely. Space will be provided in day and boarding houses as well as in some classrooms. A new school bag to replace the traditional rucksack is also being designed which will ensure that the device is protected as it is transported around school.

## 12. What will pupils use if their device is lost or damaged?

Should a child not have access to a device at school, a school owned device may be made available for their use (dependent on availability) until their device is repaired or retrieved.

## 13. Whilst Chromebooks can run Microsoft teams, this is only via a browser, is that an issue?

MS Teams for use at DCS can be accessed through a Chromebook. There are two options:

Option 1: Install the app

1. Open the Google Play app on your Chromebook
2. Search for Microsoft Teams
3. Install

Option 2: Use the web app

1. Open the browser on your Chromebook
2. Navigate to [teams.microsoft.com](https://teams.microsoft.com)
3. Log in with the Microsoft account you wish to use with Teams