



## McKinnon Secondary College's Chromebook Program

### Frequently Asked Questions

[What is a Chromebook & why does my child need one?](#)

[Will my child use their Chromebook in every class?](#)

[What if my child's Chromebook is lost or damaged?](#)

[Do we need to purchase any software for the Chromebook?](#)

[Where should my child store their Chromebook?](#)

[Should my child take their Chromebook home each day?](#)

[Do students have unrestricted access to the internet?](#)

[Can I use an existing notebook/tablet, or purchase a different device for my child?](#)

[When will we order the device?](#)

[Is the device insured by the school?](#)

[Can I purchase the Chromebook from another supplier?](#)

[What if I can't afford a Chromebook? Is there support for families in financial difficulty?](#)

[Where can I get some advice about safe and responsible use of social media?](#)

#### ***What is a Chromebook & why does my child need one?***

A Chromebook is a portable personal computer that uses Google Chrome as its operating system (rather than additional software). The device provides students with quick access to online resources for their subjects, in particular the G-Suite (such as Google Sites, Docs, Drive, Classroom, etc.), which is embedded in McKinnon's teaching and learning program. Chromebooks are unique in their ability to utilise various Android Apps and are to be used for educational use only.

#### ***Will my child use their Chromebook in every class?***

No. The use of Chromebooks will be integrated within a wide range of teaching and learning activities - McKinnon's teachers will determine when students should use their Chromebook. Students must, however, bring their Chromebook to every class (unless explicitly instructed otherwise), as our curriculum is specifically tailored around the Chromebook's capabilities and integration into the school network and services.

#### ***What if my child's Chromebook is lost or damaged?***

The Chromebook purchased by each student is covered by an extended manufacturer's



warranty. Any defects or damage that occurs in the normal use of the device will be covered by this warranty. To organise a repair, simply bring the device to the IT Office during school hours. Whilst devices are being repaired, a loan Chromebook will be made available to the student (depending upon the availability of such devices at the time).

Students need to ensure they look after their Chromebook at all times, including in the classroom, as well as carrying them to and from class. Our package includes ASUS's 'Repair Service' (which comprises an extended warranty and accidental damage cover) - this is a great feature and ensures we can facilitate repairs. Please note that loss/theft of the device is not covered by the repair service.

### ***Do we need to purchase any software for the Chromebook?***

No. A Chromebook uses the Google Chrome operating system, and free applications can be added (as required) by students and staff from the Google Chrome Web Store.

### ***Where should my child store their Chromebook?***

When not in use, students must store their Chromebook in their locker (which needs to be secured with a school-provided combination lock). The College also recommends purchasing a case/bag to provide additional protection.

### ***Should my child take their Chromebook home each day?***

Yes. The Chromebook will assist students to complete homework and revision tasks. It is also expected that students will recharge their Chromebook overnight, ready for a full day's use at school. We ask all parents to ensure Chromebooks are used responsibly at home.

### ***Do students have unrestricted access to the internet?***

While at school, McKinnon's internet connection is filtered to limit students' ability to access inappropriate content, including social media platforms. Safe and responsible internet use is explicitly taught at McKinnon, and consequences are imposed for those who seek out inappropriate material online. When connecting at home, the Chromebook's internet access will be in line with your home internet connection. If you are concerned about what your child can access on your home internet connection, there are many options available for routers with parental controls. Alternatively your Internet Service Provider (ISP) may already offer parental controls for your service.

### ***Can I use an existing notebook/tablet, or purchase a different device for my child?***

All students are required to use a Chromebook purchased from our chosen supplier. The success of our Chromebook program relies on the use of the same platform. We have undertaken extensive research and chosen a device that is reliable, has proven long battery



life, high level processing power and is good value for money. Moreover, the College's teaching and learning program has been designed specifically with the Chromebook's functionality in mind and both the leadership team and teaching staff believe it plays a vital role in delivering an effective and engaging curriculum.

Our Chromebooks come preconfigured to connect to the College's wireless network, printing system and school domain, thus providing access to specific apps and updates. The devices also come with an extended-three year warranty which allows us to manage all repairs and IT support - this is a great feature of our Chromebook program and saves families lots of time. With over 3000 students it is not practical for the College to manually configure and support children bringing a different device.

Having a standard device across the school helps build confidence for both students and teachers, while we have also found Chromebooks to be very fast for students to use in the classroom, particularly in comparison to Macbooks and Windows laptops. This maximises effective learning time at school, thus minimising downtime.

### ***When will we order the device?***

The device is ordered through an online portal provided by our chosen supplier. As a general rule, students purchase a new device in Year 7 (Phase I), and then again in the lead up to Year 10 (Phase II). This ensures all students have a reliable and up-to-date Chromebook that is within its 3 year warranty. Parents of students in these year levels will be notified by email about purchasing/upgrading devices. The online portal, however, is open at various times throughout the year to accommodate students new to the school - if you need to purchase a new device, please contact our IT team on [help@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au](mailto:help@mckinnonsc.vic.edu.au)

### ***Is the device insured by the school?***

No. As the device is the property of the family who purchased it, it is not covered by the College's insurance policies. Our package's Repair Service includes an extended warranty and accidental damage cover, but not insurance for loss/theft.

### ***Can I purchase the Chromebook from another supplier?***

All students need to purchase their Chromebook through our chosen supplier. This ensures the device comes pre-configured to our school network, providing access to our wi-fi, printing, and specific apps and updates. This therefore suits the specific needs of the curriculum and the classroom at McKinnon. Moreover, all of our devices come with an extended 3 warranty, meaning our IT team can facilitate all repairs and tech support on your behalf. If another supplier is used, the device will not be connected to the school's network, we cannot coordinate any repairs, and the device will not have access to



McKinnon  
Secondary College

important updates and apps – in these instances, the student's learning opportunities may be adversely affected.

***What if I can't afford a Chromebook? Is there support for families in financial difficulty?***

Absolutely. We have made every effort to choose a device that is reliable and relatively low cost. We have also removed various items from each year level's booklist to offset the cost of owning a Chromebook. However, we are certainly able to support any families in need of financial assistance (in a range of different ways); please contact a member of the Principal team or the College's Business Manager to make such arrangements.

***Where can I get some advice about safe and responsible use of social media?***

McKinnon Secondary College is concerned about the risks associated with social media and the electronic communication devices that students use. We want all students to be safe and respectful members of the online community and ask parents to support our efforts in promoting responsible online behaviour; some tips for parents and links to useful sites are posted on our website.