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Laptop damage is skyrocketing

SCHOOLS may have to stop issuing children with laptop computers unless they start looking after them as well as they do their iPods and mobiles, an insurance specialist has warned.

The escalating rate of damage to the laptops could soon make them uninsurable, said Tony Mitchell, managing director of Sydney-based company IT Insurance Services. Insurance data showed one in two laptops used in schools was subject to an accidental damage claim last year, compared with only one in six in 2000, Mr Mitchell said.

But students' iPods, MP3s and mobiles were treated like gold.