

FREE LAPTOPS FOR FAMILIES!!

The government is rolling out a new scheme aimed at helping those from low-income households to get online at home.

What is Home Access?

The scheme allows the poorest families to apply for a grant that will fund a laptop and broadband connection. This grant must be used within three months.

There are three possible packages different homes may qualify for:

1. The full package of a laptop, one year's internet access, service and support
2. A computer with service and support
3. One year's internet access

The grant only covers a laptop and web connection, so families wanting to buy additional kit such as a printer will need to pay for that themselves. Gordon Brown has promised to invest £300million into the project, which should have completed the roll out by March next year.

The free laptops all come with a dedicated Home Access website set as the home page to help families make the most of the machine. They also come with pre-set parental controls, so you don't have to worry about what the kids might do online.

Do I qualify?

Only families receiving certain benefits will be able to use the Home Access scheme. Parents and guardians wishing to apply must be fully responsible for a child in Years 3 - 9, attending a state school in England. You won't qualify if you have already received support from a similar programme, like Computers for Pupils.

In addition, you'll need to receive at least one of the following benefits:

- Free school meals
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credit (and an income of no more than £16,040)
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income-based Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Paty V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

How do I apply?

If you think you qualify for this scheme then you can call the grant helpline on 0333 200 1004 and ask for an application form.

There's more information on the scheme available on the dedicated [Home Access website](#).

Be warned, there is a set amount of money dedicated to this scheme and it's being allocated on a first come, first served basis. If you want to grab this grant for your children, you should apply as soon as possible to ensure your youngster benefits.

Related Links

- [Visit the Home Access website](#)