

Do students learn the Australian Curriculum Framework (ACF)?

The following Australian Curriculum subjects are taught: English, Maths, Science, HAAS and Health & Physical Education. All other subjects are taught according to the Tasmanian Curriculum Framework. As soon as new ACF subjects become available, the eSchool will provide the appropriate curriculum.

How much time will students have to spend on the computer and/or doing school work?

Students are expected to work from Monday to Friday for normal school hours, i.e. from 9.00 am – 3.00 pm. For some students additional work may need to be done outside these hours. Not all of these hours will be spent at a computer as, for example, some will be spent in physical activity, reading or art work.

Can a student do their work without adult supervision?

Primary students should have adult supervision to enable full support to interpret the learning needs of each curriculum unit.

It is preferable for secondary students to have adult supervision. However, working independently can prove successful for some students. Even so, an adult interested in each student's progress is a significant aid to learning success.



How are students supported?

Do you have a library and what can I borrow?

Yes, we have a well-stocked library of 23,000 items. It includes eBooks as well as regular resources for example CDs, non-fiction, fiction and DVDs.

How do teachers support students?

Every student enrolled at the eSchool is allocated to a Home Group teacher (primary) or Learning Advisor

(secondary). Their role is to support the student and family with home visits, campus visits, regular email and phone communication. Students and families also have access to the services of campus-based psychologists.

If a student has not had much success at school so far, will this school be any different?

The eSchool runs a variety of programs so that students can engage in a course suited to their ability level. Teachers also encourage parents and students to develop a strong relationship with the school so that a student's progress and success are constantly monitored.

If a student returns to their school or moves to Year 11, do they receive any transition support?

Yes, students who return to their previous school, or move to a new school, are supported in their transition by a range of eSchool staff including their Home Group teacher or Learning Advisor and, where appropriate, the school psychologist and social workers.

Year 10 students transitioning to Year 11 receive additional support from MyEducation who will meet with students to:

- discuss options
- assist in determining the most appropriate pathways
- support involvement in vocational programs and
- organise College and other 'taster' visits.

Does the school have a School Association?

Yes, it is an active group which meets regularly online. New parents and carers are always welcome.

Next Steps

How do I learn more about the eSchool?

The Assistant Principals at each campus are able to arrange a visit to a campus, or provide more details about the eSchool's educational programs.

They can be contacted on **1 800 068 052** or

Northern Campus	Southern Campus
Rocherlea	Derwent Park
03 6323 8999	03 6282 8181

We welcome your interest in our school.

Louise Anders
Principal



2017 Q & A



Technology

What technical support can I access?

Our ICT Help Desk can be contacted by phone or email five days a week during business hours. ICT support staff can also connect to your computer (with your permission) and assist with issues remotely. ICT support staff are happy to assist with the simplest, as well as the most complex queries from students and family members who are supporting them.

What is a virtual learning environment?

Frontier is a safe online learning management system where students can access live lessons, complete work set by their teachers, access tests, forums, grades, assessment and other external resources. It is an interactive online space in which students and teachers work collaboratively.

Can I borrow a computer?

Yes this is arranged by your teacher. A formal loan agreement is completed between the parents/carers and the school, after which a deposit is paid.

Can someone advise me about the right computer to buy if I decide to purchase one?

The Tasmanian eSchool uses web-based applications which are designed to run on personal computers. If you would like some advice about purchasing a device, please contact your local campus and the technician can talk further with you. Most entry level notebooks, laptops and desktops with an internet connection can access the resources.

Do I receive any help to pay for the internet connection to my house?

The eSchool provides a subsidy to offset the monthly costs of your Internet Service Provider (ISP). The subsidy is currently based on 16 class interactions per month, per family.

If you have a standard internet connection and are accessing STAS support, the rate is \$40 per student per month plus \$10 per month for each additional eSchool student to a maximum of three students.

If you have a satellite connection, the rate is \$60 for the first child, per month, plus \$20 per month for each additional eSchool student up to a maximum of three students. To claim this subsidy for a satellite connection, you must register with the eSchool Business Manager first prior to claiming.



