

Free Laptops and Broadband Connection

The government has announced a scheme to provide a free lap top and home broadband connection for families with children entitled to free school meals and for looked after children. The scheme is called the home access grant and the eligibility criteria are:-

If the child is registered for free school meals or the family receive one of the qualifying benefits:

- income based job seekers allowance
- income support
- child tax credit but not working tax credit
- income of less than £16040
- income based employment support allowance
- guaranteed element of pension credit
- support under part V1 of the immigration and asylum act 1999

The child is in Years 3 – 9

The child attends a state maintained school in England

The family have not benefited from HA or CFP (Computers for pupils) in the past.

Also entitled are the carers and foster parents of looked after children in Years 1 – 13.

The entitlement is for one grant per family per year.

From Tuesday 12th January parents will be able to telephone to request an application form for the Home Access Grant. The telephone number is **0333 200 1004**

On approval the parent will receive a pre loaded debit card to spend on a home access computer and a broadband connection which will be available from a list of approved suppliers. The general public will also be able to purchase Home Access Kits.

Further details for schools on the Home Access programme is available on www.becta.org.uk/homeaccess

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