



DEAN CLOSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
CHELTENHAM

Yr 7 Parent/Guardian FAQs (4)

1-to-1 Programme

March 2021

This information is intended to give parents, particularly those with children in current Year 7 further clarification regarding our 1-to-1 Scheme

The school is aware that the request for parents of children in Year 7 to purchase a specific device for their child's remaining time at the Prep School is seen by some families as an unwelcome and unaffordable extra cost. We are also aware that some time ago, in preparation for a further period of remote learning, some parents understandably purchased a device for use by their child and they now find that these devices are not acceptable at the Prep School in our 1-to-1 scheme.

We apologise if we have not been clear in our previous communications regarding the specification required at the Prep School and the reasons for this. Hopefully this FAQs (4) document helps to answer some of your further queries.

For those who have not yet completed this form, to help with our planning, please could they fill out this [quick form](#) about the 1-to-1 device chosen for your child.

Why is the school sure that the Google platform and licence is the best option for pupils' education at this age?

The Google platform, including Google classroom, is the option chosen by the Prep School before the pandemic. However, having been tried and tested during remote learning, and through the advice from other similar schools using this product, we find it to be the most suitable for our age of pupils. We believe that it provides the functionality, learning opportunities and appropriate security options for children of this age.

Why are there different systems at DCPS and DCS?

This specific device and platform was selected with the knowledge and understanding of the DCS IT team. Whilst at DCS pupils will use a Microsoft environment, our pupils' exposure to our Google platform will be a further benefit to them and allow them to be nimble in using both platforms.

What devices will be allowed at DCPS and how is this different from what is allowed at DCS?

Only the specified device will be allowed at DCPS. These Chromebooks are able to be used when a pupil moves to DCS at the end of Year 8. However, DCS operates a slightly different style of BYOD programme and, 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, at a later stage, wish to up-grade their child's device during their time at the senior school. Unfortunately, laptops, iPads or MacBooks are not acceptable at DCPS since

we are not allowing this BYOD option as we do not feel that it is appropriate for our age of pupils. Instead we expect all pupils to have the same specific device which is able to handle the required Google licence. This allows the school to manage these devices in a secure manner.

Are there any limitations to Chromebooks and their use at DCS?

Indeed, there are some limitations to Chromebooks, since they are unable to install software in the same way that a Windows PC or Apple Mac allows. Instead they allow access to the 365 Suite, as well as the Google suite of Office applications, online since much of the pupils' work 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 often 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.

What if I have bought a device for remote learning already which is not suitable for the DCPS 1-to-1 scheme?

As mentioned previously, we are aware that some parents understandably purchased a device for use by their child over lockdown and, frustratingly, they now find that these devices are not acceptable at the Prep School in our 1-to-1 scheme. Should that be the case and parents are unable to purchase a Chromebook for their child whilst at school, we do have a limited pool of school devices which may be made available on a case-by-case basis.

How do I purchase a device for my child which is suitable for the 1-to-1 scheme?

Parents have a choice of finding their own supplier for the appropriate Chromebook specification, or using the school recommended purchasing portal. This portal is now staying open until Friday, 19th March and can be accessed through this link: <https://deancloseprep.edutechstore.zone/>

What if I have purchased a device through an alternative retailer - what next?

[Click here](#) for the next steps.

Is the school able to recommend methods in which these devices can be recycled or re-sold following their child's use of them at DCPS?

As part of the school's environmental awareness, we are looking into recommendations for sustainably exchanging or disposing of these devices once no longer needed. Any additional advice from parents would be gratefully received.