



## 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 MacBooks to do research, homework, problem-solve, team projects, email and curriculum 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 MacBooks 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 MacBook 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 MacBooks. Students will use 1-to-1 MacBooks 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.

### How can 1-to-1 MacBooks 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 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 developing work and research with peers and teachers, is the environment students will live and work in.

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 MacBooks 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 MacBooks 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 MacBooks 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 MacBook 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 MacBook to facilitate anytime, anywhere learning. 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 MacBooks outside of the school network.

Education and support are important for maintaining acceptable use of MacBooks, 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

## 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 MacBooks during the school day instead of going outside for recess?

The MacBooks 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 our school's Acceptable Use Agreement.

## How will parents continue to be informed about integration of 1-to-1 MacBooks into the curriculum?

A school's newsletters and websites will provide updates to the whole school community about the use of the MacBooks by students and teachers in and out of the classroom. Ongoing parent information evenings will assist parents with the use of the MacBook at home.

## Student safety and online privacy

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.

## Will children be safe carrying 1-to-1 MacBooks?

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 MacBooks out in public, and to carry them in the protective cover which should be placed within their school bags.



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

The MacBook has been deliberately chosen for a number of reasons, including its weight specifications. The MacBook 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 MacBook 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 student files on the MacBook be private?

Students can expect their MacBook 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 resident on the laptop as well as stored on the Schools server. Students and parents need to be aware that files stored locally or on server sites are not private. Under privacy considerations, students and parents must be fully aware of this condition.

## Software and hardware

### What software will be on the MacBooks?

With the help of classroom teachers, BCE and ICLT consultants the MacBook image has been developed to aid students in meeting requirements of the Queensland 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 MacBook; 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 MacBooks from St Vincent's.

### What hardware will be offered?

- 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 their 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. The MacBooks will be repaired through the Apple store at Robina. The school will make arrangements for this.

## 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

### Levy

An ICLT levy will cover part of the cost of the MacBook.

## 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, hence the need to take out a separate insurance policy. The school needs to establish the insurance arrangements as the computer must remain the property of the school for a period of 3 years. A standard excess of \$ 150 applies that will be charged to individual families.



## Can students bring their own MacBooks from home instead?

No. Home MacBooks are not configured to the school network, can be a source of viruses and are often not enabled with the licensed software. Home MacBooks may not be licensed to use the school image and maintenance issues may not be resolved in an appropriate time frame.

## Is the MacBook password-protected?

Yes. A password-protected MacBook 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 licences. 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 except when directed by a teacher. The national Copyright Advisory Group (CAG) has developed the Smart copying Website <http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/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 licences and make arrangements for the installation the software for student use. Permanent changes such as engraving, marking, painting or drawing will not be permitted as the MacBooks may be used by more than one family during its lifetime at the school. However students will be able to personalise the software interface and background.

## Where do the MacBooks go when not in use?

When not in use, the MacBooks should be in a student's locked classroom. An unattended MacBook around buildings

or school grounds will be picked up immediately by a staff member and treated as a lost item.

## What about flat batteries? Will students 'plug in' in the classrooms?

Students are expected to charge the MacBook overnight and to bring it fully charged to school each day. There will be no provision for charging at school.

## 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 bank of spare laptops that will be swapped in and out of service when a computer requires a repair.

## Are the computers covered by insurance for damage, loss or theft?

These things will happen. Insurance will cover the laptop from all non-warrantable damage, loss or theft at school, home or in transit. Any replacement of a laptop will be on a like for like basis. A standard excess of \$ 150 applies for families.

## Home use of MacBooks

### 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 MacBook 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
- negotiate use on long trips, and
- examine the documents and other contents of the MacBook.



## How can students access the internet from home?

Home Internet connection is not supplied by the school or BCE. There is no mandated expectation that Internet access is available at home. If there is an existing Internet provision at home, the MacBook will be configured for access.

## How can MacBooks 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 student live@edu email
- 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 Apple applications or open source software provided
- using any subject-specific software
- working with audio, picture or video files on the MacBooks.

## Other FAQ's

### What happens when a student leaves the school?

Like a library book, the student will be asked to return the MacBook and the school will add this laptop into the pool of spares.

### What happens when the laptops are over 3 years old?

The MacBook is returned to Apple

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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*

