

Digital Technology Requirements

Access to a reliable computer is an important part of life as a distance education student. For home use, students are encouraged to purchase a device that best suits their needs, circumstances and budget. The buying guide below sets out some minimum standards and recommendations to consider before making a purchase.

Computer buying guide

Laptops are a popular choice for students due to their portability, although desktop machines are of course suitable for home use. Please avoid tablets, Chromebooks and gaming devices as they don't provide the same functionality as a full operating system.

Many suppliers offer educational discounts. It's worth asking to get the best possible price.

The following list contains recommended specifications for devices. Aim for a device that meets the minimum standards mentioned in the list:

Operating system

Microsoft Windows 11

Wireless

If you intend to bring your device to school, it must have 5GHz 802.11n wireless support

This may be advertised as “Dual Band Wireless”, “802.11abgn”, “802.11agn”, “802.11ac” or “gigabit wireless”

Form factor

Choose a desktop or laptop computer, not a tablet device

Screen size should be at least 10 inches but a bit bigger may be more comfortable when working for long periods

Consider the size and weight of the device if you intend to travel with it frequently

Memory

8GB RAM recommended with minimum 4GB RAM

if you need to use Adobe Creative Cloud software such as Photoshop in your subjects, then 8GB RAM or more is required

Battery life

For laptops, a battery life of at least 4 hours is recommended

Extras

webcam – either built-in or external

headset with a microphone

at least one USB port



DSODE

Quality Learning for our future