Education is no longer bound by the limits of the teacher, textbook, or the books in the school library ...

Brunswick South-West
Primary School

1-to-1 Learning
Personalised education for every student
Brunswick South West Primary School (BSWPS) is committed to providing learning environments that will engage our students and give them independence and flexibility in their learning.

We believe that students should be able to learn in teams, collaboratively, as a class, a whole community or alone. We believe that students should be able to share learning experiences with their classmates and the wider community.

To enable this, in 2011 BSWPS introduced a 1-to-1 netbook program in years 3-6. The program aims to expand the learning environment beyond the walls of the classroom to give students the capability to collaborate, share information and experiences and take control of their learning in ways not previously possible.

Professor Stephen Heppell, one of the world’s leading ICT educators, describes 21st Century learning as

“remarkably effective when it is collaborative, transcultural, 24/7 365 days a year, collegiate, global and inclusive, ambitious, mixed age, engaging, project based, across subject domains and transformed by technological opportunities.”
### Access to a netbook for every student

With 1-to-1 learning, every student has access to a wireless netbook so that learning, exploration and collaboration occur at school. Where families choose to purchase their own netbook access to information and learning becomes anywhere, anytime.

Access to instant experts, collaboration, mentors, communities of practice and shared virtual environments break down classroom walls and create an even more powerful educational journey.

With a 1-to-1 program, access to a netbook and the Internet enables students to enjoy authentic, experience based learning. As a result, learning becomes immersive, engaging and self-directed.

### Advantages for all

By choosing to purchase a netbook for your child, 1-to-1 learning services everyone’s needs. Teachers are empowered with resources that were previously unimaginable. Parents are connected and informed of their child’s progress as they bring work home. Netbooks purchased for your child can be used as a tool by your other children and yourselves.

Students leave school with the skills they need to succeed in today’s knowledge-based world.

### More inclusive education

The school council provides funds for a small bank of netbooks for students where families choose not to participate in the program. This way, at school, all students will have the opportunity to improve skills in research, analysis, problem-solving and communication through on-demand access to software, the Internet and resources.

Students will become equipped to work at their own pace to build innovative learning experiences unique to the digital learning environment. Study materials can be tailored to address learning diversity by engaging learners of all abilities.

### A motivating curriculum

The Internet, interactive multimedia, simulations and publishing software have the power to motivate students and bring education to life with a richer and more engaging curriculum.

Wikis, blogs and podcasting open up exciting possibilities for 21st Century learning. Collaborative discussion is becoming an integral part of learning. Virtual communities offer dynamic online areas where participants create, develop and deconstruct virtual worlds, using a range of thinking and creative skills. The introduction of Class Digital Learning Journals has opened up a vast range of opportunities for students to share their learning and to connect outside the classroom.

### Innovative pedagogy building on strong foundations

Children will still learn the basics—numeracy, literacy, getting along, physical education and all the content areas such as science, the arts, history and social studies. ICT is a powerful tool for teaching some parts of the curriculum. We do not see it as taking away from anything we do, rather doing parts of the curriculum differently.

Using netbook technology will transform teaching and learning and complement the existing school curriculum by providing digital learning tools that link with planned classroom activities.

### Proven outcomes

The study *Learning with Technology: the impact of laptop use on student achievement* found that:

- Netbooks improve creative expression as well as the quantity and quality of student writing.
- Netbooks improve research and analysis skills.
- Students spend more time engaging in collaborative work and participate in more project-based instruction.
- Students take ownership of their work, direct their own learning and readily engage in problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Teachers feel more empowered and spend less time talking.
What does all this mean to us?

What the school is offering:

1. Provision for every student to access his or her own netbook in a wireless environment allowing students to learn at their own pace and ability levels
2. Access to netbooks for use at school by students who do not have their own
3. Introductory training for families on receipt of the netbook
4. Provision of a filtered Internet service, with wireless connectivity and infrastructure support
5. Provision of a cyber safe and responsible use program across the school. We reinforce the school’s Code of Conduct, values and behaviours when using technology and the Internet.
6. Teaching students to be responsible netizens (citizens of the Internet)
7. Supervision and direction in Internet activities when using netbooks for learning
8. Access to the CONNECT web space (www.education.vic.gov.au/primary), a search engine that can be used to restrict students to using only websites that have been teacher recommended and reviewed
9. Sourcing the most affordable and supported netbooks available
10. Unique school image on each netbook and some free educational software
11. Reimaging option for software problems
12. Peripheral devices: cameras, video, printers, data projectors
13. Quality ICT teaching and learning
14. Ongoing training for staff in use of netbooks
15. An opportunity for teachers to learn alongside students—students can at times be the best teachers when it comes to ICT. Teachers will act as mentors and guides.
16. The opportunity for students to become part of an online learning community through the use of Class Digital Learning Journals.
What will the children be doing in the 1-to-1 program?

