Choosing a device for your child

INFORMATION

Most schools provide fact sheets, policies and recommendations for parents and carers to use when purchasing a device. Please contact your child’s school to see if this information is available.

DEVICES

The term ‘device’ in BYOD, refers to any mobile electronic technology (including assistive technologies) brought into the school that is owned by the student, and is able to connect to the school’s Wi-Fi network. Most schools will recommend the use of a laptop, with some accepting a tablet. Some schools may also make suggestions as to the amount of storage the device needs, antivirus requirements, specific operating systems (e.g. Windows 10) and accessories (e.g. Stylus pens).

PRICE

BYOD devices range greatly in price and suit several different purposes. Your purchasing decision will need to suit your family budget and look at various methods of payment, including lay-by. Simple, cheaper options are always available. You may want to consider how your child will use this device each year and for how many years.

WIRELESS CONNECTIVITY

All purchased BYODs will be used in school with wireless connectivity (WiFi) to the internet. Every public high school in NSW has been equipped with a strong and secure wireless network to allow staff and students to connect. When purchasing a device for your child, please check the wireless specifications (see below) and speak to experts in store and at the school. Print out the school’s information sheet and take it with you when purchasing a device.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Connecting to the wireless network in schools is essential for BYOD programs. The wireless network installed in high schools only operates on the 802.11n 5Ghz standard. Devices with 802.11a/b/g 2.4 Ghz only will not be able to connect. Most modern devices now have AC wifi cards, these are suitable.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The NSW Department of Education BYOD policy states the following responsibilities: ‘The department of education is responsible for the surveillance and monitoring of its computer systems to ensure the ongoing confidentiality, integrity and availability of services. The principal is responsible for developing and implementing the school’s BYOD policy. The student is responsible for abiding by the school’s policy and the department’s Online Communication-Acceptable Usage for School Students. Student devices are not covered by Treasury Managed Fund. Insurance is the responsibility of parents/caregivers and students.’

To read more visit: https://education.nsw.gov.au

EQUITY

Many schools also offer a loan system for personal devices if purchasing a BYOD is not an option for your child. Please discuss this possibility with your child’s school.
LIST OF REFERENCES & RESOURCES FOR PARENTS / CAREGIVERS:
Here are a number of websites that parents can visit to assist them comprehend the ins and outs of digital technology. Some sites offer a number of guidelines and suggestions for managing devices and technology in the home and ways to safely monitor and keep track of your child’s digital usage. You will also find links to help parents understand a common high school ICT program – Bring Your Own Device.

1. NSW Department of Education BYOD policy and guidelines

2. A digital literacy guide for parents
   www.fundamentallychildren.com/tablet-tips-esafety/what-is-digital-literacy/

3. Cyber and digital literacy resources for the whole community

4. iParent – an interactive guide for parents on using devices

5. A Parent information pack on Bring Your Own Device policies

6. Effective parenting tips for a digital world

7. Australian Parents Council site to support parents and technology
   https://austparents.edu.au/parentech

LIST OF REFERENCES & RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:
Visit these sites to see what other schools are doing to prepare and set up students for BYOD programs. See samples of student agreements and acceptable usage guidelines. Many schools have their own blog or wiki for students and families about technology and devices. You will find some links below

1. Samples of Consent and Acceptable Use Agreement statements

2. Essential information for students, parents and teachers about digital citizenship

3. Jamison High School BYOD site with links to their student agreement statement
   http://jamisonhhsbyod.weebly.com/for-parents.html

4. Ulladulla High School BYOD Information with links to their student agreement statement

5. Smiths Hills High School BYOD website for students and parents
   http://smithshall-hschool.wixsite.com/byod

6. Warilla High School’s weebly site on Bring Your Own Device
   http://warillahighbyod.weebly.com/