



19th September 2024

Dear Parent or Carer,

At Harris the use of Chromebooks is an integral part of our teaching and learning strategy and is vital to ensure that students can access the curriculum both in school and remotely. Having access to a Chromebook is a requirement for all Harris students.

All students must have access to a Chromebook each day in school and at home. To facilitate this, you can purchase a Chromebook through the school programme or you can provide your own.

1. Purchase a subsidised Chromebook from the school paying in instalments via **wisepay**. All school purchased Chromebooks will come formatted to ensure students cannot access inappropriate materials. In addition, the school will cover the fee required for the Google Education Licence - which is valid for 5 years - and a case with which they can store their device for safekeeping. The total estimated cost for this is approximately **£228** and this will be yours to keep when your child leaves Harris Academy.
2. If you already have a Chromebook, it is fine to bring this to school, but this is done at your own risk. Where this is the preferred option, I would suggest insuring the device for use away from home and investing in a good quality case.

Whichever path is taken, the Chromebook will be required daily, fully charged from January.

As per the induction evening, the total cost of the device is not yet determined - this is because costs will fluctuate according to the order size. Once we have a final order quantity, we will be able to provide the exact figure. Early indications show that the device, 3-year accidental damage cover, a protective case (as a loan from Harris Academy) and the Education licence, will lead to an estimated total maximum figure of **£228**. If it ends up being less than this, we will provide a full refund for the difference. It should be noted that the case will need to be returned when your child leaves Harris Academy.

In terms of how to pay for the device, **this can be done as a lump sum or in 3 monthly instalments on 28 September, 28 October, 28 November**. This would be payments of **£76 per month**. Collection of the device will then follow just before the term ends for the Christmas period. **If the payment is not made before 28 November, we will be unable to purchase a device for you and you will have to provide your own before January 2025.**

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It is important to advise that the warranty is via the company we purchase from and you will need to contact the company directly for any issues with the device. As a school we are just facilitating the ability for you as parents to access the reduced cost because of the volume we will be purchasing. The Chromebook will remain your property, but we will install additional software to protect your child from accessing inappropriate material.

All parents need to confirm their intention by **Monday 23rd September** as to whether they are going to purchase a device from us or provide their own device.

Please complete the attached form.

<https://forms.gle/YUeGgvtvfmYnQod9>

Kindest Regards,
Siobhan Roberson

**Assistant Head Business Manager
Harris Church of England Academy**



Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why is the cost described as “estimated”?

We will confirm the exact figure when we have total numbers required for our order as volume discounts apply - regardless though, the aforementioned figure is an accurate projection of the maximum likely cost. Any cost over our projection will be met by the school. If the cost is less than the total instalments paid by parents or carers, a refund will be processed.

2) Will the device be fully owned by the student

After the last payment has been made, the Chromebook will be fully owned by the student. The payments for the Chromebook can be spread across 3 months so that it is more affordable - First payment in September (as above) and final payment in November (likewise).

3) What if I cannot complete the payments by the November payment deadline?

If the payments are not completed by the November deadline, unfortunately you will not be able to purchase or loan a Chromebook from Harris for your child but all monies you have paid will be returned to you. We cannot take late payments as devices need to be paid in full before the device is purchased.

4) What is the advantage of purchasing via Harris Academy?

Chromebooks purchased via educational channels are designed to be supported in terms of software, updates and functionality with the Chrome Operating System thus providing usable hardware for the entire period of time students will be at Harris school. This is not necessarily the case for retail purchases. We will also be configuring the device to protect your child from accessing inappropriate materials.

5) What happens if the Chromebook is accidentally damaged?

For a device purchased via Harris, you will need to contact the warranty provider to see the damage is covered directly with themselves. The Chromebook will only be covered by insurance/warranty for 3 years and any repairs must be conducted using these policies; beyond that timeframe we may be unable to repair the Chromebook in-house. Your device may also be covered under your home contents insurance, so this is something for you to consider in terms of the long term ownership of the device. There is an insurance excess to pay for each claim (£24 = £20 + VAT at 20%)

6) How will the Chromebooks be used in class?

