



King's College Taunton 1:1 Digital Device Scheme

1. Overview of the 1:1 Digital Device Scheme

At King's College, Taunton, we are committed to preparing our pupils for the digital world by embedding technology into every aspect of their education. Our 1:1 digital device scheme ensures that each pupil is equipped with the tools they need to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Under this scheme, all incoming pupils are provided with a laptop, which is a compulsory item for Third, Fourth, and Fifth Formers, and recommended for Sixth Form pupils. The device is supplied on a rental basis and charged termly alongside the school bill.

This approach removes the burden of selecting equipment, software and dealing with support and damage from parents and guarantees that every pupil has access to a high-quality, fully supported device throughout their educational journey.

This model of provision is now widely adopted in education, ensuring continuity of learning and providing pupils with the most appropriate technology for their academic needs.

2. Devices and Equipment Provision

Pupils at King's College, Taunton receive a Microsoft Surface Pro as part of the 1:1 scheme. This versatile device functions both as a laptop and a touchscreen tablet, supporting digital inking and interactive learning. New devices are provided to Third Form pupils with an upgraded device offered to those entering the Sixth Form.

The device package includes:

- Microsoft Surface Pro
- Keyboard, pen, and protective case
- Microsoft Windows Pro
- Microsoft Office 365 and Adobe Creative Cloud
- Any educational software required such as Kerboodle, Read&Write, and SketchUp
- Three-year repair cover (with a £50/£100/£150 excess for damage)
- Instant device replacement in case of failure
- Pre-installed safeguarding software



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3. Software and Online Services

King's College, Taunton has used Microsoft products for many years with Microsoft Office 365 as the core of our digital platforms, providing pupils with 24/7 access to essential tools and resources. The suite includes Microsoft Office 365, Exchange, OneDrive SharePoint, Teams, OneNote, and Microsoft CoPilot AI, ensuring consistency between school and home environments and preparing pupils for the professional world.

Academic resources are hosted within Microsoft SharePoint, offering access to revision materials, past exam papers, class notes, and prep information. Microsoft Teams is central to classroom communication and collaboration and can even be used to host internal examinations.

All content is stored in the cloud, ensuring that no work is lost and that pupils can access their learning materials from any location.

4. Digital Skills and Literacy Development

Digital literacy is a cornerstone of our educational philosophy. Through lessons, tutor sessions, and our tutorial programme, pupils develop proficiency across all Microsoft tools including digital inking technologies and AI.

Our bespoke Digital Skills Framework supports pupils throughout their time at the College. Delivered via a self-directed e-learning platform, the framework allows pupils to tailor their digital development to their academic and career aspirations, particularly in the Sixth Form.

Digital literacy is one tool in a pencil case and we ensure it is used when it is most appropriate tool. We also maintain a strong emphasis on traditional literacy, ensuring that pupils continue to enjoy reading and writing for pleasure as well as academic purposes, helping them to develop into confident, articulate communicators.

5. Support, Safeguarding, and Innovation

King's College, Taunton has established a dedicated Digital Learning Team to support the ongoing integration of technology across the curriculum. This team provides staff training, explores new educational technologies, and ensures that pupils benefit from the latest innovations.

Pupils have a voice through IT User Group, which allows their contribution to ideas and feedback on the use of technology in school and allowing pupils the opportunity to engage with cutting-edge developments.

Safeguarding remains a top priority, and to support safe and responsible use of technology,



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we have implemented safeguarding controls on devices which assists with ethical and effective use of digital technologies including its use online. This assists staff to ensure devices are used appropriately both inside the classroom and offering protection to pupils while they are elsewhere including at home, giving parents peace of mind and ensuring a secure digital environment for all pupils.

Frequently Asked Questions

Device Provision and Ownership

Q: Which device has the school chosen and why?

King's College, Taunton has selected the Microsoft Surface Pro for its versatility, durability, and seamless integration with Microsoft 365. After trialling a wide range of devices, we found that the Surface Pro combines the benefits of a laptop and a tablet, supports digital inking, and is ideal for both classroom and independent learning. Its specification ensures longevity over a three-year lease and reflects the school's educational and financial commitment to the scheme.

Q: Why not iPads?

Apple iPads are not fully integrated with the Microsoft operating platform and would limit the potential for use in teaching and learning. King's College, Taunton, has adopted a Microsoft-based IT strategy to ensure pupils are equipped with tools that prepare them for the world of work or university. The Microsoft 365 suite offers a globally recognised standard for productivity and collaboration.

Q: Can I choose a different device or bring my own?

The school 1:1 scheme is compulsory for all pupils in the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form. This ensures consistency in teaching, compatibility with school systems, and adherence to safeguarding protocols. Personal devices are not permitted in lessons.

Pupils in the Sixth Form have progressed through the school using the earlier BYOD scheme, and although the new 1:1 scheme is recommended, it will not become compulsory until Sept 2026, where our current Fifth Form may be able to progress with their current compulsory device.

Q: Why should I sign up if I already purchased a device for home use?

There are significant advantages in using a school device. School devices are configured to work seamlessly with the school's systems, ensuring access to all resources and safeguarding tools. Pupils benefit from consistent functionality at school and home, and the device becomes an integral part of their learning pencil case.



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Q: Will my child be able to use the device for personal use?

Yes. Pupils are encouraged to use their devices responsibly for both school and personal use, in line with the school's acceptable use policy.