How do I learn to use a computer for classes and school work?

The Learning Advisor will assist secondary students on how to access Fronter and Blackboard Collaborate when they first enrol. They will guide the student through so they can become familiar with eSchool systems and how to work independently.

Primary students are visited by their home group teacher who will help them set up for their learning.

What if we don't currently have access to the internet at home?

You can:

- purchase an internet stick and top it up when required and monthly internet subsidy can be provided to support this
- access the internet and computer at your local LINC
- access the internet and computer at your local Child and Family Centre, free wifi at places such as McDonalds and some shopping centres or;
- investigate access to the internet and computer at your local school

While some paper-based resources are available, the eSchool strongly recommends the eLearning format.

How safe is the online environment for my student?

The internet is an essential tool for learning and can be utilised for virtually any task, there are some risks.

Knowing how to use the internet safely is essential and we highly recommend you view the following website:

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

All the information in Fronter, the eSchool's virtual learning environment, is evaluated by our teachers before it is uploaded or linked to our systems, and every virtual classroom is supervised and recorded.

Levies

Does the eSchool recognise STAS?

STAS is available (subject to means testing) to students enrolled at the eSchool. Application forms are available from each Campus office.

What are the levies for 2017?

Levies for 2017 are \$210 per student per year. Additional postage fees are payable by non-STAS families enrolled as 'travellers' and 'overseas travellers'. This fee is \$115 for a full year.

What if I have already paid levies at a Tasmanian Government school this year?

Students with a base School for registration purposes will be issued levies from the eSchool and are not required to pay the base school levies.

If you have received an invoice from your child's base school, please notify them that you will be required to pay eSchool levies for 2017, you are only required to pay one school.

What if I enrol at the eSchool in the middle of a term?

If levies are payable then you will pay a proportionate amount of the full levy, depending on the date of enrolment/registration.



About our school

What does online learning look like at the eSchool?

The eSchool uses Fronter, a virtual learning environment, to enable students to access a live classroom (Class Live in Blackboard Collaborate) and course materials for each subject. As Fronter is web-based, it is accessible 24/7 from anywhere with internet access.

Are classes in real time?

The eSchool runs lessons in Blackboard Collaborate via Fronter's Class Live tool. Recordings are made of each lesson and these are available at the end of each day for play back at any time if students are not able to access their class. In live lessons, students listen to teacher's instructions, view information via PowerPoint, videos, web tours and application sharing, participate in class discussions through voice and text chat, use an interactive whiteboard and go to breakout rooms for group work.

Do students have a timetable?

Every student is given a school timetable outlining their lessons schedule for the week.

Does the school still use paper-based units?

Kindergarten to Year 6 students are taught using paper-based units supported by teachers in online or telephone lessons. Some paper-based materials are also available for secondary students. However, working online is the preferred mode of learning.

What about using the telephone?

Teachers regularly contact all students to check on progress. Students and families are encouraged to contact their teachers for assistance at any time via email, visits or telephone.

Can a student come into a campus for learning activities?

Small group work and tutorials are hosted regularly at our campuses in Launceston and Hobart. Students are sent an invitation to participate and while on campus



are encouraged to visit the eSchool libraries. Students can also come to the campus to work with teachers by appointment.

Does the eSchool record attendance?

Attendance is recorded for every timetabled lesson. Parents are sent SMS messages if students are not in class.

What happens if a student does not go to a class?

If a student is unable to attend class, the school/teacher should be notified by phone call, text message, or email. If a student does not attend class and no notification has been given, a text message will be sent to parents/carers notifying them of the absence and requesting an explanation.

What happens if a student does not complete much work?

If a student is unable to complete their work, or is not working to their capacity, it is important to contact the relevant subject teacher to arrange support. Subject teachers will also send letters alerting parents/carers that insufficient work is being completed. Parents/carers may also receive phone calls from subject teachers to enable them to work with families to design new support options.

