



Personal Laptop Computers

We recommend that all pupils, both day and boarding, purchase a laptop/2-in-1 device to complete their schoolwork. By having their own personal device, pupils can work flexibly either on the School campus or at home.

We also recommend that a pupil's personal computer should be a Microsoft Windows-based computer, ideally running Windows 10, as this offers the highest level of compatibility with our School-based computers and a similar working environment.

This does not exclude Chromebook or Apple devices, but they will need to have the Teams, OneNote and Office combination of support installed, as these components form the core digital toolkit used by staff and pupils, building on the work in our recent distance learning.

This will allow for future possible social distancing with minimal disruption and will enable further digital literacy and teaching initiatives to take place.

Guidance on purchasing a laptop/2-in-1 device

The device should as a **minimum requirement**:

- be capable of running the MS Office suite of programs, including Teams. This includes a microphone and webcam, or it should have an external webcam available for use.
- have a keyboard or keyboard cover.
- have a minimum of 128-256gb of disk space.
- have a battery life capable of lasting a day in the classroom – charging lockers will be in Houses but charging in classrooms may not always be possible.

Optional but recommended: Touchscreen and pen capability

- We do not recommend any particular make, model or specification. For normal schoolwork and personal use, any new mid-level laptop with an Intel i3 processor, 4GB memory, 128GB or more storage and costing approximately £400 will be perfectly adequate. The laptops we purchase at School are a slightly higher specification with Intel i5 processors, 8Gb memory and 256Gb storage.
- Screen size is an important consideration when buying your device. Whilst small screens make the device more portable, they may be too small for everyday use when working on larger project work. A screen of 12.5 inches would be the lowest screen size suitable for regular schoolwork.
- Hard drive storage comes in two main types; spinning disk and solid state (SSD). SSD storage is considerably faster and is often offered in lower storage capacity than spinning disks at the same price point but it is more expensive.
- Wireless networks are available in almost all areas of the School; to access these, the computer must support 802.1X authentication.
- There is no need to purchase Microsoft Office as this is available to install on up to five personal devices, free of charge, via the Office 365 portal <https://portal.office.com> for current staff and pupils.
- Although language is not critical, it is beneficial if the computer operates in English.
- Personal computers should ideally be covered by a breakdown and accidental damage or loss warranty. You should check to see if this is valid in the UK if the computer is purchased overseas.
- Up-to-date antivirus is recommended such as Microsoft Security Essentials or Defender, which is free for personal use and included in the latest Microsoft Operating Systems.

Connecting to the School network

- The School allows the connection of personally owned devices to its wireless network. [Notes](#) on how to configure your computer/device to use the School network are available on the Oakham Start page. It is essential that your device supports 802.1X authentication: most do, but you are advised to check. Where connection problems are encountered, users can bring the device into the IT System office, located in the ICT Centre, to be checked and configured. Whilst staff will always try to help to fix software and configuration problems on personal devices, there is no facility available to repair failed or damaged hardware, or totally corrupted systems. Therefore, suitable warranty or insurance is strongly recommended.
- The pupils' start page, <https://start.oakham.rutland.sch.uk> provides links to our Application Server and other resources for working effectively from a personal device; it is also available outside of School for remote access to the network resources. Personal devices are subject to the Internet and email filtering policies and users are, at all times, subject to the Acceptable Use Policy.
- We can only support and provide network and internet access for computers that run Windows 10 or newer, and Apple Mac OS X (10.7 or above). With all operating systems and web browsers, it is essential that they are fully up to date with the latest service packs, security patches and updates.
- Mobile devices that support 3/4G mobile data can also access many School resources using their mobile data network, although you should check coverage provided by your operator for the Oakham area as some operators have limited data coverage.

If you have any further technical questions, please email the IT Systems team at servicedesk@oakham.rutland.sch.uk