

# LEASE TO OWN LAPTOP POLICY

## PURPOSE:

To provide information in relation Lease to Own Laptop for students at Wyndham Central Secondary College and the payment/ownership in line with policies below:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/resources>

<https://wyndhamcentralsc-vic.compass.education/Communicate/SchoolResources.aspx>

## RATIONALE

Schools are best placed to make local decisions which ensure that all students can access a broad range of learning opportunities that support their expectations and promote their aspirations as they move through the education system. Wyndham Central Secondary College will annually source the best price for laptop computers which fall into the required specifications and will be used in conjunction with eBooks. The devices are on a three (3) year cycle with students in years 7 and 10 receiving them if parents/caregivers choose to have them as an **Optional Item**, with an alternative option to purchase text books (these lists are available at the same time as Parent Payment Sheets are distributed).

Family Payment Sheet for each year level clearly states which year of the lease payment it is attributed to. The price equal to one third of the cost (inclusive of GST) over the duration of the 3 year lease contract. Wyndham Central Secondary College School Council are responsible for all payments to the leasing company over the duration of the contract.

## WHAT CAN SCHOOLS CHARGE FOR?

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 provides for instruction in the standard curriculum program to be free to all students in government schools. School councils are responsible for developing and approving school-level parent payment charges and can request payments from parents<sup>1</sup> under three categories only- Essential Student Learning Items, Optional Items and Voluntary Financial Contributions.

**Essential Student Learning Items** are those items, activities or services that are essential to support student learning of the standard curriculum. These are items that the school considers essential for all students and which students take possession of. Parents may choose to provide the items themselves or buy the items from the school where practical and appropriate.

**Optional Items** are those items, activities or services that are offered in addition to or support instruction in the standard curriculum program. These are provided on a user-pays basis so that if parents choose to access them for students, they are required to pay for them.

The attached diagram "**Understanding Parent Payment Categories**" provides examples of items and materials under each category.

In implementing this policy, schools must adhere to the following principles:

## COST TO PARENTS

Laptops will become the property of the students after the full amount has been paid to the college, if a family wishes to take possession of the device prior to the end of the three (3) year term they will be required to meet the full cost normally paid over the period, less any payments already received for the laptop. E.g. paid year 1 - \$300 - \$900 laptop full price = \$600 to be paid to own the laptop.

Laptops will remain the property of Wyndham Central Secondary College School Council until full restitution has been met by parents/caregivers. Laptops are to be surrendered back to the college prior

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<sup>1</sup> Parent<sup>1</sup> in the policy has the same meaning as in the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, which is: 'parent', in relation to a child, includes a guardian and every person who has parental responsibility for the child including parental responsibility under the *Family Law Act 1975* of the Commonwealth and any person with whom a child normally or regularly resides.

to students exiting from Wyndham Central College if costs associated with the laptop have not been met.

## **PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS AND METHODS**

Wyndham Central College offers various options for payment these include BPAY, cash and EFTPOS, with further options of a payment plan. Payment plans are confidential and each situation is treated accordingly.

## **LIABILITY**

Wyndham Central College is not responsible for insurance of the laptop where there is loss, theft or total replacement damage costs, it is the responsibility of the families/caregivers to ensure they have sufficient insurance to cover the full cost of the device or make full payment to the college for replacement costs over the three (3) year period of the lease to own laptop.

Wyndham Central College does have an agreement with the supplier to meet the full cost of any warranty requirements and the first repair will be free unless it is malicious damages, all subsequent repairs costs may incur a cost.

## **SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**

Families may experience financial difficulties and may be unable to meet the full or part payments requested. Principals and school councils exercise sensitivity to the differing financial circumstances of students and their families when considering parent payment fees.

Consideration to hardship arrangements in respect to payment requests is provided to families experiencing long term hardship or short term crisis on a confidential, case by case basis. All schools have hardship arrangements that include a proactive approach to providing support for parents experiencing financial difficulty.

Families may contact the college to meet with the Business Manager to discuss payment arrangements with.

## **REVIEW OF POLICY**

Schools will monitor the effectiveness and impact of the implementation of this policy at least annually as part of its ongoing improvement and report back to the school community.