



ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE
GATESHEAD

St Mary's Catholic College
Gateshead

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE
(BYOD)
REQUIREMENTS

June 2023

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 for Year 7 students, 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 Software Technology and STEM.

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, Premier Pro and Illustrator, suggested requirements can be found at:

<https://helpx.adobe.com/au/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. Obviously, over time the battery life does decrease.
- Devices must have a minimum of 128Gb storage and 4Gb RAM (but ideally more). Students have access to OneDrive which gives them a large amount of cloud storage.
- 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 supplied 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 third-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)*

In 2022 we started negotiations with a company called Next Technologies. This company offers the opportunity to purchase devices through their portal. A copy of the letter distributed to the school community is included at the end of this document.

Further documentation will be available once we finalise costing and devices for 2024. The link to last year's portal will give you a small insight into the company:

<https://gateshead.parentpurchase.com.au/>

Changes to the System requirements occurred on 31/03/2021.
See the table below for details.

If you use a mobile device or a personal computer to access work email or work files, please ensure the operating system, Microsoft Office software and email app align with the requirements outlined below:

	Windows Computers	Mac Computers	Apple iPhones/iPads	Android Devices
Operating System	Windows 8.1 or higher, Windows 10 preferred	MacOS 10.14 Mojave or later	iOS 12.0 or later (Settings > General > Software Update)	Android Oreo 8.0 or later (Settings > About > Software Update)
MS Office Version	Microsoft Office 2016 or later (install the latest Office 365 free on a personal device – instructions on MNConnect SharePoint page)	Microsoft Office for Mac 2016 or later (install the latest Office 365 free on a personal device – instructions on MNConnect SharePoint page)		
Email App			MS Outlook App for iOS (<i>Apple 'Mail' app may not work</i>) (install from Apple App Store)	MS Outlook App for Android (<i>Android 'Gmail' app may not work</i>) (install from Google Play Store)

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. However, there may be some limitations in terms of accessing Flash based resources and the app environment is quite different. However, if that is a device that is currently owned, it will definitely meet the requirements. **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 (for Stages 4 and 5) 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 always the student's responsibility. 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.



Future Directions of our BYOD Program

St Mary's Catholic College is a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school, where students attending are expected to have a laptop with them each day. This device needs to be charged and fully functional to assist the school in providing the best learning outcomes for your child.

Over a student's time at St Mary's, it is expected that a device suited to junior school (years 7-9) would initially be purchased and then possibly an upgraded device, more suited to a child's elective choices, would be required for senior years (10-12).

The experience of purchasing a device that meets the needs of your child can be a daunting process for many parents. Technology is constantly evolving, and the retail world can be a difficult place to navigate. We are aware of these issues and as such have begun negotiations with a company that aims to make this experience less troublesome. The partnership with Next Technologies will provide a facility where parents are able to purchase a high-quality commercial grade device that is appropriate to the needs of students at all levels in the school. Furthermore, these devices have access to accidental damage protection (optional), 3-year extended warranty, battery warranty and corporate grade hardware that is not available in stores.

The company, Next Technologies is based in Sydney and comes highly recommended by other schools within our Diocese. In partnership with Next Technologies a School Purchasing Portal will be prepared specific to the needs of our students.

It will **NOT** be compulsory that devices are purchased using this portal, we are simply looking to provide an option for parents when purchasing a device for their child.

We have spoken with several vendors who are in the process of preparing pricing guides of devices that we see best suit our learning requirements here at St Mary's. As soon as this pricing process is finalised, a Parent Information Evening (early August) will be conducted with representatives from Next Technologies in attendance. We are currently working on a timeline to ensure all stakeholders are well informed of the procedures and requirements of this program. A short introductory video is also being prepared.

Please understand that purchases will need to be confirmed by the end of August so that the vendors are able to ensure the delivery of devices for the beginning of the school year in 2023. ***This means that the portal will be open during the month of August for parents to view, make a decision and confirm their orders.***

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know what to buy for my child?

Everything you will see on the BYOD portal has been selected and approved by the school for your child's study.

Do I need to buy software?

As an enrolled student in the Diocese your child will receive, free of charge, access to the full Office365 suite. Virus protection software is NOT provided by the school and is a parental responsibility.

Do I need to buy insurance or warranties?

You can buy Accidental Damage (insurance) Protection (ADP) if you wish. All options will be clearly explained and made available on the portal. You are not required to have additional insurance; however, keep in mind that you will own the device so will be responsible for any damages or loss.

What payment options are accepted?

There are a range of payment options available:

- Credit Card (Visa and Mastercard)
- Staggered instalment plans.
- Third party payment.
- Interest free finance.

St. Mary's Catholic College
47-49 Pacific Highway
(PO Box 4021)
Gateshead
NSW 2290

Tel: (02) 4944 4800

Email: admin@gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au

Website: <http://www.gatesheadsm.catholic.edu.au>