

FAQ

◆ Does my child *need* their own device?

Use of computers is becoming increasingly common in the workplace and the classroom, and our students need to be prepared for their future workplaces. While the school maintains a number of sets of computers, most students would prefer to use their own computer that they are familiar with, and in many cases, their own device will be more powerful than the computers supplied by the school. The sense of ownership also promotes responsibility.



◆ Will my child be disadvantaged if they do not have their own device? What if I can't afford a device for my child? What if my child's computer is out of action?

The school maintains many computers for students to use. If a teacher is running an activity that requires a computer, students who do not have their own device will be able to borrow one of the school owned units.

◆ Won't they just play games?

Staff actively supervise students when they are using computers, just the same as with any activity, to ensure students are on task. Students also need to practise using computers as a work tool and managing the distractions, something they will have to be able to do unsupervised in many workplaces.

◆ Can't they just use a book and pen like they always have?

Learning with computers allows a whole range of learning activities that are not available with more traditional options.

- Students can produce engaging content, including videos, multimedia presentations, and websites.
- Working collaboratively, a key skill for the workplace.
- Teachers can give out work electronically, and collect and mark work on screen, saving paper.
- Student work is saved to the cloud, removing excuses like 'I forgot my book'.
- Documents can be easily shared to parents so that you can see progress.
- Students can access up to date information, including simulations, online lectures.

Where use of computers is not appropriate or beneficial, students will continue to use traditional methods of working.

BYOD @ Armidale Secondary College

WHAT IS BYOD?

“Bring your own device” (BYOD) refers to students bringing a personally-owned device to school for the purpose of learning. A personally owned device is any technology device brought into the school and is owned by a student or the student’s family. The laptop must be able to connect to the school WiFi and have specific software or apps installed.

What devices can students bring to school?

Students can bring a laptop to school. The laptop must follow the required specifications below. Classroom teachers may also allow or endorse the use of mobile phones for some activities (e.g. recording videos or audio, calculator, or listening to music).

Device specifications

Wireless connectivity - Devices must support 5GHz dual band: 802.11 n wireless so that they can connect to the school WiFi.

Battery life - Devices must last at least 6 hours without charge so that it can last the whole school day. Students should not bring chargers to school.

Memory and RAM - Devices must have a minimum 16 GB storage and 4GB RAM so that students have enough space to save their work and have a device that is fast to work with.

Operating system - Ideally devices should have the current version of any operating system (eg. Windows 10, macOS 10.12) so the device can access the latest software/apps and updates. At a minimum, the previous version of any operating system should be installed on devices (eg. Windows 7, OS X 10.11).

Hardware features - Devices must have a physical keyboard. Headphones should be brought for listening to audio. Students may also find a mouse, microphone, webcam, or stylus helpful, but these are not required.

Protective Case - Since the school is not responsible for the device (see below), students should use a protective case over their device

Software and apps

Devices must have software or apps that allow for:

- ◆ Internet browsing (Eg. Chrome, Safari, Microsoft Edge)
- ◆ Word processing and note taking (Eg. Microsoft Word, Pages, OneNote)
- ◆ Creating spreadsheets (Eg. Microsoft Excel, Numbers)
- ◆ Creating presentations (Eg. Microsoft PowerPoint, Keynote)

Students can download FREE Microsoft and Adobe software for laptops at <http://bit.ly/byodsoftware>
Active antivirus software must be installed.

Students are responsible for their own device. The school will take reasonable precautions to protect student devices, but ultimately the school cannot be held responsible for any damage to, or theft of a BYO device.