At McAuley Catholic College, we want our students to be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners, and technology is a critical component in 21st century learning.

Curriculum and Core Capabilities

The new Australian curriculum recognises that ‘disciplinary’ or subject knowledge should be taught in ways that also develops skills and concepts that help students learn how to think critically and learn for themselves, so they can use the knowledge in new situations and in an environment where there is rapidly changing information, technologies, jobs and social conditions.

21st Century Learning Skills

Ways of thinking. Creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, decision-making and learning

Ways of working. Communication and collaboration

Tools for working. Information and communications technology (ICT) and information literacy

Skills for living in the world. Citizenship, life and career, and personal and social responsibility

☑ Checklist before purchasing a device

There are several key factors to consider when you are looking at purchasing a device.

- Price – How much do you want to spend? What is your budget?
- Purpose – What is the device going to be predominantly used for? At McAuley Catholic College, we use the Google Apps suite and as many online tools as possible. Other software, such as Microsoft Office will also be utilised.
- Battery life – Will this device have the ability to last a normal school day? (6-8 hours) Chargers cannot be brought from home and used at school.
- Longevity – How long do you plan to use the device? Are you looking at a short term solution, or something that you would like to last for many years?
- Weight – Is it heavy? Your child will be carrying this to and from school every day.
- Screen size – Ideally your student’s laptop should have a screen size no smaller than 11 inches. Screens larger than 14 inches are more prone to damage, weigh more and generally have shorter battery life.
- Protection – Is the device robust and have suitable casing to protect it from the elements? Is it named appropriately?
- Does the device have Windows 7 or 8 installed? Older versions of Windows cannot be supported via the network at MCC. **Windows 8RT is not suitable.**
- Can you reset your device to its factory defaults or does it come with disks to re-image the device?
- Does the device have suitable virus protection?
- Insurance – Your student will have the ability to lock away their laptop when not in use, but ultimately it is the responsibility of the owner to insure the device from loss or damage. Do your insurance policies cover the loss of a laptop?
- Does the device have an extended warranty?

Rationale

At McAuley Catholic College, we want our students to be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners, and technology is a critical component in 21st century learning.
What does all the jargon mean?

When purchasing a laptop, it can be quite confusing as to what all of the different words and specifications mean. Here is a list of the most commonly used terms, with a brief description of what they mean.

**Intel Core** – is the processor speed. Needs to be no smaller than i5 and faster than 2GHz.

**RAM** – this is the working memory of the machine. The more the better. Minimum 4GB.

**HDD** – Hard Disk Drive – this is where everything is stored and dictates how much you can store.

**802.11n** – this is the wireless Graphics – ‘Discrete’ graphics means that it is running its own memory and is not sharing the memory with the RAM (which then gives you less working memory on the machine).

### Option 1 – Purchase a preferred device

The Catholic Schools Office and the College has negotiated with a supplier to provide us with a preferred device.

The cost will be about $1150 subject to exchange rates. This will provide:

- 3 years onsite warranty/Accidental Damage Protection cover
- virus protection
- technical support from the College help-desk during school hours
- protective cover

The College Technology levy for this option would be $80 per year to cover Microsoft Office licensing, data connections, download costs and other expenses associated with ensuring access to the network.

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<th>Pros</th>
<th>Cons</th>
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<td>Student will be supplied with a business standard laptop. The device is covered by warranty for 3 years and serviced on-site for software issues meaning faster return to students. Accidental Damage Protection cover provided. Students will be fully supported by the College helpdesk. Loan devices may be available in this option for students whose devices are being repaired under warranty. Students will have a machine that teachers are familiar with allowing for more problem solving in the classroom. Charging stations for these devices are available for student use in the library.</td>
<td>Cost to parents - we are fully aware that some families may not be able to afford this option and that there are cheaper options available. Does not allow freedom of choice for the student.</td>
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### Option 2 - Purchase your own laptop

Parents may choose to purchase a laptop which conforms to the following guidelines.

- Small laptop (current small laptops have 11” screens are OK – any bigger than about 15” means the device is heavy and bulky in school bags and prone to damage)
- Protective case or bag.
- Windows 7 or 8 Operating System. **Windows 8RT is not suitable.**
- Virus protection. (May be standard on a purchased device)
- Battery life sufficient for full school-day. **Battery chargers cannot be brought from home and used at school due to Workplace Health and Safety restrictions.**
- Must be robust and able to withstand student use at school.
- Parents must ensure that the laptop has a recovery partition or recovery DVD so that the device can be reset.
- Extended warranty is highly recommended
- Your own personal insurance and damage protection. **(the College cannot supply Accidental Damage Protection and will not be liable for any damage to devices)**

The College Technology levy for this option would be $80 per year to cover Microsoft Office licensing, data connections, download costs and other expenses associated with ensuring access to the network.

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<td>Students will be able to choose a device to suit their educational needs. Some students may feel more motivated to use a device of their own choosing. Parents will be able to choose a device that is affordable.</td>
<td>Due to warranty, students will not be able to receive much support from the college helpdesk. (minor issues such as connection to our network will be able to be addressed) Parents will have to arrange for their own extended warranty. Parents will have to arrange for their own Accidental Damage Protection Cover. Most laptops (if not all) purchased from retail outlets have a back to base warranty, meaning longer wait times for devices to be returned to students. Loan devices may be available for this option but will be at a cost to the parent/student</td>
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