



BYOD & e-Learning @ Waiuku College

Frequently Asked Questions about BYOD?

Is there a limit to the number of students who can participate?

All Year 9 students next year will be asked to bring a device.

If I provide a laptop, is there anything I should do before my child brings their computer to school?

Check it has anti-virus software that will last till school starts. (We will then give students downloadable anti-virus software on the school network). Check if your home insurance policy will cover device theft or loss.

Are there any retailers who are offering discounted devices?

Well-known computer retailers such as Noel Leeming, Harvey Norman, PbTech and 100% Electric are all offering some sort of discounts to BYOD customers. It pays to shop around and look at the specifications of the device relative to the price.

We cannot afford a device, is there some sort of financial assistance plan?

Major retailers offer payment plans over time. The school will have limited numbers of loan devices available, but these are primarily for use in emergencies when a student device is not available short term.

What additional software should I buy?

None! In the first week of school, all Year nine students will be given **free** access to copies of

- Microsoft 365 (Microsoft Office Suite)
- Free Anti-virus (Avira/AVG are good to use)

Who is responsible for the device should it get stolen?

As with all student property the device will be the responsibility of the student throughout the school day.

Should I get theft insurance for my child's technology device?

Again check if your policy covers theft or loss – if not you may need a special theft policy. Experience at two other large co-ed schools visited was that theft had been virtually non-existent with regard to devices.

Should I get an extended service plan for my child's technology device?

Yes, Accidents happen, computers crash, and viruses can cause havoc. Please consider adding a service plan when you purchase your child's technology device, since your child will need a functional technology device at school each day. (Make sure the retailer tells you will be covered under this extended plan- it needs to be more than what the consumer guarantee act covers!)

Are there rules and policies that my child and I should know about?

Yes, students must comply with Waiuku College Digital Citizenship Policy. This document is available in the Waiuku College Enrolment pack.

Does my child really need a device? Are there research studies and other information related to the effectiveness of educational technology on learning? Google some of the reports below. See also the included strategic paper.

- [2013 K-12 Horizon Report](#)
- [K12 Blueprint](#)
- [What is the Impact of Technology on Learning?](#)
- [Mobile Learning from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools](#)
- [Article: Should schools embrace "Bring Your Own Device?"](#)
- [Article: One to One or BYOD?](#)
- [Article: Seven Myths about BYOD Debunked](#)

How often will my child be using their device during a school day?

This will depend on the nature of the subject and what units of work are being taught. However, it is estimated that students will use their devices for around 3 to 4 hours per day.

Are students able to charge their device at school?

Student will be expected to arrive at school with a fully charged device. Charging points are very limited.

How will students share work with their teachers?

The school currently has a Moodle (Learning Management system) which allows students to upload their work for marking. Microsoft 365 also has a feature in which students can share their work so that staff can mark and return feedback.

What will happen to my child and or the device if they contravene the Digital Citizenship agreement?

We will apply normal school pastoral care and disciplinary procedures. We will not ban device use as this will affect participation in learning. Internet use can be restricted.

Will the school technician/ teachers be able to repair my child's device?

The care/ maintenance and repair of devices rests with the student. We are able to give some technical support so long that it does not affect existing warranties. We have a team of student IT techs available in the I-Hub at break times to assist.

How will my child carry their device?

We recommend that when buying a new school bag consider one which is capable of protecting a laptop and accommodating the usual equipment for school. A separate protective cover for the device itself is also an affordable option.

What are the potential dangers of wifi?

There are reports available on the websites for the Ministry of Education and Health that confirm the safety of normal device use in normal classroom settings. We have ensured that our wifi routers are placed high up in classrooms to provide more effective signal strength as well as to lessen proximity to sitting students.

Will my child need a new e-mail account?

All Year 9 students will be allocated a Microsoft 365 school e-mail account as part of their induction.

How will this affect stationery costs?

They will drop significantly. As more and more tools and resources become digital, the use of traditional exercise books and workbooks will decrease. Some learning activities will still require the use of pen and paper to be effective.