



Laptop/tablet options for Children in Care & Care Leavers

V23 – July 2026

Wokingham Children in Care and Care Leavers are entitled to a laptop computer or tablet to use for homework, leisure, keeping in touch, etc. This leaflet provides information about the current list of devices and what Young People, and their carers can expect.

What Children in Care/Care Leavers are entitled to

- Wokingham Children in Care are entitled to a laptop computer or tablet to use for homework, leisure, keeping in touch, etc. Eligibility is typically from when the young person is in school Year 5 (age 9/10).
- Care Leavers that are actively engaging with some form of continuing education also have the same entitlement. Note that Care Leavers should have at least 1 year remaining in Education at the time of order.
- The devices are intended to last for 4 years and are provided with support for this period. A warranty is provided for 4 years where possible.

Responsibilities

- Wokingham Borough Council will fund the cost of devices and will update the list of available devices from time to time.
- Stone Computers will provide support for the device for 4 years from when it is supplied. Young people or their carers can contact the Stone support helpline. If issues aren't resolved by Stone, the Council will try to find a resolution.
- The Child in Care/Care Leaver is expected to look after the device and use it safely and responsibly.
- For Children in Care, the foster carer is expected to manage and monitor use of the device, to ensure safe and appropriate behaviour, as appropriate to the age of the young person, in the same way as any reasonable parent. As part of this, foster carers must ensure that young people in their care are using filtered internet connections.

Insurance

- Please note Wokingham Borough Council don't provide insurance cover for these devices. Foster Carers/Care Leavers may wish to consider making their own arrangements to insure the device, e.g. as part of the household contents policy.

What you need to do

1. Decide which device is best suited to your needs. In most cases you need to make sure it will be suitable for school or college work.
2. If you have any particular requirements that aren't mentioned on the list, please ask.
3. Once you have chosen, fill in the special order form and send it by email to the Virtual School.
4. Once the order has been approved, the Council will place an order with the supplier.
5. The supplier will try to deliver the device as soon as possible. Some devices take longer than others.
6. Once the device is ready, someone will let you know about the delivery/handover arrangements.

The current list of devices is shown below. Note that since models change, the actual device supplied may be different, but will usually be of a similar type and specification. Also note that due to market conditions, at certain times, particular device types may be unavailable or above the usual budget.

Option 1: Medium format 14"/15" Windows laptop

Suitable for general purpose use for leisure, internet browsing, homework, school/college work, etc.

- Medium format laptop, typically with 14" to 15" screen
- Operating System: Windows
- Provided with Microsoft Office and carry case
- Note that this Option 1 model has a higher specification than the Option 2 and 3 models (more powerful processor, more memory, etc) and a larger screen.



Most young people opt for the Option 1 laptop as it is often the most appropriate device to support schoolwork, online tuition etc. Our supplier aims to keep these laptops in stock, so they can often be provided fairly quickly. The other devices below will need to be ordered specially and will take longer to arrive.

Option 2: Touchscreen convertible Windows laptop/tablet

Suitable for general purpose use for leisure, internet browsing, homework, etc including as a tablet.

- Convertible touchscreen laptop/tablet PC with touchscreen display
- Use as a small laptop or tablet
- Screen Size: typically between 11" and 14" depending on availability at the time of order – if a particular screen size is important, please mention at the time of order
- Operating System: Windows
- Provided with Microsoft Office and case



Option 3: Apple iPad

Suitable for general purpose use for leisure, internet browsing, etc where significant document creation is not required. Note that if young people will need to access online tuition, they should request a Windows laptop and not an Apple iPad.

- Apple iPad, e.g. iPad Wi-Fi or similar model
- Screen Size: 9" to 11" (depending on current model)
- Operating System Apple IOS
- Provided with Bluetooth keyboard



Option 4: Specific device

If you have specific requirements, e.g. because your school or college asks you to provide a particular device, such as a Chromebook, please select Option 4 on the order form and provide details of what you would ideally prefer. We will then investigate if it is possible to supply the device within the budget available.