

BYOD FAQ

Device Requirements

Q: What are the minimum device specifications?

A: The minimum device specifications include 8GB RAM, a 12th generation Intel Core i3 processor or newer, a 256GB SSD, and at least a 13-inch screen. While the school cannot mandate a specific device, we do have a recommended purchasing portal for parents to use. Insurance for the device is also recommended to safeguard against potential damage or loss.

Q: Why are certain devices, like Chromebooks, excluded?

A: Chromebooks are excluded due to compatibility issues with our school's software and network. They may not support required applications or security protocols, posing potential risks and hindering the student experience.

Q: Is a keyboard attachment required for iPads? Why?

A: Yes, iPads require a keyboard attachment to enable efficient typing and academic tasks. The attachment increases the iPad's versatility in the learning environment. There are many tasks in different learning areas, where the flexibility and tactile nature of an attached keyboard is helpful.

Resources and Support

Q: What software licenses does the school provide, and who is eligible for them?

A: Microsoft Office 365 licensing is available to all students, provided by the Department of Education. Adobe Creative Cloud licensing is available through the school but is reserved for years 9-12 in specific courses; years 7 and 8 are not eligible.

Q: What support is available for personal devices?

A: The school offers limited technical support for personal devices, including minor troubleshooting and software installation guidance. More complex issues may require external support channels.

Connectivity and Security

Q: How do students connect to the school's Wi-Fi?

A: Students can connect to the school's Wi-Fi by selecting the network "Wireless-5" and entering their school-issued username and password in the format firstname.lastname. An SSL certificate must be installed on the device to monitor internet traffic on-site, which helps maintain a safe environment for students.

Q: What is the purpose of the SSL certificate, and does it affect my device at home?

A: The SSL certificate monitors internet traffic on the school's Wi-Fi to ensure safe browsing and policy compliance. It doesn't affect the device or monitor traffic outside the school network.

Q: Why are mobile phone hotspots prohibited on school premises?

A: Mobile phone hotspots are prohibited as per the Department of Education's "Student Mobile Phones in Public Schools Policy". Mobile phones are to be "Off and Away All Day". They bypass network safety measures, potentially exposing risks. Breaching this rule may lead to device confiscation or a BYOD program ban.

Responsibility and Conduct

Q: What are the students' responsibilities for personal data?

A: Students must protect personal data on their devices and regularly back up essential data to OneDrive. The school is not responsible for data loss, and data loss is not an excuse for unfinished assignments.

Q: What are the rules for using BYOD under teacher instruction?

A: BYOD use is only allowed under teacher guidance. Unauthorised use may result in temporary device confiscation and/or other consequences as per the school's Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy.

Q: What happens if a device is damaged or lost at school?

A: The school accepts no responsibility for any damage or loss to personal devices while on school grounds. Students are responsible for taking care of their devices and should consider appropriate insurance coverage. Any damage or loss should be reported to a parent or guardian, and they may need to handle the situation independently of the school.

Equity and Accessibility

Q: What if I don't have a device for the BYOD program?

A: The school recognises that not all students may have access to a suitable device. We provide devices for daily hire from the library to ensure that every student has access to the necessary technology for learning. Information on hiring a device can be obtained from the library staff.

Q: Are there expectations for regular device usage?

A: Students are expected to bring their devices every day, fully charged, and use them responsibly for educational purposes, following clear guidelines set by this policy and teacher instructions.

Q: What happens if my child forgets to bring their device?

A: We provide devices for daily hire from the library. Students are encouraged to present to the library prior to 8:45am to loan a device for the day. We have a bank of laptops available to be loaned to students on a first come, first served basis. If a loan device cannot be secured for the day, students will be provided with alternative paper-based work to ensure continuation of the curriculum in classes. Teachers will communicate with parents directly if this is a recurring issue.

Parental Involvement

Q: How can parents support the BYOD initiative?

A: Parents can support the initiative by ensuring their children have a suitable device, follow the BYOD policy, complete required agreements, and maintain open communication with the school, and be personally responsible in all aspects of ICT use.