

16th November 2018

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Elim Christian College 2019

Devices are a routine part of our teaching methodology and are integral to learning. The intention is that each student have their own device and our wifi environment enables this. Our infrastructure, its installation and operation is Ministry of Education approved and we take all reasonable steps regarding monitoring.

We operate a 'blended learning' environment. Our expectation is that devices will not feature for more than 40% of the time in our daily learning activities. We have great staff who lead their learning spaces and planned programmes superbly and make informed decisions regarding device use. The Ministry of Education describes blended learning as 'a combination of traditional and e-learning practices' and it defines e-learning as 'learning and teaching that is facilitated by or supported through the appropriate use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)'. We believe that the use of devices further develops our students' 21st century competencies of digital literacy, communication, and working collaboratively to problem solve and think creatively. We are also committed to create an environment in which digital technology and critical thinking work together to expand and deepen the learning experience.

Appropriate devices

The requirements for each year level are different so we recommend the following:

Years 3-6 require an iPad to support their learning.

Guidelines for buying an iPad:

- minimum iPad Air 2, iPad mini 4, or newer, Wi-Fi only, preferably 32Gb storage or greater.
- a robust, portfolio style case that wraps around the iPad and does not rely on a magnet only to keep the 'lid' closed.

Years 7-10: All students will need to bring their own device of choice to support their learning. Students who have been using an iPad in the previous year are able to continue with this device. If the device needs replacing, we recommend purchasing either a Chromebook or laptop/hybrid device with the following minimum specifications:

- 4GB+ RAM and 32GB+ Storage
- Physical keyboard (integrated into case for iPads)
- 5 hours+ battery life (with constant usage)

Chromebooks are recommended for these year levels as they are robust, cost-effective, run Android apps, and their batteries endure well. Higher-end models also integrate tablet/touchscreen features, but these are not a requirement.

Who is responsible for the purchase and maintenance of student devices?

PB Technologies and Cyclone computers have created purchasing portals specific to Elim Christian College's BYOD programme. You can access these portals at the following URL's:

- Cyclone Computers: <https://www.cyclone.co.nz/byod/> (select Elim Christian College and use the login "elimchristiancollege" and password "159botany")
- PB Technologies: <http://www.pbtech.co.nz/edu/elim> (create an account and use the membership key BYOD123)

Many retailers offer purchase options that can lessen the blow of outlaying large amounts of money for a device. An extensive warranty and comprehensive insurance are highly recommended for all student devices.

Although staff can assist students with troubleshooting devices that are not working properly during the school day, the maintenance of devices remains the sole responsibility of the student and the student's parents or caregivers.

More questions?

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to contact the people listed below by email if they have more questions about the BYOD programme at Elim Christian College.

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Burton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Murray Burton MNZM
Principal