Q: How will you prevent devices from being mixed up?

Devices and accessories are labeled with pupil details.

Payments and Leasing

Q: How much does the device cost?

Parents make a contribution of £200 per term over 6 terms for Sixth Form pupils, this includes the device, support, accessories, software, warranty, and accidental damage protection.

Q: Do I have to pay Termly?

No. You can choose to make a single upfront payment. Both options include the same level of support and protection.

Q: What happens if I miss a payment or leave the school?

Payments make a part of the school bill and the policies around this apply. If a pupil leaves the school, the device must be returned or the remaining balance paid to retain ownership.

Q: What happens to the device at the end of the lease?

At the end of the lease, you may return the device or if you wish to keep it, it may be possible to make a final payment. Contributions are for the 1:1 Scheme service, not just the device.

Q: Who legally owns the device?

The device remains the property of King's College, this allows the school to leverage its education and site licenses for software that are installed on the device, as well as operate as the primary support for the device. If it's possible to make a final payment the ownership would be transferred.

Q: Can I join the scheme later in the year?

Generally no. In order to ensure supplier discounts, the school has to order a large quantity of devices. Typically, the scheme is only open at the start of the year, however, it may be possible to take on a device, should a pupil leave the school.

Q: Why not increase school fees to cover the costs?

With the introduction of VAT on schools, different rates apply to different aspects of the school. The school aims to be transparent in what is offered and the associated costs. The school has opted to keep fees stable and instead offer a contribution to the device scheme to ensure fairness.



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Q: Can I leave the scheme early?

No. This is compulsory as stated, as the device is purchased for the user. It can be ceased by course completion or leaving the school early.

Q: Why not simply give pupils a device?

While different schools may operate schemes differently, no school is giving away devices for free. King's College wants to be transparent about these costs rather than hide them elsewhere.

Repairs, Insurance, and Support

Q: What happens if the device breaks or is damaged?

Bring the device to the IT Helpdesk. It will be repaired or replaced like for like under the scheme's warranty. A temporary loan device is provided within a few minutes ensuring that the pupil can get back into lessons and learning may continue, minimising disruption. During holiday periods please contact the IT Helpdesk and a swap can be arranged.

Q: What is the device is lost / stolen.

The device should be added to your home insurance to cover loss of theft. The school cannot provide any losses for devices while at home (damage is covered).

Q: Is the device insured?

The device is covered for accidental damage. There is an excess of £50 for the first damage claim, £100 for the second and £150 for any subsequent damage. This includes any non-fault issue where the device has been defaced with pen, ink, stickers or similar where the return cannot be re-stocked by suppliers. The device should be added to your home insurance to cover loss of theft.



Academic Integration and Use

Q: Will the device be used in every lesson?

No, pupils are expected to bring their device to all lessons but it is one tool in a pupils virtual pencil case, which is used where it offers the most value, similar to a calculator in maths. It can be used for note-taking, accessing resources, submitting homework, and collaborating with peers and teachers.

Q: Will this increase screen time for my child?

The device is intended to enhance, not replace, traditional learning. Pupils will continue to develop handwriting, reading, and verbal communication skills.

Q: Will my child still write by hand?

Yes. Writing remains an essential skill, especially for exams. The device complements traditional methods through a blended learning approach.



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Q: What is blended learning?

Blended learning combines traditional teaching with digital tools, it allows for more personalised instruction, independent learning, and flexible access to resources.

Q: Will the device help my child stay organised?

Yes. Cloud storage and digital tools help pupils keep track of notes, assignments, and resources. This is especially useful for catching up on missed lessons or managing prep and for revision. Notes can be organised into subjects within lessons to promote organisation skills.

Q: Won't they have too much to carry?

No, with digital resources replacing many textbooks and paper materials, pupils are likely to carry less overall.

Enrolment and Logistics

Q: How do I sign up for the scheme?

New parents of Sixth Formers can sign up while completing enrollment paperwork, and existing pupils can enroll at the end of the Fifth Form.

Q: When will my child receive their device?

Devices are distributed at the start of the academic year, with guidance provided on receipt and during lessons.

Q: How was the scheme selected?

The school's leadership team, supported by governors, conducted extensive research and consultation with other schools. The chosen device offers a proven track record in education and competitive pricing.

Q: How much will it cost?

The school delivers everything the pupil needs to complete their learning journey at the school. This includes not just the device itself, but all subject-related software, and any necessary support to keep the device functional.

For comparison, this includes the table below. This is a non-exhaustive list, as requirements will depend on the subjects studied and curriculum requirements:



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| Item | School 1:1 Scheme | Retail | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------|
| Device SP11 Intel Ultra 5 / 16 / 256 / LCD | - | 1479 | |
| Keyboard | - | 179.99 | |
| Pen | - | 99.99 | |
| Case | - | 53.07 | |
| Screen Protection | - | 9 | |
| Warranty | - | 149 | |
| Accidental Damage Cover | - | - | |
| | - | | |
| Microsoft Office 365 Business 3yr | - | 278.4 | |
| Adobe Creative Cloud | - | 1790.28 | |
| Internet Safeguarding Filter | - | 45 | |
| Kerboodle | - | Unavailable | |
| Sketchup | - | 309 | |
| Termly | 165 | | |
| 3 Years Contributions | 1485 | 4392.73 | Owned |