St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) REQUIREMENTS

June 2024

The minimum standards for our BYOD program are listed below as well as some frequently asked questions. Whilst we have set these requirements as a minimum, it is important to understand that these requirements may not meet the needs of some subjects studied in Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) and Stage 6 (Years 11 & 12). While it is a long way down the track for Year 7 students, you may wish to consider this when making a decision on purchasing a new device.

For these subjects higher specifications will be required as shown in the link below. Subjects that will require higher specifications to run software such as the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite.

Stage 5 – Photographic and Digital Media, Visual Arts, Graphics Technology, Information Software Technology and STEM.

Stage 6 - HSC- Photography, Video & Digital Media; Information, Processes & Technology; Software Design & Development, Industrial Technology: Graphics and Multimedia; Design & Technology.

*The most common programs that will be used from this suite are Photoshop, Premier Pro and Illustrator, suggested requirements can be found at:
https://helpx.adobe.com/creative-cloud/system-requirements.html

What are the minimum requirements for BYOD?
- The device needs to have Wi-Fi of at least 802.11n or better.
- The battery life of the device should be capable of lasting 6 hours minimum of constant use without charge. Obviously, over time the battery life does decrease.
- Devices must have a minimum of 128Gb storage and 4Gb RAM (but ideally more). Students have access to OneDrive which gives them a large amount of cloud storage.
- The screen size of the device (measured from bottom left corner to top right corner) should be greater than 10 inches.
- Device hardware specifications must meet the minimum (ideally the recommended) specifications of the operating system and all applications
- Microsoft 365 (Office) is supplied to all enrolled students free of charge so there is no need to purchase separately. Device component requirements for the installation of Microsoft 365 can be found here.

(Note: Microsoft 365 and other third-party software will be required to be installed on student devices. **CHROMEBOOKS, TABLETS AND DEVICES USING THE WINDOWS S** operating *system at this stage do not have the appropriate software available in the associated app stores and are not recommended)*

In partnership with Learning with Technologies a School Purchasing Portal has been prepared specific to the needs of our students, offering a range of devices and accessories.

It is **NOT** compulsory that devices are purchased using this portal, we are simply looking to provide an option for parents when purchasing a device for their child. We have spoken with several vendors to investigate devices that best suit our learning requirements here at St Mary's.

For your convenience we have supplied a link below to the LWT portal.
https://smccg.orderportal.com.au

St Mary's Catholic College BYOD Program

Recommended Minimum Specifications

While there are countless BYOD devices with vast price variations, the following table provides some *minimum* specifications that need to be present for a device to be effective in the classroom.

RECOMMENDED LAPTOP MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS		
ELEMENT	**SIZE / DESCRIPTION**	**WHY?**
Operating system (OS)	Windows Pro *(Avoid S-Mode)*	Our Diocese is a Microsoft Windows Environment. All staff have access to a Windows device and for compatibility reasons windows is preferred for students. While Macintosh (Apple) machines are acceptable, please note that there is less direct diocesan support available for these devices. DO NOT PURCHASE Chromebook devices OR iPad/Galaxy tablets as they are not compatible within our Windows Network environment.
Display	Screen Size 10 to 15 inch (Touch Screen optional)	10-to-13-inch screens are the standard size of student devices. Larger screens have more weight.
Hard drive (Storage memory)	**256GB** minimum recommended	There must be enough storage on the device to install the Microsoft 365 (Office) as well as other applications that will be downloaded onto the device.
	Solid State Drive **(SSD)** *(Avoid eMMC)*	**SSD** are by far the most reliable, durable and consistently run due to there being no moving parts. While SSD is suggested, it is not compulsory.
RAM (Working memory)	**8GB** minimum	When a program is opened, it operates through the working memory. Anything less means that the working memory cannot cope with multiple programs being used at once.
Processor brand	Intel Core i3/i5/i7/i9, Intel Pentium, or AMD Ryzen 3/5/7/9	The main brands are Intel Core, Intel Pentium, and AMD.
Processor speed	Above **2GHz** recommended	The more programs that are being used, the greater demands on the speed at which the machine can work.
Battery life	Minimum **6** hours	The students will need at **least 6** hours' battery life. Keep in mind this will deplete over time.
Ports	• USB 2 and/or USB 3 • USB C recommended • Headphone jack	USB C port with an adaptor will allow the student to connect their device to an external monitor when required/needed. USB C for charging is an advantage.
WARRANTY, IT SERVICE AND INSURANCE		
Extended warranty	Parent decision – recommended	New devices by law come with a 12-month warranty. Suppliers often offer extended warranty for the intended life span of the device (3 years).
IT service (Not at school)	Parent decision	Suppliers often offer 24-hour IT support at an additional cost.
Insurance and Accidental Damage Protection	Parent decision – recommended	**NB: Personal student property is not covered by College Property Insurance.** In a school environment, there is an obvious potential for devices to be damaged. Accidental Damage Protection provides you with assurance that if the device is damaged, that it will be fixed. Check the terms and conditions as there may be an excess on claims.