Students will be expected to bring a fully charged Chromebook at the start of the day, and bring it to every lesson, just like they bring a pen and their books - they may not use it in every lesson, but there is potential to do so. The Chromebook can last up to 10 hours between charges - students will not be able to charge the Chromebook in school and cannot borrow a charger from IT support. There is no fixed expectation that staff should use them in any particular way. They are designed to complement current working practices. But they have been used in the following ways: As digital exercise books, to complete quizzes and other retrieval activities, for research and independent study, to watch instructional videos - amongst other things.

7) Why do you stipulate that the device must be a Chromebook over other devices?

- Price - In comparison to equally capable tablets and Microsoft based laptops, very cost efficient
- Security - Almost impossible for Chromebooks to be infected with malware and viruses
- Speed - Can boot up in moments due to a speed focused operating system
- Efficiency - A lot more reliable than its Microsoft counterparts
- Synergy - Runs seamlessly alongside Google Classroom



- Capacity - Battery life sufficient for a full day's usage using even the most power hungry applications

8) Will our child be able to take them home and use them to connect to the internet outside of school?

Yes and throughout this time, due to our investment in safeguarding measures, they will be protected from accessing material that is inappropriate for their age. Chromebooks use WiFi to connect to the internet, so you will need broadband with WiFi at home to use the Chromebook on the internet or tether it to your mobile phone/4G dongle if this is within your data plan. If you have WiFi, your network security key needs to be added to the Chromebook. Whilst your child uses their Chromebook at home, they will still be provided with the same filtering service, to prevent them from seeing inappropriate online content.

9) All Chromebooks are locked to only login as @harriscofeacademy.co.uk email accounts, why is that?

In order to fully enforce safeguarding and filtering tools, it is necessary to lock the Chromebook to only the Harris Academy accounts whilst the student is studying at Harris.

10) What happens if the case is lost or stolen?

As the case is the property of Harris Academy, a lost or stolen case will incur a charge. The cost for replacement of a MaxCase (MaxCase is the brand) is £23.

11) What happens if the Chromebook, case or charger is lost or stolen?

If a Chromebook is lost or stolen, the Chromebook can be remotely disabled, which renders it unusable and unfit for resale. Please ensure your insurance policy covers the device.

12) My purchased Chromebook has developed a fault within the first 36 months. Do I automatically get a new one as a replacement?

A fault within the first 28 days of purchase may result in a new replacement being issued at the discretion of the manufacturer/supplier. Beyond this time the Chromebook would normally be repaired rather than replaced, as long as the fault is within the warranty agreement terms and conditions, this is not via the academy.

13) What is the difference between warranty and insurance?

The warranty only covers defects such as a fault that existed when it was manufactured or developed within the warranty period. It does not cover accidental damage e.g. a smashed screen, this would be the accidental damage insurance - as long as it occurred within the terms and conditions of the policy.

14) Where can I find the full Insurance Terms & Conditions?

These will be issued at the time of purchase with the device.

15) How will the Chromebook be backed up?

Work is stored in Google drive and our students have unlimited storage space.

16) What about filtering/internet safety?

Harris Academy takes the online safety of your child seriously. Within school access on any wired or wireless device is subject to web filtering, which blocks potentially harmful content and websites. Outside of school where internet connections may not be filtered, Chromebooks that are managed by Harris Academy will continue to run filtering/monitoring software. This software works in two ways, by filtering inappropriate content and by looking at the behaviour of what is being searched or viewed online. If it is deemed the search or websites being accessed could be a risk to the child e.g. explicit content or concerning behaviour/conduct, the safeguarding team members will be alerted and if necessary, they will respond to the incident. G-Suite Cloud Console monitor operates 24 hours a day.