

Foster Carer IT Grant Scheme

The Foster Carer IT Grant Scheme is available to ALL Foster Carers approved at Derbyshire County Council fostering panel. A grant is offered to foster carers to purchase IT equipment of their choice suitable for their fostering household. Foster carers will be expected to sign and return the attached acceptable use policy before receiving the grant. A copy of the IT equipment receipt must be returned within 28 days of receiving the grant. A renewal grant is offered every 4/5 years to ensure fostering families have access to the latest IT equipment. Foster carers will also receive a monthly allowance towards the cost of broadband, paper, ink, etc.



Acceptable Use Policy - Terms and conditions of use

Foster carers are expected to read and be familiar with the authority's safe care policy on IT use within fostering households in the Fostering Handbook.

Foster carers, or children using the equipment must not download, circulate or promote subject matter which is sexually explicit or obscene, which is racist, sexist, homophobic, discriminatory, may be perceived as harassing or offensive, contains material, the possession of which constitute criminal activity or contains unwelcome propositions.

Derbyshire County Council does not allow any personal computer to be used for the downloading and storing of videos, music, games and/or software which is not related to the role of fostering or the promoting of a child in care's education. There is a risk that such files can contain viruses, have been illegally downloaded or may breach copyright.

When foster carers are sending emails, they are advised that such communication may be covered by the Freedom of information Act and can be disclosed as part of legal proceedings. Care should be exercised when emails are written and sent, just as it would be with other forms of correspondence. Carers must not put information related to children they are fostering or have fostered on Facebook or similar sites and ensure that any comments made on a public forum do not impact on Derbyshire County Council reputation.

Electronic records relating to individual children held on the computer must be kept in separate files and the file deleted when the child/children leaves the placement.

We understand that Foster Carers cannot be held responsible for the content of materials accessed through the internet but will take all reasonable precautions to ensure the any child cannot access inappropriate materials. Foster Carers must retain the administration rights to parental control on their IT equipment.

Children in care, where of the appropriate age and supervised, can access social networking sites (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook). Carers must adhere to the guidelines laid out in the Foster Carer Handbook with regards maintaining security and privacy settings, in order to fully ensure the safety of the young person in their care.

If the IT equipment you have purchased has the ability to copy data/music onto c.d.'s we must advise that because of copyright laws it is illegal to copy data/music for distribution purposes. In addition, it is illegal to create music c.d. for distribution from downloaded music. You must check the copyright laws before making any c.d.'s from downloaded files.

Signed (Carer's Name and address)

Name		Signature	
Address			
Post Code		Date	

I, the above signatory, agree to abide by Derbyshire County Council's terms and conditions regarding the acceptable use of IT equipment and software

Foster Carer IT scheme guidance

Procedures:

Please sign the Acceptable use policy attached, save the original and email a copy to:

clare.robinson2@derbyshire.gov.uk or send by post a photocopy to:

Clare Robinson, Derbyshire County Council, Children's Services,
County Hall, North Block, 260, Matlock, DE4 3AG.

Please keep a signed copy and all the documentation in your foster carer file for future reference. We will upload a signed copy of your acceptable use policy onto the electronic record system.

Policies:

- Following receipt of the above documentation you will receive a grant to purchase IT equipment of your choice suitable for your fostering household, PC, Laptop, Tablet, Printer.
- Microsoft Office software (i.e. Word, Excel) is not always standard on all IT equipment and may need to be purchased if compatible with your chosen device.
- Once you have purchased your IT equipment please email or post a copy of the receipts of your purchase to clare.robinson2@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Insurance of the IT equipment is your responsibility and will **not** be covered by Derbyshire County Council.
- Parental control software and anti-virus is a necessary tool and is a prerequisite for all equipment.
- An IT support helpline is not a requirement to purchase with your equipment but may be invaluable for some. There are many support packages available please discuss these options when you purchase your IT equipment.
- A £10 consumable payment per month will be given to all fostering households to contribute towards their broadband provider and to purchase IT helpline support of their choice if required.
- If you cease to foster within your 1st year (unless this is related to permanency for your previously fostered child) or fail to complete your 1st review a payback of £100 to cover the cost of the IT equipment must be made to Derbyshire County Council.

Any questions or concerns please contact

Clare Robinson
Derbyshire County Council
Children's Services
County Hall, North Block, 260
Matlock, DE4 3AG
Tel: 01629 538427

clare.robinson2@derbyshire.gov.uk

INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

- You are responsible for how you use of all your personally owned technology.
- Always make sure that your computer use is legal.
- Always take care not to reveal personal information through online communications.
- Protect your personal information including your messenger id, email address, mobile number and any pictures of you, your family or friends.
- If you publish a picture or video online – anyone can change it or share it.
- SPAM/Junk email and texts: don't believe it, reply to it or use it.
- It's not a good idea to open files that are from people you don't know. You won't know what they contain – it could be a virus, or worse – an inappropriate image or film.
- Remember not everything you read online is true!
- It's safer to keep online mates online. Don't meet up with any strangers. Keeping safe on the net is priority.
- Always tell someone if something makes you feel uncomfortable.
- There are people who can help. Report online child abuse or find more advice and support. There is a report abuse button on the ceop website.

Visit the Think U Know website for more advice about mobile phones, chat rooms, P2P, Instant Messenger, Social Networking sites and Blogs.

www.thinkuknow.co.uk



www.ceop.police.uk



www.derbyshirescb.org.uk



KEEP SAFE online!