St Mary's Catholic College
Gateshead

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) REQUIREMENTS

Feb 2020

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, 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 and Software Technology.

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 and Premier Pro, 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.
- Devices must have a minimum of 64Gb storage and 2Gb RAM {but ideally more}
- 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 Office 365 is available to all enrolled students free of charge so there is no need to purchase Microsoft Office separately. Device component requirements for the installation of Microsoft Office 365 can be found here.

(Note Microsoft Office 365 and other 3rd 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)

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. There may be some limitations in terms of accessing Flash based resources, the app environment is quite different, and Microsoft OneNote is not yet fully functional, this will be rectified in the near future.
Note: 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 damages/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 faculties 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 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 the student's responsibility at all times. 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 to view 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.