Bring Your Own Device - Frequently Asked Questions

Rationale

At Churchill Park School School we believe digital technologies are an effective and engaging tool for supporting learning. This will be balanced with more traditional means of learning, such as pen and paper, where appropriate.

Why are we <u>encouraging</u> BYOD

Digital devices provide more opportunities for collaboration between students, and teachers and new methods for teachers to provide feedback to students. Students' work can be saved to the Cloud and can be accessed from home or any other computer with Internet access. It also provides opportunies to communicate and share learning in a way that will prepare our learners for the future. We have seen the benefits of integrating devices with our school resources to enhance learning further and to become part of our students learning toolkit.

What will happen if parents decide not to provide a device?

Students who do not have their own device will continue to have access to school-owned devices that have always been provided. *<u>BYOD is optional and will always be</u>*. Churchill Park is a well-resourced school with a wide range of technologies available to students and teachers. Students who do not have devices will have opportunities to use classroom equipment and will not be disadvantaged by restricted access to innovative learning experiences.

How will my child be using BYOD in the classroom?

Our teachers are well versed and experienced with digital technologies and the learning required to support students in making wise choices about device use. Devices are used in ways that support the best possible approach for the particular curriculum area. Typical uses include developing written or visual presentation ideas and collaborating on projects, and research gathering. There will be times when students are actively directed to use the technology, for example, during Digital Technologies and coding classes

How long will my child spend on their device?

Students will learn using devices and by more traditional means of learning as both are valid. The children are encouraged to take breaks from their screens to look after their health and teachers monitor students usage of devices. Different teachers will be using devices in different ways, ensuring a well-balanced programme which also utilises our beautiful outdoor environment. Devices will not be used all day, every day.

How does the school ensure my child's safety when using the internet at school?

When students are connected to the school's network, via the BYOD connection, there is a Ministry of Education filtering system in place. Digital Citizenship is embedded in our class programmes for every student. We have also invested in Hapara Teacher Dashboard which enables our teachers to monitor the activity of students. Every student bringing a device to school is required to understand and sign our Cyber Safety Agreement before they can be connected to our school network, ensuring our high expectations for their conduct.

Will the use of these devices in classrooms cause my child to be distracted?
Our students are living in a digital world with ever increasing access to technology, and it is important we prepare them for their future. By allowing BYOD we promote discussions regarding the appropriate use of technology and develop strategies for responsible internet use and safety. Personal devices at school are used for educational purposes. Our current learners are more engaged and motivated by this type of learning. As with all learning styles, teachers will also have procedures and guidelines in place for ensuring that learning is happening.

How are you going to ensure the ongoing collaboration between students if they are all going to be looking at their own devices?
Through careful planning, learning will continue to focus on our Learner Qualities of Creator, Communicator and Team Player, Risk Taker and Problem Solver. In order to achieve this, students will work collaboratively to make decisions, speaking with each other and sharing ideas. Naturally there will be times when individuals are engaged in their own learning. This is no different to pre-device times when students focussed on their books.

How will my child keep their device safe? Who is responsible for security and damage?
Taking care of their own and others' possessions is part of the NZ curriculum with regards to 'Managing Self'. We will be encouraging children to take responsibility for the care of their devices and to ensure that they are stored in a secure location within the class. The school will not be held responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.

Who will be responsible for troubleshooting and fixing student devices?
We have a teacher who is responsible for IT in our school who will help with setting up the students and any other areas that may need trouble shooting. Overall responsibility to repair devices will be a parental responsibility.

What type of device may my child bring to school?
We do not wish parents to spend a significant amount of money for our BYOD programme. Therefore we recommend Chromebooks as they are less expensive, work seamlessly with the Google environment, have cloud-based storage, automatically complete software updates without disruption, are lightweight and have less on-device distractions. There are a number of suppliers who may have discounts available, such as PB Tech, Noel Leeming and JB Hi Fi, that meet the following criteria:

- Battery Life - long enough to get through a school day without recharging
- Size - must be suitable for word processing (no smartphones or mini tablets)
- Weight - light enough for your child to carry easily
- Wireless Access - must have wireless access to the internet
- Speed - devices need to be modern and fast enough to avoid frustration
- Must be able to access Google Apps for Education (GAFE) either via app or Chrome web browser (students must be logged into Chrome, with their GAFE account, more information to follow)
- Laptops - must have up-to-date anti-virus software
- A full keyboard (not on screen) is preferable