ACCESSORIES		
Protective case	Strongly advised	Various types but the best form of protection is a hard carry case.

Frequently Asked Questions.

- **Can I use an apple/mac computer?**

Apple/Mac devices will be able to connect to the college's internet and are able to be used in the BYOD program. However, there may be some limitations in terms of accessing Flash based resources and the app environment is quite different. However, if that is a device that is currently owned, it will definitely meet the requirements. **Apple iPad's do not meet the requirements of this program.**

- **Who is responsible for the security/ virus protection of the device?**

Viruses have the potential to severely damage and disrupt operations within the college's computer network. Students have the right to use their laptop for personal use and can install personal software and connect to the internet from home or other public areas. Students should therefore take appropriate steps to protect their laptop from virus infection.

- **Who is responsible for damage/repairs to the device?**

Parents/ students will be responsible for the repair of their own device

- **Must my child have a device?**

All students enrolled at St Mary's from 2015 have been expected to have a device that meets the minimum standards outlined.

- **How and where will my child access the internet?**

Students will be provided with internet access wirelessly whilst at college.
Access to the internet is filtered and monitored. Students may also utilise their home network and/or public wireless networks for internet access. Provision, troubleshooting and support of these networks are not a college responsibility. Students are reminded that random audits may take place, and any inappropriate downloads or site access will be detected.

- **Will the device be used in every lesson?**

No. The amount of use will vary between facultíes and staff. A significant amount of staff training has occurred in recent years in preparation for greater integration of technology in the learning process.

- **What will my child do with their device while at sport on Fridays?**

The college will implement a Device-Free day on Fridays (for Stages 4 and 5) to alleviate the potential difficulties of security and damage whilst students participate in Sport. Likewise, it would not be expected that students bring their device if an excursion has been arranged (unless stated).

- **How will my child charge his device?**

Students must ensure that their device is fully charged at home and ready for use each day. There will be no charging facilities provided at the college. The specifications state that a substantial battery life is required for such issues.

- **Is there somewhere my child can safely leave their device?**

No, the device is always the student's responsibility. Students will not be permitted to leave their devices in classrooms during breaks or overnight.

- **Will my child's files be backed up on the college network?**

Students are responsible for the data on their laptop and making regular backups. The college is not responsible for any data loss arising from laptop malfunction, factory reset or re-imaging during fault diagnosis. Students will be encouraged to use their Microsoft account so that cloud storage can be used to store data.

- **Can the college request a view of a child's hard drive or external memory device?**

Audits of student's devices can be requested at any time. The student will be notified and be present during the inspection. Internet access will be strictly monitored, and sanctions applied for inappropriate use.

- **How do I know what to buy for my child?**

Everything you will see on the BYOD portal has been selected and approved by the school for your child's study.

- **Do I need to buy software?**

As an enrolled student in the Diocese your child will receive, free of charge, access to the full Microsoft 365 suite. Virus protection software is NOT provided by the school and is a parental responsibility.

- **Do I need to buy insurance or warranties?**

You can buy Accidental Damage (insurance) Protection (ADP) if you wish. All options will be clearly explained and made available on the portal. You are not required to have additional insurance; however, keep in mind that you will own the device so will be responsible for any damage or loss.