Initially students will be familiarising themselves with the device and the software:

- Creating, saving and managing files
- Learning how to use the wireless network
- Backing up their work and sharing it with others
- Publishing work in digital formats such as Photostory3
- Continuing to work with current programs, such as Mathletics
- Using the Internet safely for directed research.

What are the long term goals for students?

- Becoming competent with frequently used applications such as Microsoft Office
- Participating in global projects
- Creating rich learning experiences
- Collaborating on projects through the use of blogs, wikis and other safe online learning environments
- Developing deeper level thinking skills through creating content on mediums such as Scratch and Kahootz.
How will the netbook be looked after? By whom?

- The netbook will be seen as your child’s responsibility, not yours and not the school’s.
- Cases sold with the netbook will provide some protection. However, the way the netbook is treated is the most important factor.
- Students will be trained in looking after their netbook, but then need to do so.
- At school netbooks will be stored in the classrooms which will be locked.
- Netbooks should be stored inside schoolbags when travelling to and from school so as not to attract attention.
- The netbook is insured at home and school so damage is not the end of the world (just a good life lesson).

Who will repair the netbook if it gets broken?

- The school will manage all hardware issues. The netbooks are covered by a maintenance agreement with the manufacturer. The school will provide routine maintenance. However, any maintenance not considered routine will be at the expense of the student/family.
- Software problems may be fixed at the school level by using the common backup image which will restore the computer to its original format.

What are the health and safety issues associated with netbook use?

- Instruction on use of netbooks in a good ergonomic environment will be presented to students at the start of each year. This will focus on good posture with attention to the position of the chair, desk and netbook. Additionally, we advise students to avoid looking at any screen for prolonged periods.
- Netbook use by students at school will differ greatly from netbook users in the workplace. Generally, students will not spend long periods of time using the netbooks. They will take frequent breaks during the class and throughout the day.
- Evidence from other netbook programs is that the combination of educating students about good practice and young people’s natural habit of changing posture frequently addresses successfully the issue of physically safe use.
**Frequently asked questions**

**What if something goes wrong with the netbook?**

- Although the netbook is robust and reliable, the reality is that sometime things will go wrong. All netbooks are covered by a four year warranty. Any hardware fault is covered under this warranty.

**What if the data is lost?**

- This is a bit like students losing their bags and all of their school books. The advantage of a netbook program is that all of the data on a netbook can be backed up. The school will leave the method of back-up to the individual student, but would recommend using a USB memory stick or USB hard disk drive.
- Students will be able to back-up important data to a folder on the school network.

**Who will recharge the netbook?**

- Experience from other schools using this type of netbook is that, if used wisely, most netbooks that have been fully charged the night before, will have enough charge to last the school day. Brunswick South West PS will operate information sessions to inform students and parents about power-management techniques and getting the best out of their netbooks.
- Interestingly enough, many students are already familiar with this concept in managing power to get the best out of their mobile phones and portable devices. It will be the responsibility of the students to have full charge available at the beginning of the day.

**What if my child forgets his netbook at home?**

- He/she will have to manage without it.

**Will we be able to email our child’s class teacher?**

- Parents will need to use the normal methods of communication with teachers—phone and notes.

**What if the netbook is used for inappropriate purposes?**

- This will be seen as a breach of our school Internet agreement and the device will be banned from school for a period of time. It may also be restored to its original image.
Who will pay for printing and Internet downloads?
- At school, we will carry the costs for printing and filtered Internet downloads.
- At home, families may decide to provide a broadband Internet connection or not. This is a family responsibility.

Will we be able to add software?
- Yes this will be an option. However, software must be licensed and age appropriate. If the netbook needs to be reimaged the school takes no responsibility for lost files or software. These will need to be restored at home.

Who will teach the adults how it works?
- The implementation of a successful netbook program will require the provision of some training and information for students and parents. Students and parents will be required to attend an information session when the netbooks are distributed. These sessions will ensure that students and parents are familiar with the netbook and basic operational procedures, before taking them home.

Will another child use my child’s netbook?
- NO. Whilst children will be working collaboratively, they will all be responsible for their own computer.

How will I afford this?
- Payment can be made in instalments, paid at the beginning of each school term.

When will they arrive?
- Netbooks will be ready for distribution at the end of the school year.