Bring Your Own Device

A Guide to Understanding BYOD

Bring your own device (BYOD) refers to technology models where students bring a personally-owned device to school for the purpose of learning.

Why digital technology in learning?

Web-based tools and resources have changed the landscape of learning. Students now have at their fingertips unlimited access to digital content, resources, experts, databases and communities of interest. By effectively leveraging such resources, students not only have the opportunity to deepen their own learning, but they can also develop the digital literacy skills that will prepare them for the high tech world in which they will live, learn and work in the future.

The use of digital technology at Urrbrae Agricultural High School is essential to facilitating:

- creativity
- structured thinking
- organisation
- communication
- collaboration
- presentation of student work

The school has a strong focus on digital fluency that fosters a climate of inquiry and enables students to be successful global citizens in the 21st Century. The integration of digital technology is a significant feature of the school's strategic plan and we have invested heavily to support this vision.

The use of digital technology provides:

- the means for students to engage in inquiry learning
- a vehicle for personalising learning in ways that ensure each student is fully engaged and is successful in attaining established learning goals
- opportunities for student choice in the use of multimedia to explore, research, think, synthesise, analyse, evaluate, communicate and express ideas
- the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with peers, experts, and their teachers
- access to digital learning environments that provide multiple pathways to learning
- authentic teaching and learning activities through the pursuit of real-world issues and topics of deep interest to students
- equitable learning opportunities, especially for students with additional support needs
- the opportunity to learn about and attain high standards in digital citizenship.

Why personally-owned devices?

The answer lies in three key differences between personally owned and school-owned devices:

1) A device owned by a student is typically a device with which the student is familiar and has already customised with the applications, software and organisational tools best suited to their individual needs.

2) Teachers are able to embed the innovative use of technology in both lesson design and homework.

3) If the devices the students use beyond the school day are the same ones they use for school, the students can seamlessly switch from personal use to learning anytime, anywhere. Students literally carry around accessibility to academic learning that can be called up at a moment's notice.

Establishing a culture of digital citizenship

Today's digital devices and social media provide opportunities for students to be part of the participatory digital culture that connects people both locally and globally. To participate fully, ethically and safely, students must be provided with the opportunity to learn about and exercise their rights and responsibilities as digital citizens. The BYOD model extends the culture of digital citizenship beyond the school, as students use their devices for learning outside of the classroom.

Urrbrae Agricultural High School provides the guidance and education necessary to help students to understand and appreciate digital opportunities and responsibilities. The importance of digital citizenship is embedded into every curriculum area and forms part of the pastoral care program.

Facilitating the BYOD model

If a student does not already own a suitable electronic device, there are two options available:

Option 1 – Recommended Laptop:

Parents/caregivers are invited to purchase a recommended laptop from our preferred reseller.

The computer is robust but light and designed to be suitable for the mobility required for both school and home use. It will be pre-imaged with both standard and educational software required for school use and access given to the school network.

If this option is selected, the school will handle any warranty claims.

Details of recommended laptops, including exact specifications and price and details of our reseller including how to access the BYOD portal will be communicated in a separate document.

Option 2 – Bring Your Own Device

Parents/caregivers can choose purchase their own laptop or tablet.

Minimum requirements for all BYOD models are:

- Wireless connectivity
- All school day battery life

If there are circumstances that prevent your child having a laptop or tablet as described in the options above, the school has a limited access laptop loan scheme.

Laptop Loan Scheme

In exceptional circumstances, parents and caregivers can apply to access a laptop loan scheme. A laptop will be designated to each child on this scheme.

Short-term Laptop Loans

In the event a laptop is being repaired or parents and caregivers are awaiting delivery of a new laptop, a short-term laptop loan scheme is available, for a maximum period of five weeks. These laptops must be picked up on a daily basis from the library and returned there at the end of the school day.

These laptops are not available for out-of-class use or home studies.

Replacement due to loss, theft or damage

Student-owned devices (Option 1 and Option 2) are NOT covered under the school's insurance policy. Parents and caregivers are advised to check their home contents insurance policies to ensure the laptop is covered outside the home or to purchase accidental damage cover.

Technical support

Students will receive daily assistance through the school with:

- connection to the school's wireless network so they can access internal school systems, e.g., Daymap and Clickview
- internet access within the school
- printing within the school

Acceptable use of digital devices

The school has an acceptable use policy that is written in all student diaries. Students and parents/caregivers sign to acknowledge their understanding of this agreement.

Data storage and backup

Student files should be stored on the hard drive of their laptop with backups regularly made to their network drive, OneDrive or Google Drive.

Transport and storage (including general care)

All laptops must be transported to and from school in student schoolbags to avoid unnecessary risk of theft or damage. While at school, all laptops must be stored in student lockers when the laptop is not needed for lessons. It is essential that lockers used to store laptops be fitted with a sturdy, heavy-duty lock.

Internet use at home

Students can access the internet at home through their home network. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to actively monitor and discuss their child's use of the internet, as DECD filtering does not apply away from the school site.

Health, safety and welfare

Students are advised to consider the following when using a laptop:

- Take regular rest breaks
- Work in an environment with adequate lighting, free from glare or reflection
- Use the laptop on a desk, not on the lap
- Position the monitor and increase font size for comfortable viewing
- Maintain good posture
- Laptops should weigh less than 2 kilograms to allow for minimal stress on the body during transportation.