

LEARNING WITH A CHROMEBOOK - FAQ

What are the benefits to students?

- Work can be completed independently and at their own pace
- Unlimited access to teaching and learning resources
- Collaborate with other students electronically
- Communicate with their teachers and get support when they need it most
- Work from anywhere not just in the computer labs
- Store work online where it can be backed up automatically
- Develop a proficiency in IT
- Take work home in a digital format
- Stay organised with the online calendar for deadlines and events

How will the school ensure students get the most from the Chromebooks?

The Priory School's teaching staff are committed to developing opportunities to engage with new technologies so that devices support learning. Our staff engage in a programme of continued professional development and training in order to embed opportunities for learning with Chromebooks and to develop their use of the Google Workspace for Education apps.

Can my child use a sibling's Chromebook instead of buying one new?

Unfortunately, any older devices unenrolled from the school system would pose a security and safeguarding risk. Also, with the age of these older devices, the battery and processing speeds would not be sufficient for a new starter and 5 further years of schooling ahead of them. The newer machines have a different specification which will be important for future use.

My child already has a device at home, can they bring this into school?

Can I buy my own device instead of buying into the school scheme?

The answer to both of these questions is the same; we require all devices to be purchased through the school. There are several issues with students using other devices in school en masse. From a technical point of view, the batteries on some devices will not last the full school day, some devices are prone to computer viruses and to support a range of different devices is unrealistic for our IT team and teachers. For management and safety purposes, only Chromebooks purchased through our Chromebook scheme will be allowed on the school network.

How will the device be used in the classroom?

The Chromebook is a learning tool to support and enhance learning and promote creativity. Activities will range from accessing Google documents, completing online quizzes, to recording visual elements of learning, for example role play or

experiments. We seek to equip all our students with the necessary skills and modes of thinking so that they will succeed in a constantly changing society.

Will the device be used every lesson?

The key principle of our Chromebook scheme is our Blended Learning approach, meaning that devices will be used where appropriate to enhance learning, but not used in every lesson.

Will students still use pen and paper?

As they progress through the school, students will still be expected to write in lessons and we will continue to promote the development of 'writing stamina' to support internal and external exams. Students will be writing notes on paper, practising their handwriting, and will be expected to bring black pens and their other stationery to school.

Will the device be used for homework?

Yes! Work will be set via Google Classroom for students to complete at home.

Will the Chromebooks be used in form time?

Yes! Form-time activities will include self-preparation for the day, checking notices on the bulletin, checking emails for direct messages and viewing their timetable of lessons and out of-school opportunities.

What about online safety?

The Internet and online technology provide new opportunities for young people's learning and growth, but they can also expose them to new types of risks. Online Safety forms a fundamental part of safeguarding and child protection measures. We have a whole-school approach to Online Safety as it is our joint responsibility to keep children and young people safe, and to teach them about Online Safety, in and outside of school.

At The Priory School we have invested in high-quality filtering and Online Safety tools to protect students from harmful content thereby providing them with freedom to learn without limits. The filtering system that is applied to all devices in school will also apply on student Chromebooks outside of school to help students stay safe while surfing at home. This is included in the Chromebook Purchase Scheme at no extra cost.

Via the **Securly Home** iOS or Android app, or the Securly Home website, outside of school hours you will be able to:

- View the Chromebook activity (what your child has been searching for/watching)
- Get immediate notifications of any flagged concerns (searches for something dangerous)
- Switch on or off some of the categories that are filtered (eg social networking, stream media)

- Create offline schedules where the Chromebook becomes locked (eg bedtimes)