- internet access

Who can receive digital devices and internet access

Laptops and tablets will be provided for disadvantaged families, children and young people who do not currently have access to them through another source, such as their school. Digital devices can be requested for:

- care leavers
- children and young people aged 0 to 19 with a social worker
- disadvantaged year 10 pupils

Internet access will be provided through 4G hotspot devices for any of the following people who do not currently have it:

- care leavers
- young people aged 11 to 19 with a social worker
- disadvantaged year 10 pupils

People aged 16 to 19 without a suitable device for education may be eligible for support through the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund (https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20200511152037mp_/https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2019-to-2020-academic-year#coronavirus-covid-19-specific-update).

Local authority and academy trust responsibilities

Local authorities are responsible for ordering and distributing laptops and tablets to:

- care leavers and children with a social worker
- year 10 pupils in maintained schools, including voluntary aided schools, who do not have a social worker

Local authorities should work with schools to assess which pupils require a laptop or tablet.

Academy trusts are responsible for ordering and distributing laptops and tablets to year 10 pupils who:

- do not have a social worker
- are not a care leaver
- do not have access to a laptop or tablet through another source

Local authorities and academy trusts will own the laptops and tablets they receive, and loan them to children and young people.

How to apply for this support

Local authorities, academy trusts and other relevant organisations overseeing schools and social care can apply. These organisations have been sent information on how to order a device.

Schools, parents and pupils do not need to apply for internet access or digital devices themselves.

What happens during the application and ordering process

All local authorities and academy trusts should follow the same steps to apply for and receive devices. The timelines will be different for each organisation, because we're prioritising delivery in this order: