

The New Zealand Curriculum

E-learning and pedagogy

Information and communication technology (ICT) has a major impact on the world in which young people live. Similarly, e-learning (that is, learning supported by or facilitated by ICT) has considerable potential to support the teaching approaches.

For instance, e-learning may:

- assist the making of *connections* by enabling students to enter and explore new learning environments, overcoming barriers of distance and time
- facilitate *shared learning* by enabling students to join or create communities of learners that extend well beyond the classroom
- assist in the creation of *supportive learning environments* by offering resources that take account of individual, cultural, or developmental differences
- enhance *opportunities to learn* by offering students virtual experiences and tools that save them time, allowing them to take their learning further.

Schools should explore not only how ICT can supplement traditional ways of teaching but also how it can open up new and different ways of learning.

The school learning environment is changing rapidly. We want to ensure the foundations of learning are well established for our students before they move on to Intermediate and Secondary schooling. In an increasingly digital orientated society one could say the ability to use digital tools effectively is becoming a key foundation area.

We believe the use of digital tools can open up so many opportunities for learning and improved outcomes for children. Classrooms will utilise these tools to enhance learning experiences. Ours is a balanced approach. Student exercise books, recording, writing, drawing will still be a key component of the learning environments at NCS.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who pays for the computer?

Computers will be purchased and owned by individual families. We are establishing a partnership with Noel Leeming in Napier who will be able to provide advice and support to families wishing to purchase Chromebooks /Ipads.

Does my child have to participate in BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)?

The BYOD strategy is open to all Year 5 and 6 students. Participation is optional.

Why would I buy a Device if the school has computers and devices for students to share?

This is a parental choice; an option that is offered to interested families. The program is a partnership with parents to provide greater access to technology for all students.

What happens if a family cannot afford to buy a computer for their child?

We currently have a set of Ipads and Chromebooks dedicated to the Year 5 and 6 classrooms. Students who come to school without a device will have access to a digital tool if the learning experience suits it.

How can computers be used to support student learning?

Computers in schools has been around for a while now. Its proven that digital tools.

- bring the outside world into the classroom enabling new ways to learn, connect and collaborate.
- Learning becomes more engaging, relevant and broader.
- Teachers have greater options on how to deliver Learning Intentions / Curriculum Objectives.
- It provides students more ways to express their individuality and creativity when showcasing learning.
- The use of digital tools can personalize learning at the appropriate level and pace.

Will my child be expected to use his/her computer both at school and at home ?

One of the benefits seen with BYOD is the ease children can do homework/ learning tasks, and research work. This means access to learning tools at home and school. We will guide and monitor computer use at school and parents will need to guide and monitor use at home. Please note that computers are tools for learning at school. They will complement and enhance the learning environment.

Will I need to have wireless access at home?

No. It would be helpful for you to have some form of Internet access (wired or wireless) in order for your child to make full use of the range of resources available on the World Wide Web, but it is not required for participation in the project.

Use of Digital Devices at School

What type of computer can my child bring to school?

Students can choose to bring a Chromebook. It has been recommended to us to initially keep the range of Devices small. Many schools are using Chromebooks successfully as BYOD options.

We have an Chromebook. Do we need to buy a new one?

No. Just make sure it is in good working condition and has wireless Internet capabilities.

I'm ready to purchase a computer for my child; what should I buy?

A Chromebook is suitable. Teachers prefer Chromebook and the ability to type.

If I invest in a new device, how long can I expect it to last?

The typical life expectancy of a portable computer is three to four years, depending on how well it is cared for by the user. We have considered the local Intermediates BYOD plans too which is identical to ours. So a family could invest in a Digital Device in Year 5 and get four good years out of it and reconsider before high school.

Charging Your Device Battery

Devices must be brought in a fully charged condition. Students need to charge their devices each evening. Students may wish to bring the charger in their bag each day for emergencies.

Transporting Devices.

Students should purchase a protective case (bag, backpack, or sleeve) with sufficient padding to protect the Device. Students should carry devices with two hands. They may store their computer in their desk or keep it with them in their backpack or book bag. The computer is at risk for damage or theft when not locked up or in their possession. Computers left unattended may be collected by any staff member.

Screensavers and Backgrounds

Screensavers and backgrounds must not be offensive or violate the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

Acceptable Use. Students are expected to abide by the AUP.

Using electronic means to communicate abusive or harassing messages is strictly prohibited and subject to school consequences. Passwords must be given to staff upon request.

Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes.

Devices Left in Unsupervised Areas

Under no circumstances should devices be left in unsupervised areas. Unsupervised areas include the school grounds, library, break areas, unlocked classrooms, cloak bays and bathrooms. Students must be diligent in securing their device to prevent theft.

Each student is responsible for his/her device.

What happens to the computer when students participate in after-school events?

The Device should be stored in the child's class or the office during practice. The office building will be accessible for retrieval following practice if this has been agreed.

Can students access inappropriate Websites during school?

We use Network 4 Learning, MOE who provide Web-filtering software to hundreds of NZ schools to prevent students from accessing inappropriate Websites. While NCS uses filters, these firewalls will not teach students how to use the internet safely and ethically; parents and teachers must help students learn how to do so. We will work closely with the staff to develop classroom management techniques that will ensure students' safe navigation of the Internet. In addition, digital citizenship will become a natural part of the curriculum.

Will the students be allowed to share their personal device with others?

We believe the students should only be permitted to use their own computer or computers owned by the school. This will prevent students from being held responsible for damage to another student's device.

What if my child's laptop is stolen or damaged?

NCS accepts no responsibility for personal property brought to school by students. Students who choose to bring a device to school have total responsibility for the device. Devices that are stolen or damaged are the responsibility of the student and their parents or guardians.

Care for Your Device.

Preparing your device for school use.

Students are responsible for their device at all times. Insuring your child's device is strongly recommended. Check with your insurance agent to see if your homeowner's or renter's policy covers personal electronic devices. Alternatively, you may be able to purchase additional insurance through the retailer. You are required to place an identifying name tag on your computer. Label the top of the computer and both parts of the power cord for school use

Repairs

Repairs are the responsibility of the student and parent. School personnel will not be involved in repairing student-owned devices.

Screen Care

The screen can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The screen is particularly sensitive to damage if excessive pressure is placed on it. Clean the screen with a soft, dry anti-static, or micro-fibre cloth. Please do not use any type of liquid or water on the device.

General Precautions

Food or drink should not be placed near your device while it is in use. Cords, cables, and removable storage devices should be inserted carefully into the device. Devices should never be shoved into a desk or wedged into a book bag as this may break the screen.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are Year 5 and 6 students mature enough to handle the responsibility of carrying an device?

It is our belief that all children will one day carry some kind of a computing device with them, to and from school. It is up to teachers and parents to show students how to care for these devices in responsible ways. An important part of our project will entail working with students to help them understand the importance of caring for their equipment.

Will I need to back-up the files on my child's computer?

Files can be saved on the computer's hard drive but be aware that if the computer crashes, all could be lost. We highly recommend the use of a data back-up system (i.e. portable hard drive, or online service).

Something is wrong with my child's computer. Who fixes it?

The upkeep of student-owned devices will be the responsibility of each student and their family.

Are there any expected or suggested accessories?

A protective cover, Device bag, or protective sleeve

Theft and hazard insurance (if available and affordable)

Extended warranty (if available and affordable)and Headset/ ear buds.

