



ASHGROVE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents / Caregivers

This year we will be continuing our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programme to cover Years 4-8. There is no compulsion for your child to have their own device, and we will still provide a number of school devices for those children who don't have their own, however at times there may be a wait to use the device. Students who were bringing their devices along to school last year can continue to bring along their devices from the first day of the school year.

There is a small amount of setup involved in connecting student devices to our school network. **The exact dates for students to bring along new devices to be set up will be confirmed shortly once we have spoken to our technician.** All students beginning BYOD for the first time will also need to bring home the BYOD User Agreement, which needs to be discussed, signed and returned to school. These forms will be sent home by class teachers early in the term.

Below are a variety of questions/answers that may be useful for those parents new to BYOD at Ashgrove School.

If you have any questions regarding our BYOD programme, please feel free to contact me (dp@ashgrove.school.nz).

Many thanks

Justin Perriam
Deputy Principal - Senior Dean

BYOD Questions and Answers

Will those who can't afford devices be disadvantaged?

There is no obligation for any family to buy their child a device. For those children that don't bring a device there will still be school devices for them to use. The purpose of BYOD is in fact to increase the opportunities for those who can't afford devices by reducing the number of children wanting to use a school device (for example, if a class of 30 children and 5 devices, then it is a 1:6 ratio. However if 10 children bring their own device to school, now only 20 children are using the 6 devices, reducing the ratio to 1:4, meaning more opportunity for those children to access a school device).

Who is responsible for them while at school?

While being used the device is the responsibility of the child. During morning tea and lunchtime all devices will be locked away. Wifi access for the children will also be turned off before and after school, as well as weekends. When devices are not being used during class time they will be put back into the storage space. All devices need to be covered by your home insurance policies. If your child's device is **deliberately** damaged by another child then it would be expected that the family of the child at fault would pay for the repairs. However with BYOD only the child who owns the device will be allowed to use it - no personal devices will be shared with any other children!

Charging of devices?

Children who take part in BYOD will take their devices home each night and charge them at home. No charging will occur at school.

How much time will be spent on devices each day and what about the basics?

The children will certainly not be on devices for the entire school day however the precise amount of time will depend on the tasks the children are doing. The purpose of using technology is to enhance the teaching and learning by allowing the children to complete tasks that they either couldn't complete, or would take longer to do using traditional methods. This will not replace the basics, which will still play a major role in all classes, but will allow for opportunities for children to extend their learning and work in a much more collaborative manner when appropriate.

What type of device?

The type of device you choose to purchase will depend on your own personal preference. We are a school who uses Google Docs / Apps, so for these purposes either a Chromebook, iPad, Tablet or Laptop would work. However as a school we have moved towards purchasing Chromebooks, as we see these as an affordable option for the school and families. We have also consulted with Rangiora High School, who have informed us that they are also using Google Docs and Apps. By using Google Docs / Apps etc, there is no additional software cost. Windows devices would be required to have virus protection software. Smartphones and iPods are not allowed to be used as a BYOD device due to the small screen size.

How will you prevent cyber-bullying and children looking at inappropriate material?

This is an issue that we take very seriously as a school. We have web filtering (N4L) installed, which after a simple process will also provide protection to BYOD's. The school also has a software package called Hapara that allows us to see what work the children are working on and also read any emails that they have sent (even if the children

trash them). We also teach cyber-safety awareness, along with recently updating our digital citizenship forms and discussing these with the children before they use school devices. If the children do not follow the guidelines then there are consequences in place.

How will teachers cope with a myriad of devices?

Teachers are not technical experts. The bonus of children using their own device is that they will be familiar with the technology. If any issues do occur with a child's device then the child will put their device away and continue on the task using a school device.

What if the device is a family device and can one device be shared between a family?

If the device is shared by the family, then it is up to the family to decide if they feel comfortable with their child taking it to school. While there may be times when a family can share a device between children, as BYOD becomes more integrated in classroom practice, there may be an increasing number of times when both children may want the device at the same time.