Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

System Requirements and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

St Mary's Catholic College Gateshead

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What are the minimum requirements for BYOD?

- The device needs to operate on the 802.11n standard minimum preferably AC
- The battery life of the device should be capable of lasting 6 hours minimum of constant use without charge
- Devices should have a minimum of 32Gb storage after Operating System Installation (for Office Installation) and 2Gb RAM
- The screen size of the device (measured from bottom left corner to top right corner) should be greater than 9 inches.
- Device hardware specifications must meet the minimum (ideally the recommended) specifications of the operating system and all applications
- Microsoft Office 365 is supplied free of charge by school for every child in the Diocese.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I use an apple/mac computer?

Apple/Mac devices will be able to connect to the school's internet and are able to be used in the BYOD program. However there will be some limitations in terms of accessing Flash based resources, the app environment is quite different and may require the purchase of additional apps to open files like OneNote.

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

Viruses have the potential to severely damage and disrupt operations within the school's computer network. It is the responsibility of each student to 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. Advice can be sought from the LT Coordinator at school.

Must my child have a device?

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

What if I cannot afford to purchase a device?

Our School Principal has repeatedly stated that support will be available for families struggling with the demands of a BYOD policy. An interview will need to be made to discuss each case individually.

How and where will my child access the internet?

Students will be provided with internet access wirelessly whilst at school. 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 school responsibility. Students are reminded that random audits will take place and any inappropriate downloads or site access will be detected.

Can my child still access school emails and the school network?

Yes, students will have complete access through the CSO MN Links icon.

Who will provide support if students have problems with their device whilst at school?

Limited support will be available at school. Our IT department will endeavour to rectify the issue with the resources they have at hand, however the student will be advised if the issue cannot be rectified at school.

Will internet access be restricted/ filtered?

The student is wholly responsible for any communications made from the device and the storage of files, images, software etc. on the device. The student must not tell anyone else their passwords. Images or sound captured by personal technology devices on the school premises or elsewhere must not be disseminated to others using the device, for the purpose of causing embarrassment to individuals or the school or the purpose of bullying or harassment. The school has the right to invoke appropriate disciplinary processes to deal with such behaviour. All downloads/usage on the school network can and will be strictly monitored.

Will the device be used in every lesson?

No. The amount of use will vary between faculties and staff.

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

The school 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 school. 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 school network?

Students are responsible for the data on their laptop and making regular backups. The school is ***NOT*** responsible for any data loss arising from laptop malfunction, factory reset or re-imaging during fault diagnosis. Limited storage space for school coursework backup will be provided to each student on the school network. Students will be encouraged to register a Microsoft account so that cloud storage can be used to store data.

Can the school 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.