



15 July 2025

Changes to BYOD in years 4 - 8 for 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to let you know about an important upcoming change to our school's technology policy. We believe this shift will significantly improve our students' learning environment and overall well-being. Effective from the start of the school year 2026, we will be moving away from our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program to a school-owned device model in **years 4 - 8**. At the same time, we will be implementing strategies to encourage students to spend less time on their devices during school hours.

We made this decision after careful consideration, extensive research, and looking at best practices in education. While BYOD offered some initial benefits, we have identified several challenges that make a shift necessary for the best educational experience for all our students.

Why the Change?

Here are the main reasons we are moving to school-owned devices:

- **Equity and Access:** A school-owned device program ensures every student has access to the same reliable and appropriate technology. This eliminates differences that can arise from varied personal devices, operating systems, and specifications, levelling the playing field for all learners.
- **Enhanced Security and Management:** With school-owned devices, we can implement strong security measures and content filtering more effectively. This creates a safer online environment for our students and allows for more efficient management of software updates and application installations, ensuring consistency and minimising technical disruptions.
- **Streamlined Learning Environment:** Standardised devices make it easier for teachers to integrate technology into lessons without having to troubleshoot compatibility issues or navigate different student device capabilities. This frees up valuable instructional time and leads to a more cohesive and productive learning experience.
- **Reduced Distractions:** BYOD often leads to students being distracted by personal notifications, social media, and non-educational apps on their own devices.

School-owned devices can be set up to limit access to non-academic content, helping students focus on their studies.

Less Screen Time, More Engagement

In addition to transitioning to school-owned devices, we will also be taking a more structured approach to screen time during the school day. While technology is an invaluable tool for learning, we recognise the importance of balancing digital engagement with other crucial aspects of development, like critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and physical activity.

Our goals for reducing screen time during school hours are to:

- **Promote Deeper Learning:** By encouraging students to put down their devices more frequently, we aim to foster greater engagement in traditional learning methods, hands-on activities, and face-to-face interactions.
 - **Enhance Social-Emotional Development:** Less reliance on devices will create more opportunities for students to interact directly with peers and teachers, building stronger relationships, communication skills, and empathy.
 - **Support Well-being:** We are mindful of the growing research around the impact of excessive screen time on student well-being, including potential effects on attention spans, sleep patterns, and mental health. Our goal is to create a learning environment that supports overall development.
 - **Cultivate Digital Citizenship:** This shift is an excellent opportunity to reinforce the responsible and intentional use of technology, teaching students when and how to use digital tools effectively, and when to step away.
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Important Information for Existing Device Owners

We understand that some of you may have recently purchased new devices for your children, specifically for our BYOD program. Please know that **if you purchased a new device this year, your student can still bring and use it at school next year.** While we are moving towards school-owned devices, we recognise the investment you have made, and your student's device will continue to be a valuable tool for their learning. We will provide specific guidelines on how these personal devices will be integrated into the new learning model.

We are confident that these changes will create a more focused, equitable, and enriching learning environment for all our students. We will be sharing more detailed information about the specific devices, their rollout, and the new screen time guidelines in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education and well-being.

Sincerely,

Mr Julian Adamson
Principal