

Laptop Computer Use

Purpose of policy

This policy outlines the expectations and provisions for laptop use across Stage 4, Stage 5, and Stage 6.

Preamble

Our school is committed to fostering digital literacy among all students as an integral part of teaching and learning. There are a number of challenges and considerations around laptop computer use in schools including, equity and access for all students, potential distraction and off-task behaviours, consistency of teacher preparedness and mixed impact on academic performance.

Key Australian findings around laptop computer use in schools include;

1. Laptop computers are effective when integrated into quality teaching. Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER, 2019) and NSW Department of Education (2020)
2. Uneven impact on academic achievement - laptop access alone does not consistently improve test scores. OECD 2021, Education Policy Outlook – Australia
3. Equity and distraction are persistent issues. Studies such as Howard et al. (2021, University of Sydney)

Laptop computers are recognised as valuable tools that can enhance educational outcomes when used effectively. The school prioritises equity of access to technology for all students, ensuring that each student has the opportunity to engage with digital resources regardless of their personal circumstances. It is encouraged that students have internet access at home to support homework and online learning activities.

Stage 4 (Years 7 and 8)

- The school provides laptops for all Year 7 and 8 students when required during school hours. Personal laptops should remain at home for homework and revision.
- These laptops are part of a school-owned fleet, maintained and stored at school to ensure quality and accessibility.
- Parents of Year 7 and 8 students are invited to contribute through a voluntary \$100 annual school fee to cover the costs associated with purchasing, maintenance, and management of the school laptop fleet.
- The use of laptops at this stage is managed by teaching staff, ensuring equitable access and assistance when students engage in digital learning activities.

Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10)

- Students in Years 9 and 10 are permitted to bring and use personal laptops at school but it is not mandated.
- All teaching and learning activities are designed to be accessible without the need for a personal laptop.
- Digital learning tools, including Google Classroom and other online platforms, continue to be part of the curriculum, but are most often accessed by students for homework tasks, emphasising the importance of internet access at home.

Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12)

- Students in Years 11 and 12 are encouraged to bring a personal laptop to school to support their advanced study and independent learning needs.
- At this stage, laptops can be an integral part of managing coursework, research, and assessment preparation.
- Teachers will regularly use online platforms to distribute homework, resources, and communication, reinforcing the importance of reliable internet access at home.

General Provisions Applicable to All Stages

Teachers frequently set homework and learning tasks via Google Classroom and other online platforms; therefore, students need access to the internet at home to complete these activities effectively.

For homework, mobile phones can be used to access the online platforms listed above, however a laptop or desktop computer is preferred.

All classrooms are equipped with digital projectors connected to the internet for teacher use in presentation.

NBSC Cromer Campus has a number of classrooms and a school library that are equipped with desktop computers for student use while at school and during homework club hours.

Regardless of technology use, all students are required to maintain an exercise book for each subject to support note-taking, organisation and learning.

This Laptop Computer Use Policy should be read in conjunction with the school's Book and Equipment Policy, which outlines expectations for physical learning resources.

Communication

The school will communicate this policy to parents, students, and staff at the beginning of each school year and reinforce key points throughout the year.

Review and Responsibility

The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the school leadership team, with support from teaching staff and IT support services.

The policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it aligns with technological advancements, educational priorities, and student needs.

DATE	VERSION LOG	REVIEW DATE
Nov 4, 2025	Draft policy release - for Executive review	Nov 25, 2025
Dec 4, 2025	Approved policy release - approved by Justin Hong	Dec 4, 2026