



Laptop Program

Frequently asked Questions

Will my child be required to take the laptop to school each day?

Your child will be required to take the Windows 10 laptop to school each day. The laptop will assist students to complete homework and revision tasks. It is expected that students will recharge their laptop overnight, ready for a full days use at school. We ask all parents to ensure the laptop is used responsibly at home.

Why do we need a Windows 10 laptop?

The college expects all students to purchase the same laptop from our school-approved supplier or the school. We have undertaken extensive research and chosen a device that is reliable, has proven long battery life, high level processing power and is very durable; it is ideal for use in a school environment. Moreover, the Teaching and Learning Program has been designed with Windows 10 functionality in mind and we believe it plays a vital role in delivering an effective and engaging curriculum.

The school-owned Windows 10 laptops are preconfigured to connect to the Department's wireless network, printing system and school domain. We manage all repairs onsite. With over 180 year 7 students in 2020, it is not practical for the school to manually configure and support students bringing a different device.

Our laptop program aims to have all students using the same device to assist teachers in planning activities that effectively use technology in the classroom, to a world-class standard. We have also found the selected laptop to be very fast for student use in the classroom, particularly in comparison to a MacBook, which will maximize effective learning time at school while minimizing downtime.

What computer skills will be taught and when?

Students will use their Windows 10 laptop each day to support their learning. They will be trained in the appropriate computer skills as required. This learning will begin in the Digital Technologies classes. The first lesson that students will learn will be online safety, privacy, the importance of managing passwords and file management.

Our students are the greatest beneficiaries of the digital era. They are learning to navigate the online world at a young age. As an eSmart accredited school, we aim to teach children, and the whole community, how to benefit from online technology whilst being savvy and prepared for the pitfalls - cyber bullying, scams, fraud, exposure to predators and inappropriate content. Our aim is to create a school community where everyone is smart, safe and responsible online.

The Victorian Curriculum outlines the digital technology skills that students are expected to demonstrate, see link below:

<http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/technologies/digital-technologies/introduction/rationale-and-aims>

Do we need to purchase any software for the Windows 10 Laptop?

The Windows 10 Laptop uses the Windows operating system allowing students can add free applications as required. Students have access to Microsoft Office 365 and a myriad of software free of charge.

What would be the outcome if I did not purchase a Windows 10 Laptop?

The Windows 10 Laptop is an essential tool for learning at Lowanna College. If you choose not to provide your child with a Windows 10 Laptop, you will find that there will be learning activities in which your child may not be able to participate in the way the teacher intended. Alternative activities may need to be provided, as the use of the Windows 10 Laptop will be integrated within a wide range of teaching and learning activities.

Daily classroom use

Will my child use their Windows 10 Laptop in every lesson?

The use of Windows 10 Laptop will be integrated within a wide range of teaching and learning activities - our teachers will determine when students should use their Windows 10 laptop. Students must, however, bring their Windows 10 laptop every day (unless explicitly instructed otherwise), as our curriculum is specifically tailored around the Windows 10 Laptop capabilities and integration into the school network and services.

How will the overall program be evaluated?

At Lowanna College, we are enthusiastic about the learning opportunities presented by digital technologies in assisting our students to grow in their learning. Programs are monitored and evaluated each year - by school council and the leadership team - against key targets and objectives as agreed by the school and the Department of Education. Measures may include student academic achievement, opinion survey data, financial performance and measures of student digital literacy.

How will you train your teachers?

Teachers at Lowanna College already use Microsoft Office 365. Alongside department provided training resources, our school regularly provides professional learning for teachers. The Department of Education and Training provides teachers with a device for their professional use.

Will students be working collaboratively? If so, how will they send messages and files to each other?

People learn best when they work together; Microsoft Office 365 is designed to allow students to work collaboratively. The purpose of the Microsoft Office 365 environment is to facilitate paperless communication between teachers and students and streamline educational workflow.

How will students connect to printers, scanners, digital cameras, and projectors?

We understand that students have access to a range of peripheral devices, at school and at home, which they will want to connect to. The devices were selected with this in mind and support the most common connections including HDMI and USB. At school, students will be able to print to school printers and digital displays, using wired or in most cases, wireless connections.

How will students charge their Windows 10 laptop batteries if batteries run low in class?

It is expected that students will recharge their Windows 10 Laptop overnight, ready for a full day's use at school. A limited supply of charging stations will be available at school. The school will not allow students to plug their own charger into classroom power or around the campus as leads can cause tripping hazards.

Will students and teachers have email accounts?

As a component of the Microsoft Office 365 environment, students and teachers can access and communicate with each other. The school will instruct students regarding the safe use of email as part of the digital technologies curriculum.

Are you providing email so that students and teachers can send files and attachments- for example, homework assignments- to students who are not in the classroom? Alternatively, will email be restricted to in-school use only?

Your child's email account is provided as their online identity. It is used to access the network, including the Microsoft Office 365 environment.

The school uses Compass and the Microsoft Office 365 environment to collaborate and share files for homework and assignments. Today there are a range of tools for collaboration that are more sophisticated and better suited to collaboration than email.

Do students have unrestricted access to the internet while at school?

The Lowanna College internet connection is filtered by the Department of Education, to limit student access inappropriate content. Safe and responsible internet use is a major focus at Lowanna College, and consequences are imposed for those who seek out inappropriate material online.

Will students be able to change their hardware settings on Windows 10 Laptop?

Lowanna College does not allow changes to be made to the hardware of the devices. Any changes to hardware will void the warranty of the machine. Students will be able to install programs and customize some features related to appearance of their machine (lock screen, backgrounds) but will not be able to modify physical hardware settings.